



# Bright Light Foundation

## **Madelyn Rodriguez**

*2010 BLF Recipient*



Madelyn Maria Rodriguez will be two years old on October 13th. She is a spunky little girl who loves to color, play with her dolls, sing, and dance. Madelyn is not a normal toddler though; she was born with microphthalmia in her left eye and malformations of the retina, iris, and optic nerve in her right eye. She is completely blind in her left eye and wears glasses to correct her vision in her right. Limited vision has never stopped her from doing anything, and with the help of an occupational therapist as well as a vision therapist she is right where she should be developmentally. Also, because of her limited vision she has incredible hearing. She picks up on tunes very quickly and can recite her ABC's and count to ten.

Because Madelyn has a small left eye her face does not grow symmetrically. She must wear a prosthetic shell over her small eye to expand her bones (orbit) as she grows. This does not hurt her, although she puts up a good fight at the ophthalmologist's office. Without her shell she would most certainly need painful cosmetic surgery later in life.

The donation from the Bright Light Foundation gave Madelyn the chance to have another prosthetic made that fits her growing face. It was painted to look like her other eye and most people have to be told it is a prosthetic.