



Starfish Dash 5k Run/Walk & Health Fair – UT Health Campus April 29th 2023 Honoree – Emily Villalobos

Emily is our sweet, loving 9-year-old daughter who was born with a rare genetic disorder, Chromosome 18q deletion syndrome. Emily has overcome many obstacles in her life with the help of a great team of doctors, therapists, and educators. Emily is non-verbal and hearing impaired, but that has not stopped her from living a happy and meaningful life.

Emily's favorite activities include dancing, swinging on her play set, swimming, and watching her favorite videos. Emily attends our local elementary school and is in the 3rd grade where she has made many kind-hearted friends who love helping and assisting her with daily tasks and activities throughout the day. Emily continues to make progress due to the endless commitment of her teachers, support staff, family, and friends, which we could not be more thankful for.

Emily had been chosen to be this year's honoree for the [Chromosome 18's 6th Annual Starfish Dash 5K Run/Walk and Health Fair](#) that is an official [Fiesta Event](#). We feel very fortunate that we live very close to the [Chromosome 18 Clinical Research Center](#) that is the only dedicated Chromosome 18 research center in the world. We love that their vision is that one day, children with chromosome 18 abnormalities will have the same aspirations and achievements in life as their siblings. We appreciate all the support, hope, and words of encouragement the research team has given us throughout these years.

Emily lives here in San Antonio, Texas with her mother and father, Roxanne and Ben Villalobos.

