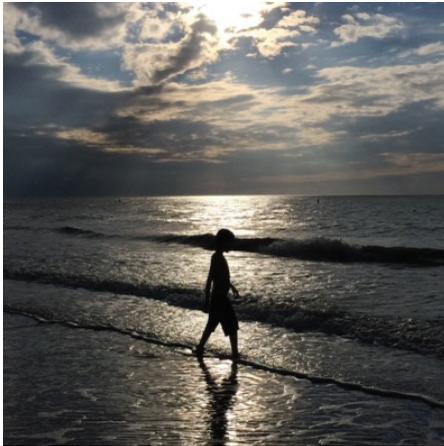




WHOLISTICRELEAF™

A DIVISION OF  
WHOLISTIC PEDIATRICS & FAMILY CARE  
ESTABLISHED IN 2005

## THC Transforms Florida Boy with Autism and Severe Anxiety



**An important part of the job of being a parent is to ease the pain a child experiences.** While bumps and bruises can be healed with kisses and band-aids, other pains require more effort.

***“Gabriel tried five different medications, and none of them worked...they worsened his symptoms.”***

Gabriel was typical for a seven-year-old boy with autism. He was happy. He was healthy. And while he had some challenges, he lived a normal life. Then one day that changed.

“On Christmas Eve of 2012, while driving home from my father’s house, Gabriel became a different person,” said Jen Mulry, Gabriel’s mother. “He was screaming and crying and trying to get out of the car at 45 mph.”

Gabriel began suffering from

extreme panic and anxiety attacks and had an uncontrollable fight or flight reaction to them. The attacks would occur 300-1000 times per day, but could last for hours.

“We went from a relatively normal life to a homebound existence where life stopped, and we never knew what to expect,” said Ms. Mulry. “Gabriel could wake up normal, but then an hour later be a completely different person; a person I didn’t know.”

Around the same time as the car incident, Gabriel began to speak using verbal perseveration, a condition common to people with autism where words and phrases are repeated. Gabriel’s perseveration, however, was different. He would not only repeat some of his past experiences; he would live them fully as if they were a nightmare. A nightmare in which he couldn’t wake.

Longtime patients of Dr. David Berger (Dr. David) of Wholistic Pediatrics and Family Care, they worked together to try to find a natural solution to ease his suffering. However, supplements and dietary interventions did not help much. Desperate to relieve Gabriel’s suffering, they began trialing pharmaceutical medications.

“During the summer of 2016, Gabriel tried five different medications, and none of them worked,” said Dr. Berger. “They worsened his symptoms.”

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About  
David Berger,  
MD, FAAP



Dr. David Berger (“Dr. David”), a Board Certified Pediatrician with over 20 years of experience as a clinician, has developed a national reputation in wholistic pediatric primary care. Dr. David is considered Tampa Bay area’s leading authority on medical cannabis for adults and children and is one of the nation’s most experienced pediatricians using medical cannabis to help facilitate the treatment of children with chronic conditions.

Dr. David graduated from The Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1994 and completed his pediatric residency at the University of South Florida/Tampa General Hospital where he first began utilizing wholistic therapies. Dr. David has been in private practice since 1997 and in 2005 opened Wholistic Pediatrics & Family Care, his medical practice in Tampa, Florida. In 2010, Dr. David was appointed Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida College of Nursing. In 2016, he launched Wholistic ReLeaf to help qualified patients become certified to use medical cannabis.

Disappearing inside himself in a catatonic state for weeks at a time, Jen was fearful that Gabriel was dying. She began sharing her story with others in the hopes that it would get the attention needed to get medical cannabis approved for use in Florida.

It was a long process, but on February 24th of 2017, the state began accepting applications for medical cannabis ID cards and Gabriel was seen by Dr. Berger for certification. After a month and a half he received his card, and they began administering CBD, or cannabidiol, the non-euphoric form of medical cannabis, to Gabriel.

By itself, even the smallest dose of CBD created an adverse reaction. Jen felt powerless as her research indicated that many children with conditions similar to Gabriel's responded well to CBD. The more she would give him, however, the more anxious he would become.

With little else to offer, Dr. Berger suggested adding tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, to Gabriel's treatment plan. While both THC and CBD are cannabinoids, the psychoactive effects of THC can be limiting or undesirable for some people, especially children. THC was also newly available for qualified patients in Florida, and little was known about proper dosing for adults, even less for children.

In April of 2017, Gabriel started a very low dose of THC and did quite well. They slowly increased his dosage until they found the correct therapeutic dose for his unique needs without causing him to feel "high."

"Our lives have changed," said Ms. Mulry. "I have a very happy little man and what used to be awful is now lovely." "He still has autism, but medical cannabis has stopped the severe panic attacks and anxiety he had been experiencing for years," she added.

Some children with autism are highly sensitive to noise, especially repetitive noises, such as bathroom hand dryers. For Gabriel, noises are no longer something to be feared.

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"Our roof is currently being repaired and the constant noise doesn't bother him, it actually bothers me," said Ms. Mulry. "This is a testament to how much better things are. He is the person I knew before all this started. THC has allowed his true nature to shine through."

Dr. David is one of a few pediatricians qualified in the state of Florida to not only certify children and adults for medical cannabis but also to consult on proper dosing.

Medical cannabis is available in several child-friendly options, including oils, capsules, nasal sprays, and patches. Edibles such as candies will soon be available as well. Children have also been taught to inhale the medical cannabis, which has the advantage of a fast onset of action.

**For more information about the transformative effects of medical cannabis, visit Wholistic ReLeaf at [WholisticReLeaf.com](http://WholisticReLeaf.com).**



## About Wholistic ReLeaf

Wholistic ReLeaf, founded in 2016 by Dr. David Berger of Wholistic Pediatric and Family Care, empowers families and patients to choose the best treatment approach available for their medical condition. The mission of Wholistic ReLeaf is to evaluate and certify qualified patients who meet the State of Florida legal requirements for receiving medical cannabis and provide medical cannabis management and dosing consultations to patients certified by other Florida physicians. Wholistic ReLeaf is committed to providing patients with the best possible care, while also complying with the ever-shifting legal landscape of medical cannabis in the State of Florida.

**For more information, or to find out if you or someone you know may be eligible to use medical cannabis as part of a customized treatment plan, visit [www.WholisticReLeaf.com](http://www.WholisticReLeaf.com).**