



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senator Baddour and Representative Costello honor Brady O'Donnell as the Massachusetts Ambassador to the Children's Miracle Network

O'Donnell chosen as a Champion Child by the Children's Miracle Network

March 21, 2007, Boston – When Brady O'Donnell of Newburyport, Mass. was diagnosed with linear nevus sebaceous sequence, the predictions for his future were bleak. Brady's rare disorder is characterized by seizures and severe mental disabilities. His parents were told that one side of his brain was smaller than the other and that their infant son, who had a large birthmark covering much of his face and eye as well as skull abnormalities, would probably never walk or talk. Now, three years later, Brady O'Donnell will travel to the State House, Washington, D.C. and Disney World as Massachusetts' Champion Child for the Children's Miracle Network "Champions Across America Celebration."

Brady has defied all odds. He is an outgoing 3-year-old who can not only list the entire roster for the Boston Red Sox, but also runs around the bases at his own baseball games. A pediatric dermatologist at Children's Hospital Boston was able to remove Brady's birthmark through multiple surgeries and painful injections. Though he has been through nearly every medical test imaginable, Brady isn't scared of the hospital, and continues to have a positive attitude about his treatment.

Each year a child is selected from every state in the U.S. and each province and territory in Canada to represent the 17 million children treated by Children's Miracle Network hospitals. The children travel to Washington, D.C. and Ottawa to meet with local and national leaders and to Walt Disney World to participate in the annual Children's Miracle Network Celebration.

Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen) and Representative Michael A. Costello (D-Newburyport) were happy to welcome Brady and his family to the State House for a reception including a visit from Wally the Green Monster of the Boston Red Sox and Dr. James Mandell of Children's Hospital in Boston.

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