



Martin's Story

I wish to have a Hippocampe®

Martin, wish granted 2023
nervous system disorder

Martin's lifelong medical journey began when he was only 5 weeks old. A number of tests confirmed he was diagnosed with a nervous system disorder called quadriplegia spasticity cerebral palsy. After his diagnosis, Martin spent eight weeks in the hospital's intensive care unit. Those weeks were a whirlwind for Martin's parents as they met with various specialists. He later had a baclofen pump surgically implanted in his abdomen, a targeted therapy device that stores and delivers medicine. This device helps to reduce the tightness in Martin's muscles caused by his diagnosis.

Today, Martin is a healthy teen who meets with his medical team regularly for check-ups and to replenish the medicine in his baclofen pump. Martin is always seen with a beaming smile on his face, and his infectious happiness brightens up the lives of those around him. Whether it be the gentle breeze rustling through the trees, or the smell of freshly chopped wood as his father cuts it, his genuine appreciation for the small things in life sets him apart from others. His favourite place is outdoors, but his wheelchair has limitations with certain terrains. During many of their outdoor adventures, for years, his father would have to carry Martin over his shoulder. But that all changed when Martin received his wish to have a Hippocampe all-terrain chair!

In 2023, Martin's wish came true. He was celebrated in a big way at his school with hundreds of his peers cheering him on as he was presented with his brand new blue Hippocampe chair. His mother, Carolyn, says, "It's equipped for the beach and trails. In winter, we can put skis on it. There is a clear canopy to put over Martin if it's snowing or raining, and he'll be dry." She continues, "This piece of equipment is the best thing Martin could have received. We can do more activities than ever as a family. It truly is life-changing!" For Martin, his parents, and two siblings, every day is now filled with the excitement of new experiences and the creation of joyful memories.

