Stronger than Sisters: Novartis shares one family’s story about the impact of organ donation and transplantation

Hope

Did you know that a new name is added to the national transplant waiting list every 12 minutes, and that 21 people die, on average, each day while awaiting a life-saving transplant?

There has never been a more important time to raise awareness of organ donation. That’s why we are sharing Ryleigh’s story. When Ryleigh was just 4 weeks old, she went into renal failure. She was on peritoneal dialysis until she was 10lbs., which was the weight she needed to achieve to receive an adult kidney. However, Ryleigh was so sick that she needed a nasogastric (NG) feeding tube. It took her until she was 8 months old to weigh enough for a transplant from an adult donor. Fortunately, her mother, LeighAnn (Jodi’s step-mother), was a match and donated her kidney to Ryleigh.

After initially doing well, Ryleigh began a slow rejection of her transplanted kidney and needed a second transplant when she was just 5 years old. Ryleigh’s dad was not a match, but her older half-sister Jodi was. Ryleigh received her second kidney transplant (from Jodi) on June 7, 2001.

Today, Ryleigh is 19 years old, and she and Jodi have never been closer. Ryleigh personifies the life-saving potential of organ donation and transplantation. Watch Ryleigh’s story and learn more about organ donation by visiting www.WeAreTransplant.com. Together we can #helpendthewait!

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