

## 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



**Alamo Drafthouse Cinema  
Allied Denver  
Beta Theta Pi -  
University of Denver  
Bladium Fun Zone Denver  
Cart Driver  
CH9 Racing  
Colorado Rockies**

**Colorado Symphony  
Denver Outlaws  
DS Environmental Consulting  
FELD Entertainment  
Front Range Christian Church  
Game Day Memories  
GameWorks  
Glendale Raptors**

**Kroenke Sports &  
Entertainment  
Mici Handcrafted Italian  
Microsoft Store - Park Meadows  
Team Select  
The Summit Interquest  
Zane Beadles Parade  
Foundation**



# 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."