

Party time: Hunter and daughter Katya (left), son Mickey, daughter Izabella and close relatives celebrate Mickey's birthday. Hunter's hubby Michael and her eldest son Chris are in the family portrait at far left



Plucky Katya now wears a prosthetic eye that will need to be replaced as she grows, but otherwise she's perfectly fine and just like any other 4-year-old.

"We thought she'd have trouble seeing colors and details in her left eye, but there's no sign of any difficulty," says her mom.

Their daughter's near tragedy has turned Hunter and Michael, who live with their brood on a two-acre spread outside Los Angeles, into activists. They're working hard to get laws passed that require babies to have their eyes screened for the killer disease before they're 2 months old.

They're also encouraging parents to detect retinoblastoma themselves. Hunter has gone on TV to explain that a tumor reflects a camera's flash, so kids with cancer appear to have a white spot in their eye in photos.

The actress and her husband — wed since 1987 — are also raising money for pediatric cancer in general. "We're hoping to get enough money together, not just for this cancer, but for all children's cancers," says Hunter. "A passion I never knew existed in my heart has been ignited. Now I really have something I want to fight for."

- ROBIN MIZRAHI



TYLO'S MIRACLE

Life is bold & beautiful for soap star and her brood