

Barrow Cleft and Craniofacial Center



Marieli Cruzado and Richard Russell learned at just 17 weeks gestation that their baby would be born with a cleft lip and palate.

“We feel like the luckiest couple. For years, we struggled to get pregnant and after finally finding success, the cleft lip and palate were just small bumps in the road,” Cruzado explains.

Joaquin was born at Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in 2015 and has received care at the Barrow Cleft and Craniofacial Center ever since. “I hope the same as every parent; happiness, love and success in anything he wants to do. I hope he can help others who have craniofacial differences and that he can inspire kindness,” adds Cruzado.

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