

Nonprofit Funds Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Children and Adults with Autism



US Army Veteran David Torres is treating for Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) along with his 3 year old daughter Gia who has Autism

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April is Autism Awareness Month—a time to reflect on the alarming rise in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnoses among children. With the increase in the number of children affected by ASD, more and more parents are turning to alternative forms of treatments to counteract the underlying symptoms of autism.

Traditional medicines have often failed at producing desired results for many patients with autism and their families. However, studies have identified Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) as an emerging treatment that parents and physicians are utilizing to help minimize the effects of ASD. This noninvasive treatment is as simple as a one-hour daily session in a hyperbaric chamber, receiving increased levels of oxygen.

Benefits of HBOT treatment in children with autism

Studies have demonstrated the benefits of HBOT in autism in multiple areas. These include enhanced brain healing and repair by increasing oxygen delivery to hypoxic tissues, reducing neuroinflammation, reducing seizure frequency, and stimulating a variety of cell processes. Improved

physical function has also been observed with an improvement in gross and fine motor skills, movement, walking, and eye contact.

HBOT has also been observed to promote receptive and expressive language. Behavioral function improvements include reduced aggression, advancement in social and interactive skills, and an improved sleep pattern. Advancement in mental function includes improved sensory and cognitive awareness along with an increase in attention span and alertness. Digestive functions have also been shown to improve with decreased inflammation in the gut, a reduction in frequency of gastrointestinal issues, and enhanced nutritional absorption.

Testimonial: Gia, age 3

"In the 3 weeks since Gia began treatment at Oxygen Oasis, she has shown great improvement. After her third treatment, her eczema has gone away. Her skin felt like sandpaper and now is smooth.

At the end of the first week, her teachers reported that Gia is happier and more alert in the classroom. She is more independent, more present in the moment, her eye contact is improving, and she is trying new tasks in school and at home. In the past, she was afraid to try new things.

Her fine motor skills are improving; she used to scribble when coloring and is now able to draw a straight line. Gia is now using a fork to eat and can drink from an open cup.

Gia is becoming more vocal and recently said hello to an Oxygen Oasis staff member. She said peekaboo while playing a game with us.

Gia was toe walking 99% of the time before starting HBOT but now has days where she walks flat-footed, and her balance has improved greatly with her newfound ability.

We spoke with her MAPS doctor, who recommended HBOT. He was very happy with the progress Gia has made in her first 20 treatments. As Gia's parents, we are thrilled with the improvements Gia has made so far and are grateful to Chambers for Hope-PA for the financial assistance they have provided our family."
-- David and Jennifer Torres

Financial assistance for HBOT treatment in children with autism

Autism treatment can cause a significant financial burden for families, which may present a barrier to those seeking additional therapies. One organization dedicated to relieving that financial burden is the North Carolina-based Chambers for Hope (CFH). CFH is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that offers financial assistance to those seeking HBOT as a supplemental treatment to their

existing medical protocol. The Chambers for Hope Network consists of quality HBOT clinics throughout the U.S.

Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center, located in Langhorne, PA, is a member of the Chambers for Hope Network and serves the Bucks County and surrounding (Mid-Atlantic) area.

Under the leadership of its owner, Victoria Bliss-Calkins, Oxygen Oasis obtained accreditation from the Joint Commission, meaning that Oxygen Oasis has met the highest standards for quality and safety of care. Physician oversight is one of the many requirements for admission to the Chambers for Hope Network. Medical Director Benjamin Lam, DO, FACOS, and his team (physicians Scott Rosenthal DO and Patrick Fall, DO) provide quality assessment and follow-up for all HBOT treatments.

Through a relationship with Talk About Curing Autism NOW (TACA), a national 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, empowering, and supporting families affected by autism, Bliss-Calkins was introduced to Dr. Michael Montico, a certified Medical Academy of Pediatric Special Needs (MAPS) physician, and was inspired to help children with autism. Dr. Montico's son, Owen, has autism, and, since beginning a treatment approach incorporating HBOT, Owen has experienced dramatic improvements. Based on the

need in our community for MAPS-trained doctors, Dr. Montico joined Oxygen Oasis to support families in the Mid-Atlantic area.

Dr. Montico will be representing Oxygen Oasis as a speaker at the TACA Real Help Now Conference at Penn State Great Valley on Saturday, May 7, 2016. If you would like to attend and learn more about how HBOT and biomedical treatments help children with autism, please sign up at <http://www.tacanow.org/real-help-now-pa-conference-information>.

For more information about Chambers for Hope and to see patient testimonials, visit our website at www.chambersforhope.org. We are honored to have Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center in Langhorne, Pennsylvania as a member of the CFH Network. We will continue to work closely with Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center to ensure that those in need of HBOT in Bucks County and the surrounding area receive this vital treatment. To donate, visit <http://www.chambersforhope.org/pennsylvania1.html>.



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