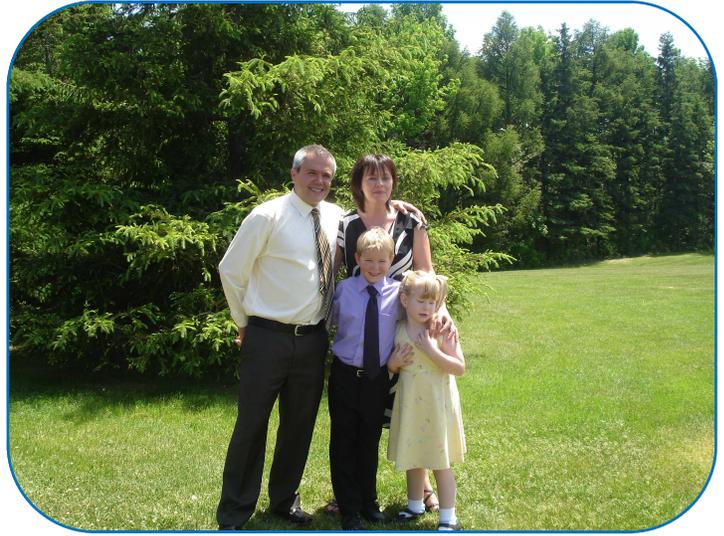


A Personal Inspiration 2012

Julia was born July 12, 2005. She is kind, happy, and a loving little girl. She is adored by her family, friends, and class mates alike. She has a huge passion and love for all animals, specifically puppies and kittens. She loves to dance and play with her big brother Noah, at every opportunity she can get. She loves colouring, tea parties, dress-up, puzzles and crafts. She loves to read, especially to her dolls and stuffed animals. Julia is a very typical 6 year old little girl...except in one way. She lives with Prader-Willi Syndrome.



In the last six years Julia has been subjected to a team of specialists. She painstakingly accepts nightly injections of GH, has been challenged with strabismus with one corrective surgery to date and has lost most of her vision in her right eye. She under-takes annual sleep apnea tests; she is annually checked for scoliosis and hip dysplasia. Annual blood work for thyroid and cholesterol levels. She wears foot inserts and glasses. She has physical and speech therapy, and 100 per cent EA support at school. Julia is starting to come into her own, but has yet to realize she has PWS and is different than her peers. She is starting to question all the doctor visits, and all the nightly injections and our routine around food in-take.

As her parents, we decided very early on, to advocate for our daughter, and strive to improve her quality of life, so she can thrive and fulfill whatever goals she has in the future. No matter what the financial burden, sleepless nights, and stressful doctors' visits we had to endure. We renovated our home to meet her needs, changed our career paths so we can be there for her. The journey has enriched our lives. Our daughter inspires us to be better people. The families of children with PWS inspire us to do more. Today we host our 6th annual gala. In the last five years this event has netted \$250,000 for much needed research for PWS. It has also spawned other galas in Guelph, Montreal, and now Los Angeles. We are so proud of the all the work the Foundation of Prader-Willi Research, Canada, has accomplished and grown into. Our hope is that our story will inspire others to act, that one day in the near future all our efforts will benefit all individuals with PWS.

Sincerely

Michelle & Manny Cordeiro

Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.

Samuel Smiles

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.

Harriet Tubman