



**Dakota Clark.** Photo/amrphotographystudio.com

## Plano kids represent

### **Dakota Clark is poster child for *Sounds of the Season* gala**

The sounds of the season never sounded more beautiful to **Dakota Clark** of Plano than in November of 2007, when she received a cochlear implant in her left ear. Dakota, now 10, was born with profound hearing loss in both ears, and has been wearing a hearing aid since she was 2.

About two months ago, Dakota had an accident at recess when she fell and hit her head. She lost all her hearing in the right ear and now she needs a second cochlear implant.

When asked how well Dakota took the news, her mom, Jennifer, says, “She was more mad that she is going to have to miss two weeks of school when she has the surgery.”

Dakota attends Davis Elementary and has been enrolled in the Plano ISD deaf-ED program since preschool. Because of her long involvement in PISD, she has many friends. “She has a clique, which makes coping a little easier,” said Jennifer and added, “When children with hearing loss are younger, they get frustrated because they don’t know how to communicate, but now that Dakota is older, if her batteries go out on her cochlear implant, she can change it on her own. She’s more independent.”

Miss “Independent” has recently become the “poster child” for The **Dallas Hearing Foundation’s** upcoming fundraising gala. She’s excited that professional photographers treat her like a starlet.

Jennifer is excited to receive funding for a second cochlear implant for her daughter. “A lot of insurance companies do not pay for a second implant. We’ve

got everything pending right now so that the foundation can pick up some of the cost.”

The average cost of a cochlear implant is \$40,000. **Dr. B. Robert Peters**, who performed Dakota’s first surgery, understands the pressure this puts on families, which is one reason he founded the Dallas Hearing Foundation. The nonprofit’s fundraising gala, called **Sounds of the Season** ([soundsoftheseason.org](http://soundsoftheseason.org)), is Saturday, December 19 at Union Station. It begins at 7 p.m. and will be catered by Wolfgang Puck.

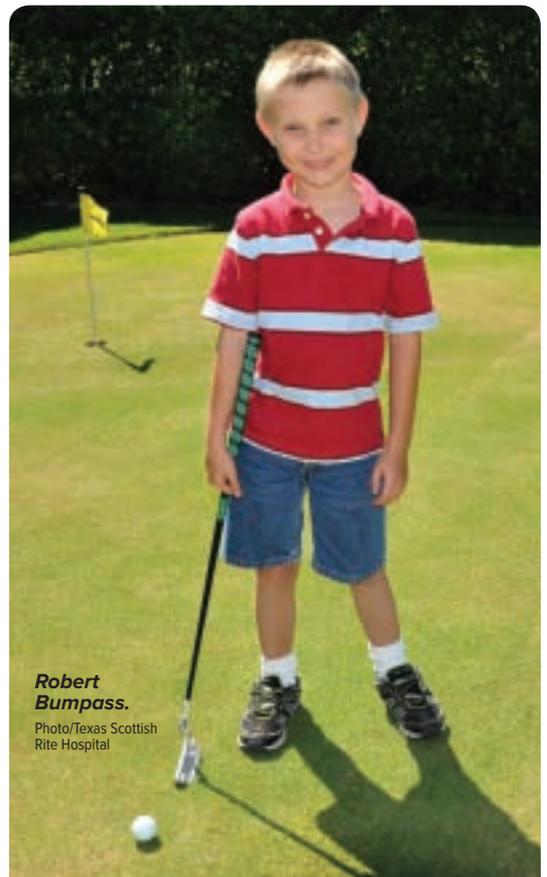
Said Jennifer, “We’ll be there. We’re really excited!”

### **Robert Bumpass opens MetroPCS Dallas White Rock Marathon**

**Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (TSRHC)** announced that the Junior Race Director for the upcoming **MetroPCS White Rock Marathon** (not to be confused with the White Rock Lake Marathon) is 9-year-old **Robert Bumpass** of Plano.

Robert has been a TSRHC patient since he was 7 weeks old. Now pain free and walking independently, Robert excels in sports; he plays baseball and golf, and enjoys running and swimming.

Presented by NexBank, the MetroPCS White Rock Marathon is Sunday, December 13 at 8 a.m and includes a half marathon, a full marathon, and a relay. Robert will count down the start of the race and participate in pre-event festivities. Visit [runtherock.com](http://runtherock.com).



**Robert Bumpass.**

Photo/Texas Scottish Rite Hospital