

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Two kidneys, two diseases, too much trouble. At the age of 5 I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes which means my pancreas does not create insulin. Diabetes not only affects your pancreas but can be damaging to your eyes, feet and yes even your kidneys. I now am connected to an insulin pump to control my sugars and limit the damage it does to my body.

A few years ago my dad began to get sick and my sister and I also began to show signs of blood and protein in our pee. Doctors did biopsies on us and also some other testing which showed we have Alport Syndrome. I now have to take medication to protect my kidneys as does my sister.

My dad lost his left kidney two years ago and just last year had to have a transplant on his right kidney. My dad and I are very close and it is hard to watch him be so sick. His cousin gave him a new kidney. I pray I never have to go through what he did. I hope they find a cure for Diabetes and Alport Syndrome.

Even though I have good days and bad days I love to get out and do stuff with my friends. I play soccer, basketball, take voice lessons and run in a number of SK's. I enjoy my school and all the friends I have made there. I go to a local Christian school and everyone is so nice there. It has been my dad's promise that we would always remain at this school as long as he is around.

I would love to win this award to continue going to my school. I have learned so much there, have wonderful friends and feel safe there with the nurse they have. Many of the public schools in our area share nurses at a number of buildings, which my parents did not like.

I hope whoever reads this realizes no matter what you face, God will bring you through it.