

LETTER FROM A HOPEKIDS FAMILY

Dear Friend of HopeKids,

I have been meaning to share with you what a difference you have made in our family since last spring, but life got in the way and I haven't had a moment. Please know that my delay in sharing does not diminish the appreciation we have for you.

Last summer, there was a HopeKids event at HopeRides Ranch. My five-year-old daughter, Victoria, loves, loves, loves horseback riding. We have been unable to afford the cost of therapeutic riding in the last year, so we jumped at the opportunity to have a day with her favorite activity in the entire universe. Little did I know that opportunity would be a complete game changer for my daughter's future.

While at the event, we met a teen with the same disorder that Victoria has. After the surprise that someone else had the same uncommon diagnosis settled, the young lady and her mom began to share some invaluable information they have learned in managing the issues the disorder brings.

They shared resources, personal experiences, and lots of stories of "I wish I had known ... when I/my daughter was Victoria's age." I was no less than overwhelmed and near tears.

I got home and immediately got to work. I contacted physical therapists who had been personally recommended and set up evaluations. Pretty intensive therapy began, and Victoria is leaps and bounds ahead of where she was when we started--specifically because of the knowledge and understanding the therapists had with my daughter's issues. If I had not gotten the recommendations I did, I likely would not have pursued therapy again--thinking there was nothing really that could be done to help her.

We have put her school team on alert regarding some other potential issues, and her individualized education program is set up to incorporate them as they may arise. We already jumped on some speech/articulation issues before they progressed because they were on our radar from meeting the other family. The early identification has allowed early intervention before things got much worse and were unfixable.

I also agreed to some interventions, like the use of a power wheelchair in school, that I had been resisting before meeting this other family. Allowing my daughter this seemingly overwhelming (and obnoxiously pink!!) assistive device has entirely reshaped her ability to benefit from academic experiences.

I don't say this lightly, and I am not prone to hyperbole in general: I can say with full confidence that HopeKids has changed my daughter's life in ways that I could have never imagined.

A few months ago, we went snow tubing on a flash "spots still available!" text alert. Victoria had a blast! Because of her increased strength and endurance--that have been accomplished due to that chance encounter with another HopeKid and her family--Victoria was able to stick it out and enjoy repeated trips down the hill without collapsing in exhaustion.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Anne Lawson



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HOPEKIDS ARIZONA PHOTO ALBUM

Snapshots captured at April and May HopeDay Events

1. HopeKid Aaden, age 8, and HopeKid Jordan, age 5, at Pamela's Picnic.



2. HopeKid Brooklyn, age 5, and HopeKid Elizabeth, age 15, at HopeKids Annual Golf Classic.

3. HopeKid Campbell, age 11, and family at Phoenix Mercury game.



4. HopeKid Colton, age 4, learns the secrets to making Peach Pie with his family at Peach Pie Fundraiser.

5. HopeKid Devin, age 10, and a volunteer at Girl's VIP Day.

6. HopeKid Jordan, age 5, at Butterfly Wonderland.



7. HopeKid Robert, age 10, at Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center.

"Thank you so much for the Garden Fun Day with Kim. The boys had fun planting and snacking. Now the boys are trying to figure out how to make our garden bigger!"



HOPEKIDS COLORADO PHOTO ALBUM

Snapshots captured at April and May HopeDay Events



1. After a rough medical week, Emily, age 6, and family had a blast at the DU carnival.

2. Alex, age 6, knows that there's nothing better than a Mom's love.

3. HopeKids parents come together for a night of fun, friendship, and support at Cart Driver.

4. Alex, age 9, attended his first ever race thanks to CH9 Racing.

5. Gavin, age 14, and brother, Cameron, are all ready for the BIG Easter Egg Hunt.

6. Lily, age 6, couldn't stop smiling during the amazing Disney on Ice performance.

7. Molly, age 9, loved meeting new friends at the Easter Celebration with Front Range Church.

"Thank you for the wonderful experience after a hard week. I think I laughed harder than anyone in the theater."



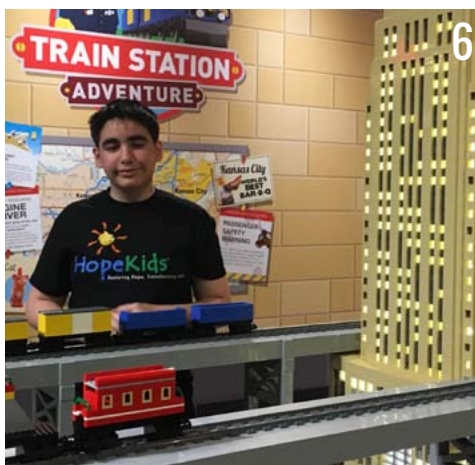
HOPEKIDS KANSAS CITY PHOTO ALBUM

LEGOLAND Discovery Center Kansas City

On Friday, May 12, LEGOLAND Discovery Center Kansas City hosted three HopeKids families for a “sneak peek” of their brand new exhibit, Train Station Adventure. Our HopeKids families had the entire place to themselves for two hours to play in the new exhibit and kick-off our first HopeKids KC event.

In addition, two of our HopeKids, Hudson and Phoebe, got to join the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce in the official ribbon cutting for the new LEGOLAND exhibit.

As HopeKids Kansas City grows, we continue to welcome new families, and offer additional events over the coming months.



1. Phoebe, age 12, and Hudson, age 5, build the very first trains at the new Train Station Adventure.
2. Hudson, age 5, and HopeKids Volunteer, Ray, race cars and build trains.
3. Phoebe and Hudson join the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Train Station Adventure.
4. The Schondelmeyer family enjoys LEGOLAND Discovery Center.
5. Phoebe and Executive Director Kerrie Bryant play with one of the new Train Station Adventure exhibits.
6. Nathan, age 12, enjoys building trains, racing cars and more at his very first HopeKids event.

HOPEKIDS MINNESOTA PHOTO ALBUM

Snapshots captured at
April and May
HopeDay Events



1. HopeKid Cade, age 16, meets Wild Player Chris Stewart on April 2 at the Xcel Energy Center.

2. HopeKid Henry, age 4, and HopeKid sibling Lily enjoy the Twins game in a private suite on April 5 at Target Field.

3. HopeKid Noah, age 10, with mom, Mara, at The Harlem Globetrotters at the Target Center on April 15.

4. HopeKid sibling, Tim, at Wizard World Comic Con on May 6.

5. HopeKid Alexa, age 9, having fun at the Gopher Football mini camp on May 6.

6. HopeKid Becca, age 13, and her sister at our HopeCommunity event on April 29 at Manic Ceramic in Lakeville.

7. HopeKid Cade, age 16, and his family enjoy the Wild game in the HopeSuite on April 2 at Xcel Energy Center.

"We attended our first event with Robert. I was so nervous and had never done anything like this before. But it was such an amazing evening. What got me the most that night was that Robert made a friend."

HOPEKIDS NORTH TEXAS PHOTO ALBUM

Snapshots captured at
April and May
HopeDay Events



1. HopeKid Erynn, age 16, hanging out with mini horses from Minis and Friends NTX.

2. HopeKid Manuel, age 8, with his mom at Challenge Air Flight Day.

3. Family picnic for cancer families treated on Cook's 5th partnered with our friends at Way FM.

4. HopeCommunity night of pampering at Ogle Beauty School planned by HopeKids Mom Brandi.

5. HopeKid Dominic, age 7, gets an autograph at a RoughRiders game.

6. HopeKids Lawson, age 5, and Galan, age 8, cheer on Casey and Reid of the Dallas Roughnecks.

7. HopeKid Rivers, age 6, and his parents enjoy a Texas Rangers game.

"Stumbled upon Owen's happy place with HopeKids today. He LOVED the Nasher Sculpture Center and stayed after our tour until nearly closing time, studying and sketching!"