

I Have a Lot to Look Forward To

My mother took me to the hospital. I had Neisseria Meningococcal Meningitis. My mom said the doctors gave me less than a 50% chance to live. I was in the hospital for a week. I went home sick and had to go back the next day because I had Sepsis. My blood was full of poison. The Meningitis left me to completely deaf. I had my two-year birthday while I was in the hospital. I had to wear a helmet because my balance was not working well. The doctor's told my mom that I might need a wheelchair, that I wouldn't be able to feed myself and that I wouldn't be able to control my bladder or bowels. A couple of months after leaving the hospital I went into Foster Care.

When I was four my Nana came to take me to her house to live with her and my soon to be big brother. I had no language, very little sign, American Sign Language, and no cochlear ear implant. I didn't know what was happening and I was angry. My balance wasn't good and I still had to wear a helmet to protect my head and brain. I wore pull-ups at bedtime until I was ten years old.

The School Physical Therapist said I had to hop on one foot a lot. My Nana decided to buy me a scooter and a bicycle with training wheels so I could ride with my older brother. I was riding my bike one day and Nana said, "It's time to take the training wheels off your bike" and I have been bicycling on my own ever since. I even began to climb trees.

I began to learn more American Sign Language and to read simple reading books and won a trophy in Kindergarten and in 1st Grade. In 2nd Grade I received a plaque from the March of Dimes. I have received many awards and certificates for my achievements. I continue to surprise my family.

I love to swim, play soccer, tennis, cross-country running and I've played basketball. This Spring I'm hoping to do track and field. I'm also hoping to try other sports. I have had piano lessons; I love music. I was on Safety Patrol in the fourth and fifth grades at Indian Woods Elementary and I loved it. Now I'm hoping to successfully survive Middle School and someday soon graduate high school and go to college to get a degree in graphic arts.

My mom says I am her hero. My mom and Nana say I have a charismatic smile, whatever that means. I don't like to smile. I like to see others smile. I've been told I am a goal setter, a survivor and determined. I know I have a lot to be thankful for and a lot to look forward to.

----David Molinaro