



WE LOVE WHAT WE DO

Pediatric CARE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION FOR CLIENTS OF BAYADA AND FAMILY MEMBERS



BAYADA Pediatrics Nurse Mat Gunkel, RN

Para leer este boletín en español, visite bit.ly/care-connection →

BAYADA Brings Awareness to Home Health Care on National Television



BAYADA CEO **David Baiada** and Chief Nursing Officer **Mandy Tilton** recently appeared on a national television program to shine the spotlight on the critical importance home health care plays in keeping people safe at home. They also discussed the growing need for more nurses, home health aides, therapists, and other home care professionals so that companies like BAYADA can continue to provide this essential care.

The weekday morning show, **The Balancing Act**, aired on Lifetime Television. During the interview, Mandy spoke about the challenges of recruiting clinicians and caregivers to reliably care for our clients. **"The nursing shortage and the caregiver shortage has definitely impacted us, so we are constantly and proactively looking for individuals who are compassionate and want to provide that one-on-one care in the home,"** she said. "We are also at a disadvantage because many nursing school programs don't teach about home care, so we use platforms like this program to share our message and create awareness."



Mandy also spoke about BAYADA's extensive training programs to ensure our employees are prepared to provide you and all our clients with the highest caliber one-on-one care.



"We are constantly educating and training our clinicians. For example, we prepare our nurses in our state-of-the-art simulation labs where they can learn new skills and practice them in a safe environment," said Mandy, whose passion for home care was fueled by personal experience. "My family and I brought in clinicians and caregivers to help care for my grandparents so they could live in the place they loved—their home. And that's what we are here to do for our clients and their families."

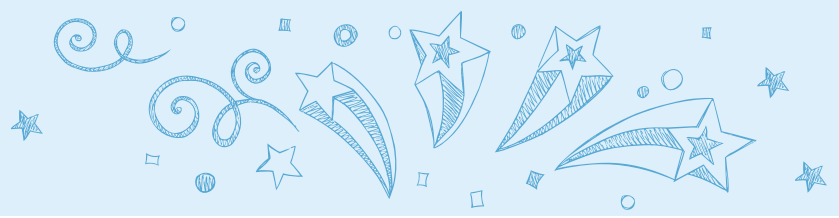
BAYADA's Secret Sauce: our people

When asked about the "secret sauce" that has allowed BAYADA to continue our important work from 1975 to today, it's no surprise that David credited our employees.

"The most important thing that makes us different and has allowed us to be here for nearly 50 years is the quality of our people in your home," said David. **"Our team that represents BAYADA is really what makes us who we are."**

To watch the segment, visit bit.ly/BAYADA-TV

Champions Among Us: Fighting for Abi



BAYADA client **Abi**, 10, had a difficult start to her life. At two months old, she and her twin sister **Gabi** were saved from their parents' abuse. Sadly, the sisters were beaten and shaken so violently that they sustained devastating injuries. After months in the hospital, Gabi was discharged to the loving home of **Dana Insley**, who adopted her. However, Abi remained hospitalized.

"Abi was declared brain-dead twice, was dependent on a ventilator to breathe, and we were told she was 100 percent deaf and blind and that she would never eat, speak, or breathe on her own," shared Dana, whose family fought a battle to adopt Abi and bring her home after two years. "But the doctors were wrong. Abi can see, hear, eat, speak, and breathe on her own."



Abi learning with her BAYADA Nurse Rachel Watson (seated) and her mom Dana.

Now, Abi is thriving at home and is doing well in school, thanks to the in-home nursing services she receives through New Jersey's private duty nursing (PDN) program. PDN provides funding for medically fragile children and adults to receive nursing care at home. Yet, this funding does not allow for home care nurses to make wages that are competitive with hospitals and other facilities. This creates a sort of "revolving door" of nurses, who come into home care and leave when a better-paying job becomes available.

Making progress with limited resources

Abi's family has a consistent team of day nurses but have trouble filling her evening shifts. When there is no nurse there for Abi, Dana and her husband—who



are not medical experts—must provide all of her care. So instead of sleeping through the night or spending time with their other four children, Abi's parents play the role of nurse.

BAYADA Nurse **Rachel Watson** has cared for Abi for six years. "Despite the major barriers that Abi has continued to break—including breathing and eating on her own, attending school, talking, singing, and communicating—there is a major obstacle that is affecting Abi's care, the home care nursing shortage," said Rachel. "This is heartbreaking because families deserve the peace of mind knowing their loved one is safe at home with a trusted nurse."

Advocating for change

Abi's family would be heartbroken if they had to put her in a facility for lack of nursing support. "Her nurses have been with her through countless sicknesses, surgeries, therapies, and doctor appointments," said Dana. "Competitive wages would bring stability to her home care nursing and allow our family to stay together and thrive."

Dana decided to help fight for an increase in PDN funding by sharing Abi's story with the media, including a feature on the NJ Morning Show. Watch Abi and Dana's inspirational TV appearance at bit.ly/Abi-MorningShow

Sharing your own home care story

There are many ways to participate in home care advocacy. If you only have minimal time, you can send a pre-written email or postcard to your local legislators, educating them about the essential benefits of home health care and asking for their support. If you want to become more involved, you can attend meetings with legislators, participate in events, or share your story with the media.



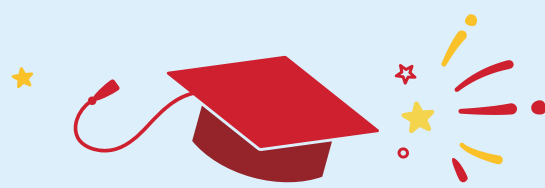
For more information visit heartsforhomecare.com or scan the QR code.



Hearts for Home Care

A BAYADA Community Supporting Quality Care at Home

BAYADA Client “Graduates” From Home Care Services



Five-year old **Aurora** loves playing hide and seek, challenging her family to board games, begging her 11-year-old brother **Brayden** to play Barbies, and participating in cheerleading at school. According to her mother **Ashley**, her spunky kindergartener has come a long way from the critically ill baby who spent four months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) following her birth.

“Early in my pregnancy, Aurora was diagnosed with gastroschisis, a condition in which the large and small intestine grow outside of the body,” explained Ashley, who is a BAYADA Pediatrics Home Health Aide.



Newborn Aurora wears a cap and gown for her NICU graduation.

Aurora endured multiple surgeries, procedures, and blood transfusions. She also developed a hiatal hernia, which made digestion difficult and led to the insertion of a gastrostomy tube (g-tube) for feeding. Following her discharge to home, the baby required close monitoring and delicate care from her BAYADA Nurses during the day and overnight.

Over the next five years, Aurora’s nurses were by her side. They managed her g-tube, accompanied her to preschool, helped with physical and speech therapy, and encouraged her to try foods by mouth to help increase her calorie intake to support her growth.

“The nurses gave me the peace of mind I needed so I could go to work and know Aurora was being taken care of at home,” said Ashley. “They were my sanity and helped me stay level. I would have been lost without them.”

A joyful milestone

At the start of the school year this past September, a doctor confirmed that Aurora had gained enough weight to have the g-tube removed, which meant she would no longer need home care nurses. To honor this major milestone, the BAYADA Allentown, PA Pediatrics office surprised Aurora with a graduation celebration, complete with balloons,



Five years later Aurora donned a cap and gown again for her graduation from home care services. She is pictured with BAYADA Clinical Manager **Amy Recker** (left) and her mom Ashley.

sweets, and a cap and gown. She was all smiles, very energetic, and even had staff marching around the office in a parade for her!



The party reminded Ashley of the first time her daughter wore a cap and gown, to commemorate her graduation from the NICU. She expressed her appreciation to the Allentown office for the celebration and the dedicated service for her daughter. “You turned stress into hope, challenges into accomplishments, defeat into victory, and I am forever grateful,” she said.



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BAYADA Home Health Care
4300 Haddonfield Road
Pennsauken, NJ 08109-3376

bayada.com



Content in this newsletter is provided as general summary information for our clients and is not intended to take the place of personalized medical guidance. We encourage you to seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health care professional if you have specific questions about your care.

BAYADA provides skilled nursing, rehabilitative, therapeutic, hospice, habilitation, behavioral health, and assistive care services to people of all ages. Services vary by location.

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Fire Safety for People with Disabilities



Having a child with a physical or developmental disability does not mean you can't keep your child and your family safe from fire. You can build your home safety plan around your child's abilities.

Install and maintain smoke alarms

- Smoke alarms with a vibrating pad or flashing light are available for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Smoke alarms with a strobe light outside of the home to catch the attention of neighbors and emergency call systems for summoning help are also available.
- Ask the manager of your building, or a friend or relative to install at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home.
- Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. If you can't reach the test button on your smoke alarm, ask someone to test it for you.
- Smoke alarms with sealed, long-life batteries work for up to 10 years. They can be helpful for people who find it hard to change batteries.

Live near an exit

- Although you have the right to live where you choose, you'll be safest on the ground floor if you live in an apartment building.
- If you live in a multistory home, arrange for your child to sleep on the first floor.
- Being on the ground floor and near an exit will make your child's escape easier.

Plan your escape

- Know at least two exits from every room.
- If your child uses a walker or a wheelchair, check all exits to be sure your child can get through the doorways.
- Make any necessary changes, such as installing exit ramps and widening doorways, to make an emergency escape easier.



Don't isolate yourself

- Speak to your family members, building manager or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice it with them.
- Educate your health care team about your fire safety plan and practice it with them.
- Contact your local fire department's nonemergency line and explain your needs. They can suggest escape plan ideas and may perform a home fire safety inspection if you ask.
- Ask emergency providers to keep your needs information on file.
- Keep a phone near your bed and be ready to call 911 or your local emergency number if a fire occurs.

Learn more

Visit the U.S. Fire Administration at bit.ly/fire-Admin