



# Bently's Story

*I wish to go to the mountains*

**Bently, 7**  
respiratory disorder



Bently is an imaginative seven-year-old who prefers his potato chips plain and his dinner plate heaping with chicken strips and fries. Bently was born premature and had recurrent bouts of croup, an infection of the upper airway, until he was six months old. His upper airways remained obstructed and narrowed below the vocal cords and above the trachea.

In 2017, at the age of two, Bently underwent a laryngotracheal reconstruction, a procedure that provides a safe and stable airway without the use of assistance from a breathing tube. The reconstruction used a graft from his rib.

While his respiratory episodes aren't as severe, they still occur frequently. Bently's mom Jennifer had to leave her job to care for her son at home. His ongoing treatments include inhaled steroids and home nebulizer therapy. He also lives with sleep apnea, acid reflux and has difficulty swallowing. Jennifer says Bently still struggles with breathing and has to eat slowly and take frequent breaks to avoid choking.

Bently's wish was to explore the Kootenay region of southeastern British Columbia and nearby Banff National Park. The east Kootenays is world renowned for its trout fishing and clear lakes. In early June, his parents and older sister Hailey drove to Radium Hot Springs and checked into Bighorn Meadows Resort. Their first excursion was at Kootenay Troutfitters, where the family had a guided tour on how to fly fish.

Next, the family drove to Banff, Alberta and rode the famous Banff Gondola, an eight-minute journey 2,292 feet in the air to the summit of Sulphur Mountain. On their last day, they suited up in all-weather gear and got behind the wheel of off-road vehicles at Paradise Mine ATV/SXS Adventure. The family ventured from the valley bottom to the alpine where they toured trails in Paradise Basin.

Jennifer remarked that the best part of the trip was spending relaxing, stress-free, time as a family. "We felt unimaginable gratitude and our wish child felt so supported and loved," she said. She added that Hailey didn't stop smiling the entire week.

Hope is essential for children with critical illnesses, and its life-changing power is unlocked when wishes like Bently's are granted. Together we can continue to transform lives, one wish at a time.



★ Transform lives,  
one wish at a time.