



Catherine's Story

I wish to have a bedroom makeover!

Catherine, 15
immune system disorder

Catherine needed to be airlifted from her town's small health facility in Nova Scotia to a children's hospital. She stopped breathing, but thanks to the quick action of medical professionals, Catherine's mother, Lynn, remembers the moment of relief when she began to see the colour return to her daughter.

At the hospital, Catherine's family learned that her body was attacking her red blood cells at an incredibly fast rate, and she had little to no immune system. Since that time, Catherine has gone through multiple surgeries and treatments to combat her immune system disorder. Catherine now lives with lifelong IVIG (intravenous immune globulin) – an invasive treatment that is injected once a week.

Despite these challenges, Catherine remains extraordinarily compassionate and caring. When she learned she was eligible for a wish, it quickly became a bright spot and she dreamed of all the possibilities. When considering a bedroom makeover, Catherine became excited with anticipation. "I was excited thinking about all the things I'd love to do in my room: dance, paint, and read!" said Catherine while reflecting on her wish.

Finally, in 2022, as her bedroom door opened to reveal her wish, Catherine's expression went wide with surprise and adoration for her new room. She explored her new space with so much enthusiasm! When asked what the wish means to the family, Lynn responded, "It was unbelievable! We just imagine everything she is going to do in there, the things she is going to create and the memories we will make as a family – it was a positive for everyone."

As for Catherine, having a new bedroom has helped her cope with the day-to-day challenges of living with a critical, lifelong illness that has forever changed her world.