



Kathryn

“At first we were told that none of our babies would survive, but we didn't accept that. So we came here to Valley Children's for a second opinion and that's when we met Dr. Fuentes.”

— Frank Chimienti, Kathryn's Dad

The cancer survivor fulfilled his dream of growing up and working in medicine, but never imagined his first-born would need lifesaving care from the same hospital that treated him as a child and employs him as an adult.

At age 8, Frank Chimienti was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, the most common type of bone cancer. Today, he works as a physician assistant in the pediatric orthopaedic practice at Valley Children's Hospital.

“I enjoy working with pediatric patients because of the perspective I share with them,” says Frank. Since his wife, Dorilyn, became pregnant with triplets in 2010, Frank relates to his patient's parents as well.

“Dorilyn went into preterm labor at 20 weeks,” says Frank. “At first we were told that none of our babies would survive, but we didn't accept that.”

Because of his employment, Frank knew of the Maternal Fetal Center at Valley Children's, which opened around the same time as Dorilyn's pregnancy. The couple sought a second opinion and the Center's medical director, gave them hope.

“He got Dorilyn to 23.5 weeks,” says Frank of Dr. Armando Fuentes. Two of the triplets did not survive, but tiny Kathryn was rushed to the neonatal intensive care unit at Children's, where she received lifesaving care for four and a half months.

“Kathryn has cerebral palsy, but uses a walker and is very independent,” says Frank. “We owe everything to Valley Children's Hospital. I thank God we came here or Kathryn and not somewhere else.”

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