

HEART 1/2 MARATHON

IRUN, WALK & #MINIMYWAY FOR:

















My niece, Bella Cooper, who is now 7-years-old was found to have a heart murmur on her second day of life. After a cardiology consult, EKG, and an echo-cardiogram, Bella was diagnosed with a large Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD). At Bella's 1-month appointment with the Cardiology Physicians at Cincinnati Children's Medical Center (CCHMC), Bella was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot, which includes the VSD, an atrial septal defect (ASD), an overriding aorta, pulmonary valve stenosis, and hypoplasia of the pulmonary artery.

Bella is truly a heart warrior and underwent extensive open-heart surgery when she was 6 months old to correct her congenital abnormality. Bella is now full of life and has participated in the American Heart Association's Heart Mini over the past 7 years. The Heart Mini has always been encouraging and supportive throughout Bella's heart journey. Without the research and support from the AHA, Bella would not have had the resources or research that gave her a second chance at life. After participating in the Heart Mini each year, Bella has developed a love for running and she enjoys teaching others how to stay heart healthy! It has been my goal as Bella's aunt to help organize a Heart Mini team in her honor while supporting the research and funding for the AHA. Without Bella's life-saving surgery, we would not be blessed with her gracious presence today.

Jessica Cooper, Certified Nurse Practitioner for St. Elizabeth Physicians





