# “Charlotte’s Web”: Hemp for Seizures

# Charlotte's Web (cannabis)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte%27s_Web_%28cannabis%29>

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*For other uses, see*[*Charlotte's Web (disambiguation)*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte%27s_Web_(disambiguation))*.*

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cannabis_sativa_(K%C3%B6hler).jpg)

Cannabis as illustrated in Köhler's book of medicinal plants from 1897

**Charlotte's Web** is a strain of [medical marijuana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_cannabis) processed into a marijuana extract[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte%27s_Web_%28cannabis%29#cite_note-Allen-1) that is high in [cannabidiol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannabidiol) (CBD) content, called **Realm Oil** and **Alepsia**. It does not induce the[psychoactive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychoactive) "[high](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Substance_intoxication)" typically associated with recreational marijuana strains that are high in[tetrahydrocannabinol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetrahydrocannabinol) (THC). In September 2014, the content was measured at 0.3% THC and it was classified "as a hemp-derived food product".[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte%27s_Web_%28cannabis%29#cite_note-Waltz_shipped-2)

The Charlotte's Web strain is named after Charlotte Figi, born October 18, 2006 (age 8), whose story has led to her being described as "the girl who is changing medical marijuana laws across America."[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte%27s_Web_%28cannabis%29#cite_note-Osborne-3) Her parents and physicians say she experienced a reduction of her[epileptic seizures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epileptic_seizure) brought on by [Dravet syndrome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dravet_syndrome) after her first dose of medical marijuana at five years of age. Her usage of the strain was first featured in the 2013 [CNN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CNN) documentary "Weed". Media coverage increased demand for Realm Oil and similar products high in CBD, which has been used to treat [epilepsy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epilepsy) in toddlers and children. While high profile and anecdotal reports have sparked interest in treatment with [cannabinoids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannabinoids),[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte%27s_Web_%28cannabis%29#cite_note-Melville-4) there is insufficient medical evidence to draw conclusions about their safety or efficacy.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte%27s_Web_%28cannabis%29#cite_note-Melville-4)[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte%27s_Web_%28cannabis%29#cite_note-Gloss2012-5)

Families who say they have run out of pharmaceutical options have moved to Colorado to access the strain. The demand has spurred calls for more research to determine whether these products actually do what is claimed. While many U.S. states have legalized the use of medical marijuana products, including Charlotte's Web, within their borders, the nationwide legal status of Realm Oil is less clear. CBD-only legislation in several states is aimed at legalizing use of this particular form of medical marijuana, even though other uses of cannabis are still forbidden in those states. Federal legislation is under way which will affect the legal status in the whole country.

# ‘Charlotte’s Web’ Cannabis Oil Showing Great Results For Girl

May 7, 2014 7:48 AM

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2014/05/07/charlottes-web-cannabis-oil-showing-great-results-for-girl/>

**BAILEY, Colo. (CBS4)** – One of the dozens of families who moved to Colorado in order to treat their kids with a cannabis oil that helps combat seizures says they are seeing outstanding results.

Jenna, 8, and her family moved to Colorado in January from Minnesota. She has epilepsy and had been on a waiting list for the cannabis oil known as Charlotte’s Web, which is now legal to use under Colorado’s new marijuana laws.

[](http://cbsdenver.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/charlottes-web.jpg)

Charlotte’s Web (credit: CBS)

Charlotte’s Web, which has less than .03 THC, is[named after a Colorado girl who was the first to receive the treatment](http://cbsloc.al/19BGBH3). It is a custom-cultivated marijuana strain with a high amount of a compound shown to help control seizures in some children.

Jenna has extractible epilepsy due to brain malformation and — until this year — surgeries, diets and medications weren’t helping control her daily seizures.

Her parents [told CBS4 partner CBSMinnesota.com this week](http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/05/06/minn-family-moves-to-get-medical-pot-for-daughter-results-staggering/) that they started Jenna up on the Charlotte’s Web treatments two months ago. Since then, there has been a shocking reduction in seizures, plus some unexpected benefits beyond that.

“She was having around 300 seizures a month, and currently we are down to 50,” said her mom Marie Jay. “She’s definitely developing a personality that we’ve never seen, so it’s been very awesome.”

The full scope of the changes in a seizure sufferer once they are on Charlotte’s Web aren’t supposed to manifest themselves until about nine months of treatments, but Jenna has already been able to reduce the amount of medications she’s taking and is sleeping better and has fewer headaches and stomach aches.

“It almost chokes you up sometimes. You get really excited and happy, because she’s hilarious,” said Jason Jay, her father.

Minnesota lawmakers are working on a bill that would allow the treatments in that state, and the Jays say they would move back if such a bill was passed.

Matt Figi hugs daughter Charlotte, 7, earlier this year as they wander around a greenhouse where the Charlotte's Web strain of medical marijuana is grown in a remote spot in the mountains west of Colorado Springs. (Brennan Linsley, Associated Press file)

# More than 3,000 new patients will soon have access to Charlotte’s Web

<http://www.thecannabist.co/2014/10/31/charlottes-web-wait-list-cbd/22231/>

PUBLISHED: OCT 31, 2014, 4:09 PM[COMMENTS (5)](http://www.thecannabist.co/2014/10/31/charlottes-web-wait-list-cbd/22231/#disqus_thread)

By [**Ricardo Baca**](http://www.thecannabist.co/author/rbaca/), The Cannabist Staff

More than 3,000 new patients will soon have access to [high-CBD strain Charlotte’s Web](http://www.thecannabist.co/2014/02/18/charlottes-web-strain-aids-colorado-springs-kids-seizures-worries-doctors-children-medical/4893/), nonprofit [Realm of Caring](http://theroc.us/) told The Cannabist this week.

Realm of Caring administers Charlotte’s Web, one of the best-known CBD strains in America, and keeps tabs on a wait list that tops 12,000 qualifying people who want to see if the low-THC marijuana works for what ails them.

[***On the rise:***Colorado-grown Charlotte’s Web rising in popularity](http://www.thecannabist.co/2014/02/18/charlottes-web-strain-aids-colorado-springs-kids-seizures-worries-doctors-children-medical/4893/)

The wait list is made up mostly of children suffering from epilepsy — 73.5 percent of whom are seeing a 50 percent (or greater) reduction in seizures, according to the organization and third-party doctors who collect the data independently.

“As a parent, the wait list is what bothers me the most,” said Heather Jackson, executive director of Realm of Caring. “I don’t lose sleep about much, except for the wait list. It feels really phenomenal to make a big dent in that list, for sure.”

How is Realm of Caring making such a big dent in its wait list, which adds more than 1,100 hopeful names per month? The group recently harvested its first-ever outdoor hemp crop in Yuma County — allowing them to grow more plants than in their greenhouses and warehouses — and their oil extractions are beating initial projections.

[***CBD in the Sunshine State:***Florida Gov. Scott signs “Charlotte’s Web” medical marijuana bill](http://www.thecannabist.co/2014/06/17/florida-gov-signs-medical-marijuana-bill-ok-use-charlottes-web-strain/14393/)

“Because it’s being grown in a field,” Jackson said, “and we didn’t fully know what to expect — like maybe the wind would blow off the trichomes or something like that — we wanted to measure our expectations. But everything is coming in really good. The milligrams we’re extracting from each plant, they’re looking great.”

People are being served in the order they signed up on the wait list. Of the 73.5 percent benefiting from Charlotte’s Web, Realm of Caring says 13 percent of those patients are seizure free — including Jackson’s son Zaki, who celebrated his two-year anniversary of being completely seizure free in early October.

TOPICS: [CBD](http://www.thecannabist.co/tag/cbd/), [CBD STRAINS](http://www.thecannabist.co/tag/cbd-strains/), [CHARLOTTE'S WEB](http://www.thecannabist.co/tag/charlottes-web/), [CHARLOTTE'S WEB WAIT LIST](http://www.thecannabist.co/tag/charlottes-web-wait-list/), [HEATHER JACKSON](http://www.thecannabist.co/tag/heather-jackson/), [HEMP](http://www.thecannabist.co/tag/hemp/), [REALM OF CARING](http://www.thecannabist.co/tag/realm-of-caring/), [ZAKI JACKSON](http://www.thecannabist.co/tag/zaki-jackson/)

## “Charlotte’s Web” marijuana supposed cure for kids’ seizures but doctors skeptical

**CBS/AP***February 18, 2014, 12:09 PM*

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/charlottes-web-marijuana-a-hope-for-kids-with-seizures-despite-unproven-medical-benefits/>

<http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/charlottes-web-strain-of-marijuana-offers-hope-for-children-with-seizures>

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COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. -- Parents are flocking to Colorado with their sick children to find “Charlotte’s Web,” a strain of marijuana thought to treat debilitating seizure disorders.

The strain was named for 5-year-old Charlotte Figi, who had been suffering from a rare disorder called Dravet’s syndrome, which caused her to have as many as 300 grand mal seizures a week.

Charlotte used a wheelchair, went into repeated cardiac arrest and could barely speak, but doctors were out of ideas for help. Then as a last resort, her mother began calling medical marijuana shops.

Two years later, Charlotte is largely seizure-free and able to walk, talk and feed herself after taking oil infused with a special pot strain. Her recovery inspired the Charlotte's Web name for the marijuana strain she takes in oil form that is bred not to have THC -- the ingredient that make users high.

[](http://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/charlottes-web-marijuana-pediatric-seizures)

*[10](http://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/charlottes-web-marijuana-pediatric-seizures)***[PHOTOS](http://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/charlottes-web-marijuana-pediatric-seizures)**

### [Special pot strain attracts pediatric patients](http://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/charlottes-web-marijuana-pediatric-seizures)

 Her story also spread on social media, and inspired an influx of families with seizure-stricken children to Colorado from states that ban the drug.

"She can walk, talk; she ate chili in the car," her mother, Paige Figi, said as her dark-haired daughter strolled through a cavernous greenhouse full of marijuana plants that will later be broken down into their anti-seizure components and mixed with olive oil so patients can consume them. "So I'll fight for whoever wants this."

The family of 20-month-old Maggie Selmeski moved from Tennessee to Colorado last November seeking Charlotte’s Web. Her mom, Rachel, told CBS News' Teri Okita that her daughter would suffer up to 500 seizures a day, and epilepsy medication did not help. However, Charlotte’s Web has reduced the seizures drastically, she said.

“I can watch people's face as I tell them we're giving her cannabis oil, and it's like ... a little questioning,” she said.

Doctors warn there is no proof that Charlotte's Web is effective, or even safe.

In the frenzy to find the drug, there have been reports of non-authorized suppliers offering bogus strains of Charlotte's Web. In one case, a doctor said, parents were told they could replicate the strain by cooking marijuana in butter. Their child went into heavy seizures.

"We don't have any peer-reviewed, published literature to support it," Dr. Larry Wolk, the state health department's chief medical officer, said of Charlotte's Web.

[](http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/medical-marijuana-what-does-science-say)

*[Play](http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/medical-marijuana-what-does-science-say)***[VIDEO](http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/medical-marijuana-what-does-science-say)**

### [Medical marijuana: What does science say?](http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/medical-marijuana-what-does-science-say)

 Scientist Dr. Margaret Haney, director of the Marijuana Research Laboratory at Columbia University in New York -- one of a handful of U.S. labs that perform [government-funded studies on marijuana](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/medical-marijuana-more-states-legalizing-but-scientific-evidence-lacking/" \t "_blank) -- told CBS News that she is “uncomfortable” with the absence of evidence that Charlotte’s Web treats seizures, despite parents clinging to the hope it does.

"I have heard of this and have deep empathy for the desperation of parents with ill children," Haney said. "Cannabis is not the world’s most dangerous drug by any stretch but that does not mean it is without potential long-term cognitive and psychiatric consequence, especially when it comes to exposure to children.”

She added, "The best thing we can do for these patients and their parents is prove this potential medication works."

The lack of scientific evidence hasn’t stopped more than 100 families from relocating to Colorado since Charlotte's story first began spreading last summer, according to Figi and her husband and the five brothers who grow the drug and sell it at cost through a nonprofit. The relocated families have formed a close-knit group in Colorado Springs, the town where the dispensary selling the drug is located. They meet for lunch, support sessions and hikes.

"It's the most hope lots of us have ever had," said Holli Brown, whose 9-year-old daughter, Sydni, began speaking in sentences and laughing since moving to Colorado from Kansas City and taking the marijuana strain.

Amy Brooks-Kayal, vice president of the American Epilepsy Society, warned that a few miraculous stories may not mean anything -- epileptic seizures come and go for no apparent reason -- and scientists do not know what sort of damage Charlotte's Web could be doing to young brains.

"Until we have that information, as physicians, we can't follow our first creed, which is do no harm," she said, suggesting that parents relocate so their children can get treated at one of the nation's 28 top-tier pediatric epilepsy centers rather than move to Colorado.

However, the society urges more study of pot's possibilities. The families using Charlotte's Web, as well as the brothers who grow it, say they want the drug rigorously tested, and their efforts to ensure its purity have won them praise from skeptics like Wolk.

For many, Charlotte's story was something they couldn't ignore.



Matt Figi hugs and tickles his once severely-ill 7-year-old daughter Charlotte, as they wander around inside a greenhouse for a special strain of medical marijuana known as Charlotte's Web, which was named after the girl early in her treatment, in a remote spot in the mountains west of Colorado Springs, Colo on Feb. 7, 2014.

**AP PHOTO/BRENNAN LINSLEY**

 Charlotte is a twin, but her sister, Chase, doesn't have Dravet's syndrome, which kills kids before they reach adulthood.

In early 2012, it seemed Charlotte would be added to that grim roster: Her vital signs flat-lined three times, leading her parents to begin preparing for her death. They even signed an order for doctors not to take heroic measures to save her life again should she go into cardiac arrest.

Her father, Matt, a former Green Beret who took a job as a contractor working in Afghanistan, started looking online for ways to help his daughter and thought they should give pot a try. But there was a danger: The psychoactive ingredient, THC, can trigger seizures.

The plant also contains another chemical known as cannabidiol (CBD) that may have seizure-fighting properties. In October, the Food and Drug Administration approved testing a British pharmaceutical firm's marijuana-derived drug that is CBD-based and has all its THC removed.

Few dispensaries stock CBD-heavy weed that doesn't get you high. Then Paige Figi found Joel Stanley, who along with four of his brothers, had found themselves in the medical marijuana business after moving to Colorado. Almost as an experiment, they bred a low-THC, high-CBD plant after hearing it could fight tumors.

Stanley went to the Figis' house with reservations about giving pot to a child.

"But she had done her homework," Stanley said of Paige Figi. "She wasn't a pot activist or a hippy, just a conservative mom."

Now, Stanley and his brothers provide the marijuana to nearly 300 patients and have a waitlist of 2,000.

The CBD is extracted by a chemist who once worked for drug giant Pfizer, mixed with olive oil so it can be ingested through the mouth or the feeding tube that many sufferers from childhood epilepsy use, then sent to a third-party lab to test its purity.

Charlotte takes the medication twice a day. "A year ago, she could only say one word," her father said. "Now she says complete sentences."

The recovery of Charlotte and other kids has inspired the Figis and others to travel the country, pushing for medical marijuana laws or statutes that would allow high-CBD, low-THC pot strains.

Donald Burger recently urged a New York state legislative panel to legalize medical marijuana while his wife, Aileen, was in the family's new rental house in Colorado Springs, giving Charlotte's Web to their daughter Elizabeth, 4. The family only relocated to Colorado after neurologists told them Elizabeth's best hope -- brain surgery -- could only stop some of her seizures.

"It's a very big strain being away from the rest of our family," Aileen Burger said recently while waiting for her husband to return from a trip to sell their Long Island house. "But she doesn't have to have pieces of her brain removed."

Ray Mirazabegian, an optician in Glendale, Calif., brought Charlotte's Web to his state, where medical marijuana is legal. He convinced the Stanley brothers to give him some seeds he could use to treat his 9-year-old daughter Emily, who spent her days slumped on the couch. Now, she's running, jumping and talking. Mirazabegian is cloning the Charlotte's Web seeds and has opened the California branch of the Stanleys' foundation.

Mirazabegian has begun to distribute the strain to 25 families and has a waitlist of 400. It includes, he said, families willing to move from Japan and the Philippines.

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# 6-year-old Colorado girl in national spotlight over medical marijuana

POSTED 8:24 PM, AUGUST 8, 2013, BY [JEREMY HUBBARD](http://kdvr.com/author/kdvrjeremyhubbard/), *UPDATED AT 06:12PM, AUGUST 9, 2013*

<http://kdvr.com/2013/08/08/6-year-old-colorado-girl-in-national-spotlight-over-medical-marijuana/>

VIDEO: <http://kdvr.com/2013/08/08/6-year-old-colorado-girl-in-national-spotlight-over-medical-marijuana/#ooid=1jYXN0ZDpnXuWutJCDbx2IBeJzNHSXw3>

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Note: They have a N.P. ‘Realm of Caring: Compassion Cannabis Education’ and website: <https://www.theroc.us/>; <https://www.facebook.com/RealmofCaring>

DENVER — She’s six years old, and she uses marijuana every day.

Charlotte Figi suffers from a rare form of epilepsy called [Dravet Syndrome](http://www.dravetfoundation.org/dravet-syndrome/what-is-dravet-syndrome). She’s endured violent seizures since she was a newborn. Most weeks, she’d have about 300 seizures a week.

After countless emergency room visits, trips to specialists and children’s hospitals, and more than a dozen pharmaceuticals, nothing worked.

Then, a year-and-a-half ago, as a last resort, her mom tried cannabis oil. The medical marijuana worked immediately.

“It’s potent, it’s strong, it’s spicy, it’s got some kick,” her mother, Paige Figi, told FOX31 Denver as she showed us a syringe full of the cannabis oil.

It’s diluted with olive oil, and mixed with the food Charlotte eats. She takes the medicine twice a day.

The results have been astounding. Charlotte, who’d been unable to walk, or talk, or eat – is now dancing and playing.  And she’s down to just two or three seizures a week.

Charlotte’s story will get national attention this weekend [as part of a CNN documentary called ‘Weed.’](http://cnnpressroom.blogs.cnn.com/2013/08/05/weed-drsanjaygupta-reports-premieres-on-cnn-sunday-august-11-at-8-pm-et/?iref=allsearch) It’s sparking a coast-to-coast debate about whether pot is harmful or helpful.

For Josh Stanley, there’s no debate.

“When we met Charlotte, she was a catatonic child. She couldn’t get out of her wheelchair.  She couldn’t swallow. And now she’s off all of her pharmaceuticals,” Stanley told FOX31 Denver.

Stanley’s company custom-developed the strain of cannabis used to treat Charlotte. It’s now being used to treat dozens of other kids suffering from epilepsy, too.

They call the strain “Charlotte’s Web.”

Stanley and his siblings also set up a nonprofit called [Realm of Caring](http://realmofcaring.com/), to help pay for other desperate families to move to Colorado, where their epileptic kids can legally be treated.

At six, Charlotte may seem young but she’s hardly the youngest being treated with medicinal marijuana. There are about 40 kids in Colorado with medical marijuana cards. The youngest, less than a year old.

All of them benefitting – their families would tell you – from a once-unthinkable remedy.

“Just living a normal life. It’s 100 percent different,” Paige Figi said.

There are questions about the long-term effects of marijuana use in young people, but most every study up until now has involved marijuana smokers – and Charlotte doesn’t smoke the marijuana.

And by the way, the cannabis oil doesn’t make her high. It’s from a strain that’s very low in Tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC – which is the mind-altering ingredient in marijuana.

# [Realm of Caring Comes to California](http://www.beyondthc.com/realm-of-caring-comes-to-california/)

<http://www.beyondthc.com/realm-of-caring-comes-to-california/>

**By Fred Gardner** There is a point at which a story achieves critical mass —it goes from being a matter of interest to a fraction of the public to one that everyone’s talking about, inescapable in the media. That point in the medical cannabis story was reached last August when Sanjay Gupta, MD, narrated an hour-long “Special Report” on CNN that provided dramatic examples of Cannabis exerting beneficial effects. Most memorable was the return to health of a five-year old in Colorado Springs, Charlotte Figi, afflicted with Dravet Syndrome, a severe form of epilepsy.

Charlotte’s parents told Gupta how her condition worsened as every conventional treatment failed. She was having hundreds of seizures a day and the doctors were considering inducing a coma to save her life. Her dad, a Special Forces soldier deployed to Afghanistan, researched epilepsy treatments on the web and learned about CBD. Desperate, the Figis bought $800 worth of CBD-rich Cannabis at a dispensary and a friend helped them extract the medicine for under-the-tongue application. Charlotte’s seizures went down to one a week and and she began recovering!

 A Colorado grower named Joel Stanley and his brothers supplied the Figis with Cannabis tincture made from plants with a CBD-to-THC ratio greater than 20-to-1, and renamed their strain “Charlotte’s Web” —CW, for short. Other parents of kids with severe epilepsy began contacting the Stanley Bros. with urgent requests for CBD-rich medicine. The brothers created a non-profit called the [**Realm of Caring Foundation**](http://www.theroc.us/) to facilitate distribution; Paige Figi works for RoC as a volunteer.

“To date there are 179 children and 27 adults on CW,” according to Heather Jackson, RoC’s executive director. “There are 345 patients in the Realm of Caring program,” she adds, “so about 1/3 use other strains for their symptoms and diagnoses like cancer, ALS, pain etc. The Realm of Caring does not charge for their services.”

 Desperate parents have been moving to Colorado to expedite access to CBD-rich Cannabis for their kids. In many states, politicians and activist parents are pushing legislation to legalize CBD (while maintaining the prohibition of THC). The Stanley brothers have testified in support of CBD-only bills in Florida, Alabama, Kentucky, Nebraska, Utah, New York, California, Georgia, Oklahoma, Maryland, Vermont, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Illinois.

Among those who contacted the Stanley brothers in 2013 was Ray Mirzabegian, the father of a Dravet syndrome patient named Emily, who was nine years old. After many trips to Colorado, Mirzabegian was provided with Charlotte Web seeds (said to have been stabilized by the Stanley brothers over the course of several years). He was also authorized to launch Realm of Caring California, a subsidiary of the foundation the Stanleys created. Mirzabegian is now growing out Charlotte’s Web plants as per the Stanleys’ specifications, and arranging to distribute the CBD-rich oil that will be extracted from them. On Feb. 23 in Milpitas he updated 120 parents of pediatric epilepsy patients on the state of his grow.

Mirzabegian’s talk followed [**a presentation by Bonnie Goldstein, MD, the director of Canna-Care Centers, reviewing what doctors and scientists know about Cannabis as medicine**](http://www.beyondthc.com/dr-goldstein-on-caring-for-kids-with-epilepsy/). Realm of Caring California had organized two previous seminars in southern California, where Goldstein and Mirzabegian are based.

Many in the Milpitas audience were on the waiting list for CBD-rich oil from the Charlotte’s Web plants that Mirzabegian is growing at three locations in Southern California. “No more than ninety-nine plants per facility,” he explained. “We are doing everything legally.” He gave up a career teaching opticians to grow medical cannabis for his daughter Emily, now 10, and others in urgent need. His brothers Alfred, a general contractor, and John, a hair-transplant technician, are also spending 14-15 hours a day growing plants organically for RoC California.

Ray Mirzabegian seemed, to your correspondent, completely sincere and likable. He is 40, grew up and lives in the Los Angeles area; speaks almost perfect English with an Armenian accent. Transcribing Mirzabegian’s talk from a tape, I hear the singsong of infants in strollers and the occasional moan of a teenager in a wheelchair. The audience was utterly rapt. Excerpts follow:

…Because of her uncontrolled seizures —despite numerous medications and a ton of other treatments that failed— about a year and a half ago after I watched the Stanley Brothers in a documentary [“[**American Weed” on the National Geographic Channel**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmlsY3OQuUU)].  I traveled to Colorado several times… And I was able to obtain Charlotte’s Web for my daughter first and then for everybody else because it would not be fair to just do it for myself.

About a year ago I went into an agreement with Realm of Caring Foundation to start growing plants here and offering oil to patients in California who needed it. It took about three months to realize how severely California needed this medicine. The waiting list right now is about 400 plus patients. Mostly pediatric patients but also patients with other severe problems.

I haven’t really advertised it —just word of mouth and Facebook groups.

 I’m working very hard to establish what is required legally and to do it 100 percent in a legal way and to learn how to do it right. I don’t come from a background of growing. I’m a professor. Was. Concluded my career about a month ago. I used to teach opticians in college for 20 years. But it took about a year or so to learn the science of growing this plant the right way —meaning to make sure that it’s organic, that it’s clean, that there’s no pesticide, molds, anything else. To make sure that it’s a quality product, because after all, I’m going to give it to my daughter…

So I traveled to Colorado and got trained with the help of the Realm of Caring Foundation and the Stanley Brothers University. We’re copying exactly every single thing that they’re doing so there’s absolutely no difference between the Charlotte’s Web that you’re getting in California than in Colorado.

They’re the Colorado brothers and we’re the California brothers —Alfred, a general contractor, and John, a hair transplant technician: they are your farmers *(sustained applause).* We’re putting 14 to 16 hours a day into this. Doing whatever it takes to make this happen. They put everything aside about a year ago. We put everything else on hold and we’re gonna go for it. There are now a lot of plants growing and soon to be harvested.

Credit also to my right hand, left hand, she does everything for Realm of Caring, Cindy Mitchell.

 I wanted this oil because my daughter was having many, many seizures. She had tried 13 medications that did not work. The [**ketogenic diet**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ketogenic_diet)[an anti-seizure diet low-in-carbs, high-in-fats] worked for about six months and then seizures slowly started coming back. About a year after the diet my wife and I sat down and said that she has absolutely no quality of life. She was depressed because she couldn’t eat anything at school or at home. We could have tweaked it more but we thought it’s not really working. So we decided to stop the ketogenic diet and sure enough Lauren’s seizures came back.

At a very well known epilepsy center in Southern California they casually pulled us aside and said “There’s really nothing else we can do for you guys, we suggest that you go home and enjoy your daughter as best you can.”  So we went home very disappointed and upset. We saw about eight or nine neurologists after that until we found one AT UCLA who was willing to sit down and listen to us and communicate and have a conversation. Our neurologist is very supportive of the parent’s right to try something like CBD, especially since we’ve tried everything else. I talk to him frequently and he’s interested in the feedback about the patients, about my daughter.

He’s also supporting me in tapering the medications because they’re not working and all were getting is negative side effects. If the medication is helping, I can understand putting up with the side effects. But if there’s no seizure control… For instance, speech fluency: on Depakote it was like someone pushed the mute button on her. She’s speaking more and more ever since we started CBD and were able to take her off the medicine. *(Applause)*

I went to Colorado asking for this and came back empty handed because its illegal to transfer. I was home and my daughter was having a seizure and I was so upset and so angry because there is something that might help my daughter!  I started looking throughout California dispensaries. I purchased bottles and bottles of stuff. I didn’t know that you could test it, so I just tried it on my daughter. Honestly, nothing worked. I was seeing Charlotte’s story on CNN and I went back to Colorado and I came back and said I’m going to start a waiting list and a Facebook group to show these guys that there’s a demand for this product.  I emailed one of the Stanley brothers and he answered the next day. Then I went to Colorado. He said “We get about a thousand emails every week and we forward them to the foundation but I decided to answer yours, I don’t know why, and here you are.”

I brought back a limited quantity of seeds. So I had to grow and grow and grow and clone and clone and clone and clone because I had 400 patients waiting for it. I have a feeling that number is going grow after the second documentary on CNN with Dr. Sanjay Gupta in a few weeks.

*Shows pictures of growing plants. The leaf of Charlotte’s Web appears to be streaked with yellow —variegated in color— which is sometimes caused by a virus. Could a virus have given this chemovar unique properties?)*

Its a beautiful plant. Very different from everything else that I’ve seen. It’s a very fragile plant. It requires a lot of love and singing and taking care of.

That’s what we’re doing. Every single one of these plants has a patient’s name on it. So if you’re on the waiting list and I have your recommendation, your child’s name is on one of these plants… We want to do this whole thing legally so we’re creating a collective and resource center so I can have all of you as my patients and we’ll do it as legally as possible in California…  California Laws are extremely tough and limited. I am allowed to grow 99 plants in a facility —and that’s all I’m doing, because I’m not planning on going to jail for years and years.  But that makes it very tough to meet the demand and forces us to have several facilities to meet the demand.

The cost of doing everything is much higher in California, but whatever it is, who cares? We’re going to do this  the right way. We’re going to offer this at wholesale prices. Not like everybody else —or most people. There are some good collectives in California who are trying to do some good things, and I support them. But there are also a lot of people who are trying to cash in on the CBD rush and they’re looking for desperate parents like us. They’re charging a whole bunch of money for God knows what they’re giving you. We’re not trying to do that. We’re trying to keep it as low cost as possible for everybody. I’m going to try everything I can to keep it lower that anybody else. I didn’t get into this because of the business factor. I got into this because of my daughter.

Emily is almost medication free now.Applause At times she’s been on four different meds and on those she’s had several seizures a week. She’s now eating everything on her own, socializing, running, jumping you name it. And since tapering off the last Benzo medication she’s on Clozapine and it’s just done so much damage. Even when we’re tapering this medication she’s averaging one seizure every 10 days.

I’m hopeful that once we’re completely off the meds, that the right dose of CBD, the right ratio, I hope she can have [**the success of Charlotte and Zaki**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BH5yzEu3JGQ)? and everyone else who is seizure- and medication-free. There are a couple of things wrong with my daughter. One was the the grand epilepsy that was diagnosed, but the side effects of the medications were even worse. She was so much worse when she was on these medications. Obviously less seizures, but also less side effects of the medications.

I talk about this with my —her— neurologist. We send each other articles and research. We communicate. I finally found a good one who listens, who researches. And I suggest you do the same. And I suggest that you do not touch this medication unless you have that doctor who is supporting you. Because, man, these withdrawals can be crazy and they’re scary sometimes. But if you have the right doctor to guide you through it, you understand that it’s okay what you’re going through, and that it will pass. And you can call the doctor and ask, “Should I go to the hospital or not?”  We haven’t been to any hospital for three years now. There are a lot of success stories out there. Not just from Realm of Caring but every company that’s offering marijuana as a medicine. It’s a one-on-one personal thing. Some people do okay, some people do great, some people need more time to find the right dose.

And that’s something that we all need to understand. We have to have discussions within our groups —What times of day? how many milliliters? Before or after meals?… All of that stuff. Try and try and document everything. One of the biggest things that helped her was at 4:30 in the morning we gave her half a milligram of CBD while she was sleeping. And that was such a big change in her. It almost completely stopped her seizures that happened in the early morning. These are the things you have to understand. You have to try it. You have to give it time. You have to document everything

If you have a good neurologist, if you have a good doctor like Doctor Goldstein who is always available for patients, if you have this team and this support system, give it time and it will work. It’s not that one magic pill… Sometimes it could even be worse. Because it affects medication levels. It affects the way the brain functions. So, don’t be afraid, just document everything and talk to the doctor and give it a real shot. Once you give it a real shot you can decide if it’s working or not.

There’s a lot of discussion going on about THCA and THC.  Some will do great on it. Some will do great on CBD only. It’s so hard for me to tell all 400 people to just hang in there and wait. I wish there was something I could do to make these plants grow faster —and there is, but I’m not going to do it. Because I want to grow organically, no extra hormones or… (*Applause.)*

So, we’re almost there. If all goes well, I should have three harvests in 2014. And between those three harvests I’m hoping everybody will get their medicine.  (*Applause.)* We’re almost there, hang in there. When it’s ready I’ll call you or I’ll email you.

We’re also traveling around talking to a lot of council members and authorities. We’re not just trying to grow this plant and sell  it. The point is not business and to make money. If I wanted to sell it at a much higher rate then I’d make a ton of money in a year and I’d close shop and I’d be good to go. But I’m not going to do that. I don’t want to do that. I want to use every single one of our success stories and I want to present in front of counties, authorities, media, I want us to have a voice.

For about nine years I traveled all over the place looking for medicine—I went to France, I went to Germany to buy medicine, I tried every FDA approved medication.  Most of you have done the same thing. Now that I’ve found something that helps my daughter, I need her to have a voice. I need to talk to them. I need everyone to know about it. We need to write. We need to tell the authorities. I don’t have to be afraid anymore.

About a year ago Child Services knocked on my door with two LAPD officers at 10:30 in the evening. That was one of the worst days of our lives. My wife was shaking. The school nurse thought we were neglecting because we were tapering medications.  We don’t have to take stuff like this. We already have so much to deal with. Those are some of the reasons that I’m so vocal. Because I’m up to it.

That’s what Realm of Caring is doing. Those guys in Colorado are traveling all across the country talking to the counties and I’m doing that in California.  Realm of Caring is gathering data, gathering data on people who are seeing results. How much ratio, when did they take it, what times —and I’m going to do that in California.

I want all California patients to gather data. All California patients who are going to be on the oil. It’s going to be kept private… One of the key things that’s missing is real patient data.

Or if you’re not seeing results, what and why? If you’re part of a group of Facebook or in the Realm of Caring group there are a lot of children who are doing so much better than they were before they were on this medicine. We’re talking about THC and CBD, but we’re talking about Cannabis as an option.

I want to clarify something, I’m not here to say that Charlotte’s Web is the only medicine that works. I’ve never said that. On the contrary, there are a lot of great plants out there. There are some companies that are doing good things and I’m supporting them. I’ve sent many patients to companies that are trying to do it the right way. If you find something that works, ACDC is a great strain. But make sure that it’s grown the right way and that it’s stable and clean. Charlotte’s Web and ACDC are both 20 to 1 (CBD to THC), and if that helps, wonderful… There are more companies coming up in 2014 and I’m happy about that. I wish more companies would come up and pay attention to our children.  I and my brothers cannot take care of the entire state of California. So we will support each other and work alongside each other. I will be very happy if that happens

Charlotte is doing great. she went from hundreds of seizures a week to almost no seizures and is medication-free.  Zaki I just met in Colorado. He’s doing great. You wouldn’t know that he comes from a past of seizures and problems. He talks, communicates, runs. We were sitting there talking about football and some of the players and I thought if my daughter gets there… it was such an inspiration. Zaki has been seizure free for over a year, a year and three months I think. My daughter is happy and active and doing much better than she was on all those medications.

It’s a work in progress. I can’t wait till this is ready and I can give it to all these children and have all of your succeess stories That will be the best day of my life. And it’s coming soon.

We’re opening a resource center and collective in Los Angeles. It will be called Realm of Caring Health Center. It’s a collective because legally I have to form one to grow for you. I’m trying to build this place to be different. To be a health center. It’s going to offer medicine based on percentage. If they have a condition that requires 5 percent THC to 1 percent CBD. I also want to offer resources —education and support for families and parents who walk in. I want to create a decent, clean medical office where you can sit down and have a medical conversation without smelling marijuana. We’re building this place to be family friendly..

Hopefully it will be one of many that will be open in California, including Northern California. Perhaps 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.  So you won’t have to email me and wait. You can call and talk to me anytime you want or come there if you want.

If you have a recommendation, please send it to us so we can be protected. Will be offering different varieties at the resource center. There should be choices and one will hopefully work for you.

The Colorado guys are going around the country trying to get the right to grow it.  Someday there won’t be any waiting list.

**P.S. March 7**Sanjay Gupta, MD, will narrate another CNN special on medical marijuana Tuesday evening, March 11. Here’s the [**March 6 media advisory announcing the show**](http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/05/health/gupta-medical-marijuana/), in which Gupta soundbites, “I’m not backing down on medical marijuana. I’m doubling down.” Be there or be in DARE!

# 6 Year Old Charlotte Figi Uses Medical Marijuana To Help Treat Epilepsy, Seizures

**The Huffington Post  |  By Ryan Grenoble** Posted: 08/10/2013 12:33 am EDT Updated: 08/10/2013 12:33 am EDT

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/09/charlotte-figi-6-year-old-marijuana-medical_n_3734283.html>

When you think of the stereotypical medical marijuana user, Charlotte Figi may be the last person that comes to mind.

That's because Charlotte is 6 years old.

She also suffers from debilitating seizures as a result of a rare form of epilepsy, a condition that's driven the family through just about every possible treatment, searching for some form of normalcy.

Desperate for options, Charlotte's dad, Matt, [told CNN they took her to a specialist](http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/07/health/charlotte-child-medical-marijuana" \t "_hplink)who recommended a highly specialized diet. That helped slightly, for awhile until "at one point she was outside eating pine cones and stuff, all kinds of different things," Matt said. "As a parent you have to say, let's take a step back and look at this. Is this truly beneficial treatment because of these other things?"

With no other choices, [the family explored cannabis oil](http://kdvr.com/2013/08/08/6-year-old-colorado-girl-in-national-spotlight-over-medical-marijuana/" \t "_hplink) -- an unconventional treatment, to say the least -- but they told KDVR it worked immediately.

According to a blog by Charlotte's mom, Paige, [her daughter's seizures fell from 300 a week to around 3](http://realmofcaringfoundation.org/after-school-program/" \t "_hplink) over an 8 month period. She does note the program was first approved by a team of neurologists and pediatricians. Other benefits:

[Charlotte] is consistently eating and drinking on her own for the first time in years. She sleeps soundly through the night. Her severe autism-like behaviors of self-injury, stimming, crying, violence, no eye contact, zero sleep, lack of social contact ... are a thing of the past. She is clear-headed, focused, has no attention deficit. Charlotte rides horses, skis, paints, dances, hikes. She even has friends for the first time. Her brain is healing. She is healthy. She is happy.

Charlotte is [highlighted in a CNN documentary](http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/07/health/charlotte-child-medical-marijuana" \t "_hplink) set to air this weekend, in which Sanjay Gupta, the news network's chief medical expert, engages in a national conversation about marijuana.

On Wednesday, [Gupta apologized for having "misled" Americans](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/08/sanjay-gupta-weed-apology_n_3725380.html" \t "_hplink) regarding the effects of the drug. He's also penned an article titled, "[Why I changed my mind on weed](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/08/08/health/gupta-changed-mind-marijuana/index.html" \t "_hplink)."

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### [Suggest a correction](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/09/charlotte-figi-6-year-old-marijuana-medical_n_3734283.html)

# Marijuana stops child's severe seizures

By **Saundra Young**, CNN

updated 4:51 PM EDT, Wed August 7, 2013

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/07/health/charlotte-child-medical-marijuana/>

Is marijuana bad, or could it be good for some? CNN chief medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta spent a year traveling around the world to shed light on the debate. Catch his groundbreaking documentary "WEED" at 8 p.m. ET August 11 on CNN.

**(CNN)** -- By most standards Matt and Paige Figi were living the American dream. They met at Colorado State University, where they shared a love of the outdoors. After getting married, the couple bought a house and planned to travel the world.

They did travel, but their plans changed when their first child was born in 2004.

Max was 2 when they decided to have another child. The couple got the surprise of their lives when an ultrasound revealed not one but two babies. Charlotte and Chase were born October 18, 2006.

"They were born at 40 weeks. ... Charlotte weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces," Paige said. "They were healthy. Everything was normal."

**Seizures and hospital stays begin**

The twins were 3 months old when the Figis' lives changed forever.

Charlotte had just had a bath, and Matt was putting on her diaper.

"She was laying on her back on the floor," he said, "and her eyes just started flickering."

The seizure lasted about 30 minutes. Her parents rushed her to the hospital.

Medical facts of marijuana

Kennedy: I was wrong on medical pot

Colorado's new frontier: Marijuana

WEED: A Dr. Sanjay Gupta Special

"They weren't calling it epilepsy," Paige said. "We just thought it was one random seizure. They did a million-dollar work-up -- the MRI, EEG, spinal tap -- they did the whole work-up and found nothing. And sent us home."

A week later, Charlotte had another seizure. This one was longer, and it was only the beginning. Over the next few months, Charlotte -- affectionately called Charlie -- had frequent seizures lasting two to four hours, and she was hospitalized repeatedly.

Doctors were stumped. Her blood tests were normal. Her scans were all normal.

"They said it's probably going to go away," Paige recalled. "It is unusual in that it's so severe, but it's probably something she'll grow out of."

But she didn't grow out of it. The seizures continued. The hospital stays got longer. One of the doctors treating Charlotte thought there were three possible diagnoses.

The worse-case scenario? Dravet Syndrome, also known as myoclonic epilepsy of infancy or SMEI.

Dravet Syndrome is a rare, severe form of intractable epilepsy. Intractable means the seizures are not controlled by medication. The first seizures with Dravet Syndrome usually start before the age of 1. In the second year, other seizures take hold: myoclonus, or involuntary, muscle spasms and status epilepticus, seizures that last more than 30 minutes or come in clusters, one after the other.

At that time, the Figis said, Charlotte was still developing normally, talking and walking the same day as her twin. But the seizures continued to get worse. The medications were also taking a toll. She was on seven drugs -- some of them heavy-duty, addictive ones such as barbiturates and benzodiazepines. They'd work for a while, but the seizures always came back with a vengeance.

"At 2, she really started to decline cognitively," Paige said. "Whether it was the medicines or the seizures, it was happening, it was obvious. And she was slipping away."

When Charlotte was 2½, the Figis decided to take her to Children's Hospital Colorado. A neurologist tested her for the SCN1A gene mutation, which is common in 80% of Dravet Syndrome cases. After two months, the test came back positive.

"I remember to this day it was a relief," Paige said. "Even though it was the worst-case scenario, I felt relief just to know."

Matt, a Green Beret, decided to leave the military.

"Every mission, every training I was going to do I was called home because she was in the pediatric ICU again or in the hospital again."

They were quickly running out of options. They considered a drug from France. Doctors suggested an experimental anti-seizure drug being used on dogs.

Paige took her daughter to Chicago to see a Dravet specialist, who put the child on a ketogenic diet frequently used to treat epilepsy that's high in fat and low in carbohydrates. The special diet forces the body to make extra ketones, natural chemicals that suppress seizures. It's mainly recommended for epileptic patients who don't respond to treatment.

The diet helped control Charlotte's seizures but had a lot of side effects. She suffered from bone loss. Her immune system plummeted. And new behavioral problems started popping up.

"At one point she was outside eating pine cones and stuff, all kinds of different things," Matt said. "As a parent you have to say, let's take a step back and look at this. Is this truly beneficial treatment because of these other things?"

Two years into the diet, the seizures came back.

**The end of the rope**

In November 2000, Colorado voters approved Amendment 20, which required the state to set up a medical marijuana registry program.

[Pot activists divided over new cannabis club](http://www.cnn.com/2013/01/01/us/colorado-marijuana-club/index.html)

There are eight medical conditions for which patients can use cannabis -- cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, muscle spasms, seizures, severe pain, severe nausea and cachexia or dramatic weight loss and muscle atrophy.

**Everything had been tried -- except cannabis.**Dr. Alan Shackelford

The average patient in the program is 42 years old. There are 39 patients under the age of 18.

Paige had consistently voted against marijuana use. That was before Dravet Syndrome entered their lives.

Matt, now a military contractor spending six months a year overseas, used his spare time scouring the Internet looking for anything that would help his little girl.

He found a video online of a California boy whose Dravet was being successfully treated with cannabis. The strain was low in tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the compound in marijuana that's psychoactive. It was also high in cannabidiol, or CBD, which has medicinal properties but no psychoactivity. Scientists think the CBD quiets the excessive electrical and chemical activity in the brain that causes seizures. It had worked in this boy; his parents saw a major reduction in the boy's seizures.

By then Charlotte had lost the ability to walk, talk and eat.

She was having 300 grand mal seizures a week.

Her heart had stopped a number of times. When it happened at home, Paige did cardiopulmonary resuscitation until an ambulance arrived. When it happened in the hospital, where they'd already signed a do-not-resuscitate order, they said their goodbyes. Doctors had even suggested putting Charlotte in a medically induced coma to give her small, battered body a rest.

She was 5 when the Figis learned there was nothing more the hospital could do.

That's when Paige decided to try medical marijuana. But finding two doctors to sign off on a medical marijuana card for Charlotte was no easy feat. She was the youngest patient in the state ever to apply.

Scientists don't fully understand the long-term effects early marijuana use may have on children. Studies that show negative effects, such as diminished lung function or increased risk of a heart attack, are primarily done on adult marijuana smokers. But Charlotte wouldn't be smoking the stuff.

Childhood is also a delicate time in brain development. Preliminary research shows that early onset marijuana smokers are slower at tasks, have lower IQs later in life, have a higher risk of stroke and increased incidence of psychotic disorders, leaving some scientists concerned.

[Is medical marijuana safe for children?](http://www.cnn.com/2012/11/30/health/medical-marijuana-children-time/index.html)

"Everyone said no, no, no, no, no, and I kept calling and calling," Paige said.

She finally reached Dr. Margaret Gedde, who agree to meet with the family.

"(Charlotte's) been close to death so many times, she's had so much brain damage from seizure activity and likely the pharmaceutical medication," Gedde said. "When you put the potential risks of the cannabis in context like that, it's a very easy decision."

The second doctor to sign on was Alan Shackelford, a Harvard-trained physician who had a number of medical marijuana patients in his care. He wasn't familiar with Dravet and because of Charlotte's age had serious reservations.

"(But) they had exhausted all of her treatment options," Shackelfordsaid. "There really weren't any steps they could take beyond what they had done. Everything had been tried -- except cannabis."

Paige found a Denver dispensary that had a small amount of a type of marijuana called R4, said to be low in THC and high in CBD. She paid about $800 for 2 ounces -- all that was available -- and had a friend extract the oil.

She had the oil tested at a lab and started Charlotte out on a small dose.

"We were pioneering the whole thing; we were guinea pigging Charlotte," Paige said. "This is a federally illegal substance. I was terrified to be honest with you."

But the results were stunning.

"When she didn't have those three, four seizures that first hour, that was the first sign," Paige recalled. "And I thought well, 'Let's go another hour, this has got to be a fluke.' "

The seizures stopped for another hour. And for the following seven days.

Paige said she couldn't believe it. Neither could Matt. But their supply was running out.

#### Quick vote

Top of Form

##### Do you think medical marijuana should be available for kids?

*  Yes
*  No
*  Undecided

[http://i.cdn.turner.com/cnn/.element/img/3.0/1px.gif](javascript:qvSubmitVote_65264();)

or [view results](javascript:qvGetResults_65264();)

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**Charlotte's Web**

Paige soon heard about the Stanley brothers, one of the state's largest marijuana growers and dispensary owners. These six brothers were crossbreeding a strain of marijuana also high in CBD and low in THC, but they didn't know what to do with it. No one wanted it; they couldn't sell it.

Still, even they had reservations when they heard about Charlotte's age. But once they met her, they were on board.

"The biggest misconception about treating a child like little Charlotte is most people think that we're getting her high, most people think she's getting stoned," Josh Stanley said, stressing his plant's low THC levels. "Charlotte is the most precious little girl in the world to me. I will do anything for her."

The brothers started the [Realm of Caring Foundation](http://realmofcaring.com/" \t "_blank), a nonprofit organization that provides cannabis to adults and children suffering from a host of diseases, including epilepsy, cancer, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's, who cannot afford this treatment.

People have called them the Robin Hoods of marijuana. Josh Stanley said it's their calling. They use the money they make from medical marijuana patients and get donations from sponsors who believe in their cause. They only ask patients such as the Figis to donate what they can.

"We give (cannabis) away for next to free," Stanley said. "The state won't allow us to actually give it away, so we give it away for pennies really."

Charlotte gets a dose of the cannabis oil twice a day in her food.

Gedde found three to four milligrams of oil per pound of the girl's body weight stopped the seizures.

Today, Charlotte, 6, is thriving. Her seizures only happen two to three times per month, almost solely in her sleep. Not only is she walking, she can ride her bicycle. She feeds herself and is talking more and more each day.

"I literally see Charlotte's brain making connections that haven't been made in years," Matt said. "My thought now is, why were we the ones that had to go out and find this cure? This natural cure? How come a doctor didn't know about this? How come they didn't make me aware of this?"

The marijuana strain Charlotte and now 41 other patients use to ease painful symptoms of diseases such as epilepsy and cancer has been named after the little girl who is getting her life back one day at a time.

It's called Charlotte's Web.

"I didn't hear her laugh for six months," Paige said. "I didn't hear her voice at all, just her crying. I can't imagine that I would be watching her making these gains that she's making, doing the things that she's doing (without the medical marijuana). I don't take it for granted. Every day is a blessing."

Matt added, "I want to scream itfrom the rooftops. I want other people, other parents, to know that this is a viable option."

[Readers debate future of pot laws](http://www.cnn.com/2012/11/12/politics/marijuana-legalization-comments/index.html)