

At 25 weeks pregnant, one of our twins was diagnosed with Pulmonary Atresia with Intact Ventricular Septum. We were devastated. Then, she was born with immature lungs and had to be sent to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh right away. They took great care of her, but within 12 hours of life, she was so critical, they had to do a heart cath. The cath pierced the intact septum and allowed blood to flow through her Pulmonary Artery. It was a success! But then, she developed a horrible clot that threatened her leg. They had to perform a Fasciotomy to relieve pressures in her leg.

This was the beginning.... At 5 weeks old, she had a massive stroke. This has caused her cerebral palsy.

We spent the next 10 years going to 3 hours of outpatient therapy a week and all of the in-school therapies. She is in both typical and special Ed classrooms and loves her classmates.

She's currently using her power wheelchair and can get around pretty well on her own. Because of the combo of CP and her leg, which healed nicely but stopped growing around 18 months because her growth plates were too damaged, she's had a horrible time trying to walk.

Horseback riding has been amazing for her core strength. We saw so many leaps and bounds in her physical abilities since starting at Hilltop Horizons.

She's headed to the Hopewell middle school this year entering into the 5th grade where we can't wait to see what fun things she can get involved in. We are looking forward to chorus, band, and maybe even bocce ball! Her absolute favorite things to do is play video games with her friends, spoil her baby alive dolls with love and play games with her dad.