



Ana's Gift;

Returning Children's Smiles

Ana's Story

Ana was born with a rare neurological disorder. As a result, complications have arisen. About two years ago, she had surgery to correct the complication of Kyphosis and Scoliosis. Following the surgery, complications developed that ultimately resulted in her suffering an incomplete spinal cord injury. As a result, Ana spent about nine months in various hospitals attempting to improve her health and develop improved mobility in her lower extremities. Throughout these various experiences, Ana and her family have greatly benefited by the kindness of Hays community members that provided much needed support. Ana and her family want to "pass forward" the Hays' community's kindness to area children in need. Through a stuffed animal drive, it is hoped that other children will be comforted during a time that seems very difficult and devastating. Ana knows and understands the comfort that stuffed animals provide, as she too was given various stuffed animals by numerous hospitals and ambulances in an attempt to console her during those times that seemed overwhelming and devastating. Ana and her family want to say "thank you" and extend their appreciation to the community of Hays for its unending generosity and kindness that they experienced during a time that it was so desperately needed.