

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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Dallas Roughnecks
ArtReach-Dallas, Inc.
Allen Americans
Dallas Stars Foundation, Inc.
Texas Rangers
Ogle Beauty School
Challenge Air
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Minis and Friends North Texas
Mesquite Arena
WAY FM
Nasher Sculpture Center
Artisan Center Theater
Arlington Parks and Recreation
Merlin's Magic Wand
Building Smiles Foundation
ShangriLlama

Dallas Children's Theater
Microsoft - Frisco
Taste Buds Kitchen
Allied Integrated Marketing
Helping on Horseback
AT&T Performing Arts Center
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MAY
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2017



HOPEKIDS GOLF CLASSIC

THANK YOU FOR RESTORING HOPE

\$65,800 | 18 SPONSORS | 96 PLAYERS | 675 FAMILIES | 365 DAYS OF HOPE

“I was on the other side [of cancer] supporting families who have a child with a life-threatening medical condition through the annual golf tournament. Now, two years later, as a parent of a HopeKid, I am so thankful for your support.”

-Whitney Teague, Spring Valley Construction

“One of the most treasured moments I’ll take away from the golf tournament was the deep belly laughs that Calan and Lawson experienced being out there with new friends. People kept saying what a privilege it was to support such an organization, but what they didn’t realize was that we were the ones that felt privileged.”

- Melissa Copp, Calan and Lawson’s mom

“When we were asked to be part of the golf tournament, we were thrilled. All of the golfers bought into the cause in a great way, supporting the fun aspect of the frisbee toss, but more importantly, generously donating.

-Chris Mazur, Dallas Roughnecks player



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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!"