

PATIENT
AMBASSADOR

Alexis Emineth

On October of 2002 we were blessed with our first daughter Lexi. Little did we know that only three short weeks later she would be diagnosed with Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return a congenital heart disease affecting the pulmonary veins' nor did we know that this would require her to be flown to Denver for emergency open-heart surgery. Fortunately she made an amazing recovery at that time but has faced many struggles and delays on her journey since then. For instance, similarly to her fellow classmates she would hope for a normal transition into high school but instead was faced with more bad news after completing what should have been a simple scoliosis screening during a routine well child check. Surprisingly this non-invasive test is not completed unless requested. After being assessed by her primary care provider findings showed that Lexi had a severe form of scoliosis so she was referred to an orthopedic specialist. Unfortunately with further assessment the orthopedic surgeon determined the progression of her newly found diagnosis did not give her the option to be treated with therapy or a back brace.

Contemplating what the next course of action would be was not an easy task and we are truly blessed to have the helping hand of our dear friend Mike Kirschenmann who is a Shriner and is responsible in arranging the appointment with Dr. Bronson at Shriners Hospital in Spokane Washington. At this appointment Dr. Bronson informed us without surgery there was a possibility that Lexi could be wheel chair bound by the age of 20 so we opted to move forward with the surgery.

The first time to the Shriner's hospital was incredible! Staff greeted us at the doors and gave us a tour making us feel welcome as if we were right at home. The entire staff was very knowledgeable and kind. Dr. Bronson was very caring making us feel comfortable and confident with what needed to be done. Lexi was scheduled for surgery at the end of the school year and Shriner's went out of their way to make sure accommodations and anything we needed was in place prior to our trip. As we were preparing and getting everything ready we came to the realization that she was going to be in great hands there easing any worries we may have had. I am grateful to say surgery went amazing and she has made a full recovery! After healing from this she did have to return due to an unrelated hip dysplasia to have her hip repaired. She received the same amazing care!

Today Lexi is a happy and healthy 17 year old who is all about spending time with friends and drawing. She will be a senior in the fall this year. Thanks to the Shriners Lexi will be able to enjoy her new life they have made for her.

