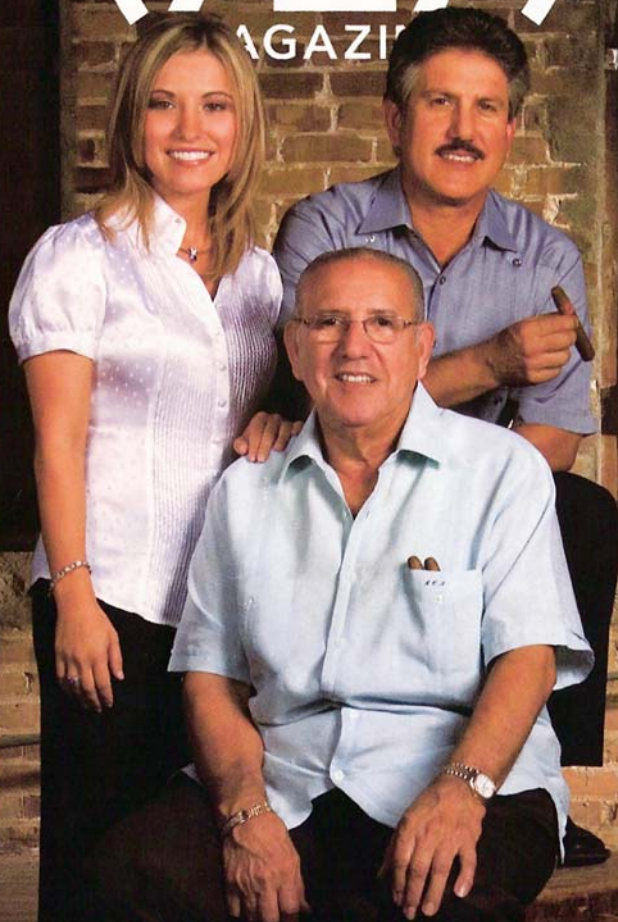


AUG / SEPT 2007 / VOL. 2 ED. 4

(727)

MAGAZINE



Tampa Bay's Sweethearts

Three generations of Fuentes share all of the family's history and a few of its secrets

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(Above) Shortly after being born, Jeremy was admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit at All Children's Hospital. Weeks later he was diagnosed with hydrocephalus, a condition also known as "water on the brain."

DARE TO DREAM OF A CURE

SUPPORT THE HYDROCEPHALUS ASSOCIATION-TAMPA BAY AFFILIATE

Within an hour of Jeremy being born, doctors knew something was wrong. His head was larger than normal, and he had what appeared to be tiny bruises all over his body. At just three hours old, he was transported to All Children's Hospital and admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit. His parents, Paula and Mark Keyser, were terrified, but all they could do was wait.

It took weeks for doctors to diagnose Jeremy with hydrocephalus, a condition also known as "water on the brain" that affects one in every 1,000 babies. Jeremy had suffered a brain bleed in-utero that caused his condition. Hydrocephalus is an abnormal accumulation of fluid in the brain that causes tremendous pressure to the head and brain. It can lead to learning disabilities, memory problems, motor skill disabilities and more. While hydrocephalus can be treated, there's no cure.

Today, Jeremy is 6 years old, and he loves *Thomas & Friends* and *Go, Diego, Go!* He's endured three brain surgeries and lives with a shunt—a valve connected to a tube that diverts excess fluid from the brain to his abdomen. Thanks to these medical marvels and ongoing therapy, he's starting kindergarten this fall.

In 2004, Paula and Mark started HUGS, a hydrocephalus family support group in the Bay area.

"We wanted other families struggling with this to know we're here for support and they're not alone," says Paula. Recently, the National Hydrocephalus Association asked Paula to be part of an advisory group for regional expansion.

Now, the team at Hydrocephalus Association-



(Above) After three brain surgeries, Jeremy, 6, will start kindergarten this fall.

Tampa Bay Affiliate needs help to raise awareness and advocate for more federal funding.

In September, members are hosting the third annual TEAM walk-a-thon. Sign up on the web site or call for more information, and help make a difference.

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HYDROCEPHALUS

• ASSOCIATION •

SUPPORT EDUCATION ADVOCACY

TAMPA BAY AFFILIATE

All Donations Go To
Programs And Assist Families
Affected By Hydrocephalus

22 TEAM Walks
Scheduled Around The
Country This Year

Sharing Experiences,
Resources And
Extending Support