



# Gratitude Amidst the Grit

A MinneStory

Samarra and Aldo share their journey when their son's heart condition was detected after birth through newborn screening. Through the highs and lows of those first few days as parents, Samarra and Aldo reflect on their appreciation of screening and the support they found in each other.



**Samarra:** They came with the helicopter from Rochester. I remember I didn't even get to see him yet, and they took us into the nursery, and we got to hold him. And they wouldn't let any of us come with and so then we just had to wait for the phone call from Rochester to tell us exactly what they thought was wrong with him. Scary. (nervous laugh)

**Aldo:** Yeah it was a scary day. A scary three months that lasted while we were up there. And...

**Samarra:** You stepped in when I really needed you. The day after Xavier was born you went to Rochester, and you figured out what was wrong with him and stuff. And then when I came up there like you took care of me. You were so supportive. And then we had to wheel Xavier down to the OR and after they took him in, we just hugged each other and balled. I needed the hug you know. We needed to cry.

**Aldo:** Mmhmm. It um. Yes it was definitely a tough time you know it's it's hard seeing your kid, your baby, you know being rolled you know going into the OR its definitely hard, and it hit me really hard (starting to cry).

**Samarra:** I always I always was crying too hard and I couldn't I couldn't sign the papers like the consent form. So I always you always had to sign them. That was probably like the hardest when they were going over what everything that they were going to do and what the outcome could be and in that aspect you were strong for me when I couldn't be. You know I just...

**Aldo:** It was definitely very tough you know for the both of us to to go through something like that you know, but I'm just glad that I have my son, and he's healthy and...

**Samarra:** Thank you for being one of my biggest supporters on Xavier's journey with me; not making me go through it alone.

**Aldo:** You're welcome.

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