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Amber's Story

Amber was born on April 1, 1991 with HLHS which is a complex heart disease, and required 3 open heart operations before 18 months of age. Doctors gave her no chance of survival beyond 6 months. She would later contract Protein Losing Enteropathy at the age of 2. Throughout her life she lived with courage, faith and character.

Though she was sick all her life, she attended school never missing a grade. She attended Muhlenberg College where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology just four months prior to her passing. Her motto was "I can do this" and she did! Her desire to help terminally ill children live full lives drove her to study Psychology.

This foundation was one of her last wishes.

" I want you to continue to help other kids like me after I am gone. You were my protector and I trusted you daddy. I want you to protect and help other kids"

Amber Louise Elchert Foundation

A 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization

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Helping Special Needs Children with Chronic Illness



The Journey

Families with critically ill children face challenges most of us could never imagine. The family dynamics are altered to accommodate the special needs of their child. Family members sacrifice personal time and activities to be available to provide care and support. Entertainment and vacation time is often sacrificed due to the sheer logistics of traveling with a child that requires ongoing care and special equipment. Money is not available for activities that other families take for granted as medical expenses and treatments consume much of the remaining budget. Long-term hospital stays bring extreme hardship to the family as it is now torn apart in different locations and one parent is often at the hospital with the child, missing work and incurring costs of transportation, parking, meals and lodging. The other parent takes on the burden of managing the home and any other children while still working to keep an income coming in.

Our foundation is focused on helping these families at their most vulnerable time with the support they need while building awareness of the unique journey they are on. Come help us make their tomorrow brighter.

Amber's Packages of Love

Critically ill children spend a good portion of their lives in hospitals receiving life-saving medical care. Our packages of love are made up of gifts just for that special patient. We also include a blanket and a little Tortoise named Shellee! This was Amber's last gift from us and when squeezed will make a laugh that is the same as Amber's. It will bring a smile to their face!

Operation Christmas

Nothing is harder for a child than to be in the hospital away from family and friends. You can imagine how bad it must be over the holidays for these special children. Christmas is a child's favorite time of year filled with love and excitement and no child should have to be without a beautiful Christmas. This year our foundation brought Christmas to 51 children at the Cardiac Care Unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia!



Bereavement Support Groups

Loss of a loved one is never easy and it is often life-altering. Many will never understand the journey that you are on unless you have walked that road. Our foundation was founded as a result of the unique experience of raising a critically ill child into adulthood and then losing her to her illness.

Scholarships

Amber never allowed her multiple terminal illnesses to define her life but instead used it as motivation to live each day to its fullest. As a college graduate with a degree in psychology she had hoped to help other terminally ill children live full and happy lives not based on the length but the quality of it.

