



Caleb McConkey
8 years old

Suffering from Di George syndrome
and Fallot's tetralogy

Enfant Soleil from Montérégie

"We never imagined that it would happen to us. But when it did, we saw how Opération Enfant Soleil could help support our child to face his illness. We are grateful to the people who donate. Sometimes, specialized equipment is a matter of life and death for our children. That was the case for Caleb."

Three days after Caleb's birth, his parents learned that he was suffering from Fallot's tetralogy, a quadruple heart defect. The diagnosis plunged them into sadness and anxiety. Caleb needed open-heart surgery. The little family's life was turned upside down. Caleb underwent surgery, and many appointments, medications and hospitalizations followed. "Around the age of two, Caleb didn't seem to be developing as quickly as other children his age." Other evaluations revealed Di George syndrome, a genetic disorder that explained Caleb's heart defects and other health problems, including a severe language disorder that would prevent him from communicating for a long time. Additionally, he suffered from double scoliosis, which is an aftereffect of the open-heart surgery he underwent as a baby.

When a child is sick, family life is turned upside down, and the McConkeys were no exception. Their life as a couple has been put on hold, and the requirements of the disease entail a tight schedule.

For mom and dad, it took a great deal of imagination to provide Caleb with essential care, go to countless medical appointments without neglecting his little brother Liam, and meet the demands of daily life.

Caleb is a child who smiles often and rarely complains. His perseverance has enabled him to overcome a lot of obstacles, and he has courageously faced the ups and downs of his illness. Sometimes, on bad days, he asks why... Why him? His most important sentence: "Life is precious."

Caleb's family joins us in thanking you for being there for him and all sick children in Quebec.

Josée Paleovrahas, John McConkey and Liam

Little miracles don't happen on their own...

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