

Johnny's Story

I wish for a home gym

Johnny, 17
blood disorder



Seventeen-year-old Johnny has a genetic condition called Moderate Hemophilia A. When he was born his mom knew that there was a 50/50 chance that Johnny would end up with this condition. She is a carrier and her father had the condition. They took him to hospital right away for testing and the results came back positive. His condition means that his blood clots a lot slower than most people. Even though his maternal grandfather had the condition, she still didn't know what to expect for him as a child.

Once Johnny began walking the fear really kicked in for his mom. He bruised extremely easily and wore a helmet from 3-18 months. One time she remembers him falling and getting a huge bump on his head that took months to go away. It was completely harmless but as a parent it was hard not to worry. They ended up getting him a medical alert bracelet so that people would know he had a medical condition. As he got older he continued to injure easily because of his condition. He only has 1.5% ability to clot, which means untreated bleeds are life threatening.

When Johnny turned 7 years old like most kids he became active and started to have many injuries so he began receiving regular blood coagulation medication (a blood clotting aid). He learned from an early age how to give himself intravenous injections if he thinks he'll be in a situation where he might need it to prevent an incident. (gym class, summer camp, hiking, etc.).

Johnny is now a happy 17 year old. Although his condition restricts him, such as not being able to play physical sports like hockey or football, he has found ways to work around those restrictions. Johnny loves biking with his friends and is a competitive swimmer. In school he loves geography and math. He is very social and finds every way that he can to live his life to the fullest.

He first learned about Make-A-Wish through a social worker when he was 3, however, the family didn't think they would qualify. It wasn't until Johnny was at camp and met another child who had received a wish. He went home and told his mom that he would like a wish too. He is big into fitness and has decided on an incredible home gym to help him stay active during the pandemic. His home gym is something that he will be able to enjoy for many years to come.

Johnny and his family would like to encourage you to sign up for *Trailblaze for Wishes* in support of Make-A-Wish. Not only will it encourage you to stay active, but it will also help grant more wishes like his.

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