



Mae's Miracle!

Mae is a joyful, determined little girl with a smile that lights up every room she enters. She loves being outside, exploring the world around her, and spending time with the people who love her most. Her sweet personality, strength, and resilience have inspired everyone lucky enough to know her.

The day after Mae's first birthday, our lives changed when she was diagnosed with **SURF1 Leigh syndrome**, a rare and fatal mitochondrial disease caused by a mutation in her SURF1 gene. While this diagnosis brought many challenges and uncertainties, it has never defined Mae. She continues to be the happy, loving little girl we have always known.

Mae's journey has included hospital stays, therapies, medical procedures, and learning to navigate life with complex medical needs, including a feeding tube. Through every challenge, Mae continues to amaze us with her strength and determination.

But today, there is a reason for hope. For the first time, a groundbreaking gene therapy for children with **SURF1 Leigh syndrome** is advancing toward human clinical trials. This treatment has already been developed and is moving through toxicology studies — one of the final steps before a clinical trial can begin.

If successful, this could become the first gene therapy for mitochondrial disease and could change the future for Mae and countless other children and families affected by mitochondrial disorders.

If funding is secured, a clinical trial could begin as early as 2027. A single injection could have the potential to change lives forever.

We are fighting for Mae's future and for every child waiting for a treatment. Thank you for standing with Mae, sharing her story, and helping us fund the hope of a cure. Please PRAY for Mae & visit her fundraising page at:

<https://give.curemito.org/fundraiser/7407030>

Joy versus Happiness

There is a big difference between what the world calls happiness and what Scripture calls joy. Our happiness originates outside of us and comes and goes depending on what is currently happening to us.

- *We get a raise at work* - *Happiness*
- *We get a flat tire on the way home* - *Unhappiness*
- *We go to our favorite restaurant* - *Happiness*
- *Our order gets messed up and the food isn't great* - *Unhappiness*

Just like that, the happiness pendulum swings back & forth. Joy, on the other hand, comes from Jesus, and it is an inside-out event. It is completely unrelated to worldly happenings.

In Psalm 16:9, "***Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will rest in hope.***"

The psalmist declared that his heart was glad, so his whole being rejoiced and his flesh was at peace. Joy fills the heart of a Christ follower and spreads all over as well. The joy pours out of us, completely independent of whatever trials we may be facing.

We are at peace because our joy is unshakable. There is joy whether our day at work is good or bad. We have joy when the diagnosis is positive and when it's negative. We have joy even though people let us down, because we know God never will. It's a whole different way of living!