

Mazie Myers

When I was 20 weeks pregnant, I went in for a scheduled ultrasound. I had an uneventful pregnancy up to that point. During the ultrasound it became apparent that something was wrong. We were informed that the baby was missing its fibula, ankle structure and part of the foot! We were told then to expect an amputation.

We had no idea what all of this would mean for us and our baby?! After Mazie was born we saw the only Dr. in Missoula that might be able to help us. He said Mazie's condition was beyond his scope and referred us to Shriner's hospital in Spokane. When Mazie was 6 months old we took her to Shriners and received an official diagnosis of her condition "fibular hemimelia" and that if Mazie was to ever walk she would indeed need an amputation!!

It was a big decision that we had to make for such a tiny baby! But with the help and reassurance from the doctors and staff at Shriners we moved ahead with Mazie's amputation. At 11 months old Mazie had a Symes amputation of her right leg. Her surgery was done by Dr. Thompkins, who is wonderful! We knew Mazie was in good hands with Dr Thompkins and all the kind staff at Shriners! It made going through such a tough time a little easier!

We spent 4 days at the hospital in Spokane, where Mazie received amazing care! Mazie was recovering well and in December her cast and pins were removed. In February we were back in Spokane for the making of her first Prosthetic!! Peter in Pops was so encouraging and helpful along with Dawn, Clint and the rest of the staff! It was truly remarkable to watch her take her first steps on her new leg!! It was long journey up to this point and we were so grateful to all the amazing staff at Shriners who helped us along the way!!

Mazie turned 7 in November and is in 1st grade. She is a very sweet, funny and loving little girl! Mazie is willing to try anything and does it with energy and determination! Her classmates forget she even has a prosthetic, as she is one of the fastest kids in her class!! Mazie loves to scooter, ride her bike, go swimming and snowboarding! She loves to spend time playing with friends and playing outside and camping with her family!

Mazie has a big sister Nya, who has been her biggest supporter and best friend! Mom, Laura and Dad, Lee couldn't be prouder of both girls and how they have handled and grown from this whole experience!

Mazie's Grampa (Poppy) two years ago, lost most of his fingers on his right hand in a work accident! Mazie has been very supportive and helpful for him! She said to him "don't worry Poppy, we can be Nubby buddies"! Nubby is what she calls her residual limb. Mazie is doing a good job navigating her limb difference and has such compassion and understanding for others who have disabilities!

When Mazie is asked about her leg she says "I like my prosthetic leg and I feel really, really happy! I had some problems but I have gotten used to it and glad I have a leg because I can jump up and down, run really fast and ride my bike! Sometimes it's tough having a prosthetic. Sometimes people want to know about my leg and ask lots of questions and I don't always want to talk about it, but I am learning how too and teaching people about prosthetics!

"I love Shriners Hospital because they take good care of me and help others! I love all the people there especially Dawn and Clint! They make it a funny place to visit and make me feel better about my leg. When asked about how she felt about the Algeria Shriners here in Montana helping her/ us out, Mazie feels happy and lucky to have so many people who care about her!

We are grateful for the continued care that Mazie will receive from Shriners. Mazie will need new, custom prosthetics as she continues to grow, along with routine check-ups and whatever else may arise. It is truly remarkable that a hospital will help care for and meet Mazie's needs until she is 18! It is more than just a hospital it is a community that is so welcoming and caring and we are so appreciative of Shriners and everyone who is a part of this wonderful organization and their commitment to helping children!