

AUTUMN'S STORY

I am writing this to whoever might find it in their heart to help us and our sweet Granddaughter Autumn.

Autumn came to live with us about 3 years ago due to her father being in a 2 year rehab facility and her mother completely neglecting her. She was six years old at the time and weighed 20 pounds! She was **severely** malnourished and dehydrated. She was in so much pain she would cry if you touched her. This is a picture of her at that time.



In one week we put 10 pounds on her and she's been thriving and in no more pain ever since.

Autumn was born with microcephaly, which presents as cerebral palsy, and fetal alcohol syndrome. She is missing the part of her brain that connects the left side to the right side. She will never be able to roll over, crawl, walk or talk and is completely dependent on us. Before coming to live with us she had never had a stable home and sometimes no home at all. By 6 years old she had lived in more than a dozen places including a camper and being homeless.

She now has a stable, loving home with us and thrives on her daily routine. Our home is quiet and full of love. We are so blessed to have this beautiful, happy little girl in our life. She wakes up smiling and goes to bed all giggles.

It has not been an easy past three years trying to catch up on surgeries and doctors appointments that should have been done years ago. She has

had eye surgery, both hips replaced, g-tube surgery and high risk spinal surgery. The spinal surgery just happened on August 5th. They had to put two rods on her spine from the base of her neck and screwed into her pelvis.

Here is a picture of her at children's hospital after surgery.



We had planned on having an addition built onto our house prior to this surgery. Our house is a tri level and we have to carry her up and down the stairs as there is no way to put in a ramp because of the way the house is configured and how long the ramp has to be. She also has to sit in a shower chair to shower and she has now outgrown that shower. She now weighs 65 lbs and is 4'4" tall. She is getting too heavy for us to carry safely. She does have a hooyer lift but it will not fit into the bathroom. We knew this day was coming so hired a construction company over a year ago to build her a bedroom on the main level with a large shower we could roll her into. The company gave us a quote and said it wouldn't take longer then six months. Well a year later and they hadn't even broken ground. They also came in with their final quote a month ago and it was \$100,000 over what they originally quoted us! We made NO changes throughout this process. We are already spending our life savings to build this addition for her. We do not want to have to sell our house and move as this is the only home she's ever had. She loves it & is so happy here. We also know we cannot continue to safely live like this.

Here are a couple more pictures of Autumn.
I hope you can find it in your hearts to help us.

Kevin, Heidi & Autumn

