



The Story of Crosby and Camp



Crosby is a charming little boy, who loves his siblings, enjoys reading, soccer, and hanging out at the hockey rink.

Kelli is Crosby's mom and a mother to three older children, all of which are perfectly healthy. The day Crosby was diagnosed with hemophilia she did not know what to expect.

Crosby was diagnosed Moderate Hemophilia A at 3 days old following a heavy bleed the night he was sent home. By the time he was in kindergarten he had many severe bleeds and his diagnosis changed to severe. Crosby had a port that was put in, giving Kelli and Crosby more control over managing the bleeds. In 2013, the family was surprised again when Crosby was also diagnosed with von Willebrand disease.

Kelli has financial concerns. Crosby has already had several severe traumas. The cost of installing a port and providing factor is immense, and there is a constant worry of how much Kelli's insurance will cover. **GLHF advocates locally and nationally for adequate coverage, while helping families gain knowledge on how to cope with hemophilia and what resources are available.**

Kelli's wish is that Crosby can do anything he sets his heart on in life. She hopes that he will have the means to do it and that his

hemophilia won't prevent him from doing these things. **One of the things Crosby has his heart set on is Camp.**

Crosby's older brother goes to a hockey camp, and his older sisters go to Girl Scout camp. When Crosby went to Family Camp for the first time, he happily exclaimed, **"This camp is for ME!"**, over-joyed that he, too, got to go to camp. At bleeding disorder camps, children develop confidence, independence, build life-long friendships, and shared memories. Camp is also a place of encouragement, mentoring, and education for kids learning to self-infuse and enhance their role in self-care, a skill essential for life. During Family Camp, Kelli noticed incredible changes in her son. Camp was a space where he could try things he hadn't done before and couldn't do elsewhere.

This year, GLHF will hold an inaugural summer camp in Wisconsin for Crosby and other kids like him!

It is the mission of camp to enhance the lives of children affected by a bleeding disorder by providing life-changing camp experiences that are exciting, empowering and educational, in a physically safe and medically sound environment.

If your child is like Crosby and interested in the opportunity to play, learn, and grow in a safe environment with other children facing similar challenges, please consider sending them to Wisconsin camp this summer.