



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



Minnesota Timberwolves
Hennepin Theatre Trust
Minnesota Twins
Minnesota Wild
Pretty Princess Parties
KTIS
Northrop Auditorium
Stages Theatre
Ballet Minnesota

Minnesota Gophers
Tickets for Kids
Mann Theatres
PINZ
Microsoft Store at MOA
St. Croix Ballet
University of Northwestern St. Paul
Minnesota United FC
WhirlyBall

Metro Hope
Children's Theatre
Elko Speedway
Allianz
Target Center
Minnesota Lynx
Southside Entertainment
TCF Commercial Banking

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.”