

# Wellington Daily News



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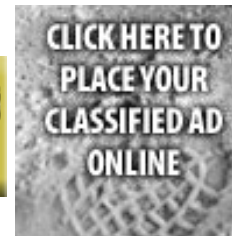
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## News

Thursday, January 18, 2007

# Mom creates statewide awareness

Published: Thursday, January 18, 2007 4:19 PM CST

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STATEWIDE AWARENESS: Adalin Williams, left, and her mother, Rebekah, hold a proclamation signed by Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius declaring Feb. 7-14 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week. The governor, hearing word of the proclamation, signed and sent Williams the proclamation back, making it an official observance of the state of Kansas. Teresa Lee photo

Soon to be four year-old Adalin Williams runs a toy car across a table, close to the snow from the recent storm that she's saving in a cup.

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**KELLER WILLIAMS**  
**THEURER TEAM**

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3Beds, 2 Baths

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**\$92,500**

2Beds, 2 Baths

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She doesn't want it to melt, says her mother, Rebekah Williams with a big smile.

With pigtail buns in her hair, young Williams is the picture of adorable, smiling and putting stickers on everything she sees. From the outside, she is the perfect little girl, but her inside tells a different story.

Adalin was born with a congenital heart defect known as hypoplastic left heart syndrome. According to the American Heart Association, this causes the left side of the heart to underdevelop causing blood to flow improperly.

The Williams' family didn't find out that Adalin had a problem until she went into cardiac arrest two days after she was born. In infants, a small valve called a ductus closes days after birth and when Adalin's valve started to close, she started to develop problems.

After taking their daughter to two different hospitals in California, where Adalin was born, the Williams' received a diagnosis at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Palo Alto. It's been a rocky road for the family ever since with Adalin going through three separate heart surgeries, her first at six days old, her second at six months old, and her third just recently in March of 2006. During her last surgery, Adalin didn't fair as well as initially hoped and the family thought they would lose her.

Williams recalled how her daughter was in the hospital for

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the month of February after she was born and how paper hearts seemed to be decorated everywhere for Valentine's Day. Her eyes filled with tears that she fought back as she spoke.

"They were everywhere. It was so hard," she said.

The family now waits to see what the next step will be.

According to Williams, either Adalin will grow into the corrections that have been made on her heart or she will have to have a heart transplant. Only time will tell what's next.

The story of the Williams' family is just one of many. The Congenital Heart Information Network reports that more than 40,000 infants —one of every 100— are born each year in the United States with heart defects and that there are at least 35 different types of congenital heart defects.

Williams understands her daughter isn't the only child with a heart problem, stating that she knows of two other families in Wellington with similar problems. The love for her daughter and her concern for the community led her to inform others.

Last month, Williams e-mailed Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to help get a proclamation together to start a Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week from Feb. 7-14. The governor, hearing word of the proclamation, signed and sent Williams the proclamation back, making it an official observance of the state of Kansas.

January 2007						
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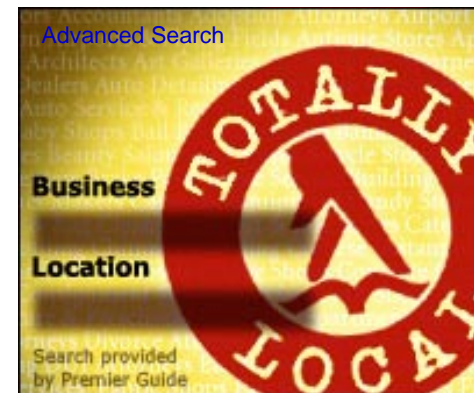
#### Market Watch



Index	Last Trade	Change
NASDAQ	2443.21	-36.21 ↓
SP 500	1426.37	-4.25 ↓
Russ 2000	778.21	-10.56 ↓
AMEX	2063.03	-17.38 ↓
NYSE	9125.38	-20.88 ↓
30 YR BOND	48.46	-0.35 ↓

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"So many babies are born with this, you don't even know," said Williams who said it was becoming more common. She said that she wanted to get the word out and make people in Wellington and the state more aware of the dangers of defects.

"Even the hospitals need to be more aware of it," said Williams.

Adalin isn't the only child in the family to be born with a heart defect. Williams also has a one year-old son with a aortic bicuspid valve. Normally, the aortic valve in the heart is tricuspid, having three flaps or cusps, but Williams' son only has two. Though not much of a problem as Adalin's it's still a concern.

"Most kids are fine with it," said Williams. "We just have to keep watch of it every couple months. A lot of visits to the cardiologist."

The proclamation observance was accepted on Jan. 4, 2007 by the state of Kansas, and will be accepted by the City of Wellington at their upcoming council meeting on Feb. 6.

Both Adalin and Rebekah have been invited to Topeka by the American Heart Association to participate in a proclamation signing to make February Heart Awareness Month where they will get to meet the governor.

Williams eventually wants to see the awareness week have activities but for now she's just happy to get it off the ground.

"I tried to do it last year but I had to focus on helping her," said Williams.

For more information on heart defects or how to help in the area, go to <http://tchin.org/aware>.

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The banner features a red background with yellow and white text. On the left, there is a graphic of a tax form with 'e-file' and 'TOP SECRET' written on it. On the right, there is a small logo for 'AUTHORIZED e-file PROVIDER'. A red button with the word 'START' in white is located at the bottom right of the banner.

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