

Dear Family and Friends of the Shannon Foundation,

What you have done for my son is one of the kindest and greatest gifts of them all. A letter will not come close to showing how grateful I am for the most amazing gift you have done to better my son's life and his future. I would like to take this time to introduce my son's story and how the Shannon Foundation has made a huge impact on his life.

This is Alesandro Ricardo Hernandez, he is six months old and is from Del Rio, TX but born in San Antonio, TX. Mommy's due date was April 15, 2015 but Alesandro decided to come a little early, born March 7, 2015, making him a month and a half premature. Alesandro was born with a severe cone head due to being in the birthing canal too long. Alesandro stayed in the NICU for a week due to his prematurity. The shape of his head was never a major concern in fact hardly a minor one either. NICU's priority was his bilirubin level because of his jaundice and keeping his body temperature under control all while gaining weight. Day by day we took it slowly, mommy, daddy and the family were eager for Alesandro to come home. Finally Alesandro was able to maintain body heat and gain weight. The last step before being released was to undergo his circumcision, the day finally arrived! After the surgery, his face glowing with smiles. The week stay in the hospital, that felt like a year was finally over. Alesandro and I were rolled out in the wheel chair and we headed home. Alesandro was a very colicky baby and cried often for the first two months. Alesandro had a low tolerance to breast milk and was allergic to baby formula. Alesandro was then prescribed Nutramigen which helped him. He is the happiest baby now, always full of smiles.



At Alesandro's 3 month check up, the pediatrician noticed Alesandro's head was very flat on the back and bulging on the baby's left side. The pediatrician recommended we lay Alesandro on his left side to apply pressure to the bulging area. We did as told, but his head shape was not improving. Now at 4 months, Alesandro was referred to a craniologist in San Antonio, TX. As soon as she stepped into the room she pointed out the severity of his head. Plagiocephaly was what Alesandro was diagnosed with: severe flatness to the back of the head and a bulge on the top left side of his head. She explained to us the damages that could occur, which include: eye separation, loss of vision, broken ear drums which would lead to loss of hearing, and an uneven forehead line. The treatment was to have Alesandro fitted for a helmet designed for his head shape. Medicaid did not cover the helmet. We knew that it was in Alesandro's best interest to

get fitted for a helmet. But how were we going to pay even half of the payment to schedule his first fitting appointment? We thought about bake sales, garage sales, but none of it made much sense to make the amount of money needed to purchase the helmet. Feeling helpless, I got a phone call from our social worker at the Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio, TX. The social worker asked us to look at the Shannon Foundation site, which was a non-profit organization who helped families in need. We submitted our information and requested assistance. In less than a week, our prayers were answered. The Shannon Foundation approved our application and was going to help with our son's helmet expenses. Alesandro has been fitted for his helmet and wears it 23 hours a day.

Shannon Foundation, thank you so much for what you have given Alesandro. This is a blessing. Without the help from the Shannon Foundation, Alesandro's physical and health condition would have worsened. My whole family and I would like to thank you and send you our blessings. Thanks again to the Shannon Foundation for helping not only Alesandro but the many other children who are in need. The Shannon Foundation is amazing. God Bless and again Thank you, Thank You, Thank You, for being the biggest blessing to our family.

Sincerely,

Alexis Gonzalez

Mother of Alesandro Hernandez