



Audrey  
Robichaud  
Nadeau,  
17 years old

Laval

**Suffering from Crohn's disease,  
polyarthritis, immune deficiency,  
adrenal gland insufficiency  
and psoriasis**

## LAVAL'S ENFANT SOLEIL

*My illness keeps me from living a normal life, going to school and doing the things people my age do. The hardest part is the ever-present pain. When people donate to Opération Enfant Soleil, it sends a message of hope telling us that we are not alone and that we do count.*

"It all began in September 2003, close to our daughter's seventh birthday. Audrey complained of intense stomach pain, nausea and various symptoms that lead us to believe something was very wrong.

One year later, she received her diagnosis: Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammation of the intestine. Thus began the waltz of medication and hospitalizations. It took some time to get the pain and symptoms under control.

In summer 2005, Audrey started feeling joint pain. One year later, we learned she suffered from polyarthritis. An almost permanent pain settled in, and hospital stays and treatments multiplied. The already too-long list of her ills came to include adrenal insufficiency and immune deficiency.

In autumn 2012, the decision was made, given the ineffectiveness of treatment and her deteriorating health, to perform an autologous bone marrow transplant. The procedure proved unsuccessful.

A few months later, her body responded positively to a certain medication and, little by little, her condition started improving. But then, last January, another diagnosis appeared: she suffers from psoriasis, a non-contagious skin condition.

We gave for sick children even before our daughters were born, never knowing we would one day need this help. These days, when Audrey is hospitalized, we get to witness Opération Enfant Soleil's investments first-hand, and the little logo on the equipment reminds us that we are not the only ones facing these struggles together with our child.

How do we stay strong through so many trials? Quite frankly, we've never asked ourselves that. Our children are at the centre of our lives, and we just adapt daily."

**Lyne Robichaud and Léo Nadeau**  
Audrey's parents



LITTLE MIRACLES DON'T HAPPEN ON THEIR OWN

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**Want to get involved?**  
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