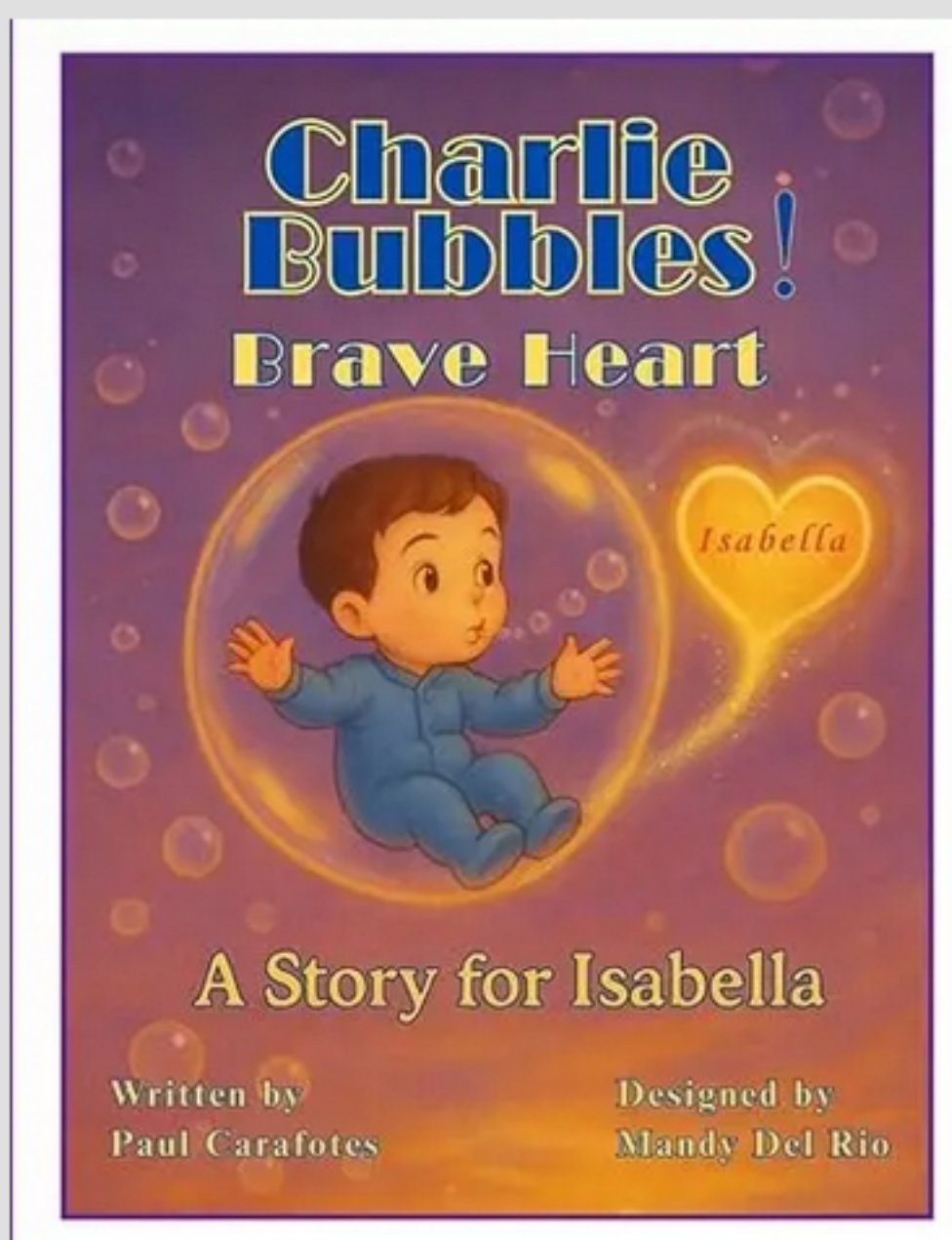


State & Union: New children's book remembers 'heart warrior' Isabella

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A Brave Heart never gives up.

Inspired by the courageous spirit of a real child, Isabella Annelise Dombrowski, a new children's book, "Charlie Bubbles: Brave Heart," is a story of hope, courage and love. Charlie Bubbles goes on a magical journey to discover that even in the darkest hours, "the light of a True Heart shines the brightest."



Isabella Annelise Dombrowski

William and Tabitha Dombrowski, parents of the late Isabella and founders of the non-profit **Hearts For Isabella, Inc.**, say the story reminds readers that strength isn't about size — it's about spirit. Every book sold helps to share Isabella's story as well as gifts free storybooks to other children in hospitals, schools and homeless shelters.

The book, the ninth in the Charlie Bubbles series, [is available on Amazon](#).

All royalties will go directly to these efforts to inspire and uplift kids who need it most, the couple says.

Hearts For Isabella was created in memory of Isabella to help raise awareness of congenital heart disease (CHD), with combined hopes and support to children and those living with CHD in area communities. The Dombrowskis, formerly of Olean, and their supporters have organized several fundraising events in Olean and Bolivar.

They thanked Paul Carafotes of Charlie Bubbles Books, who made their dream come true to write a children's book in honor of Isabella.

Illustrations were designed by Mandy Del Rio.

"We extend our deepest gratitude to Paul for his dedication in crafting this inspirational story within the Charlie Bubbles series. He truly captured our vision of incorporating Isabella's spirit into a children's story that inspires love, courage and bravery in those who need it most.

"We are forever grateful to know that this book will bring smiles and warm hearts to those who need it most all throughout the world, they add, "whilst also learning of Isabella's brave heart and fight that shines the brightest of lights to inspire so many."

Carafotes has been an award-winning, actor/writer/director for more than 30 years, appearing in many films and television productions, including a series regular role as Harold Dyer on the popular night-time soap, "Knots Landing," and most recently on the television show "Damages."

The birth of his son, Charlie, was the inspiration for "The Adventures of Charlie Bubbles!"

The Dombrowskis will purchase many of these books to donate locally and to those in hospitals. They also plan to host a book release event — time and date to be determined — with Carafotes flying from Los Angeles to present and read at an area library that will invite children of all ages.

As many readers may recall, Isabella lost her life at only 3 months old, living 97 days after losing her battle to CHD following complications of open heart surgery. Her parents have lovingly called her a "heart warrior" who defied many odds in her short months of life.

"Although her life was tragically short, her impact inspires and shares lots of hope to those fighting every day through our efforts in her name," they say.

One in every 100 infants are born with CHD, a life-long diagnosis with no cure. The Dombrowskis say it is the most common yet most critically underfunded birth defect. Isabella was born with half a heart, a diagnosis and condition called tricuspid atresia-hypoplastic right heart syndrome (HRHS), a more complex and rare CHD that is a one in 10,000 statistic.

"Through love and loss, we share Isabella's powerfully beautiful and equally tragic story to help remember her and also raise awareness to CHD. By doing so, we are also dedicated to supporting the many children, their parents, those living with CHD in their adulthood, and the many of our communities in such special ways who need it most."

