



Yanik Vilon
15 years old

Suffering from cerebral palsy

Enfant Soleil from the Outaouais

"I was born like this, and I'm happy despite my condition. I love reading and TV series. I'm particularly interested in the history of peoples, their cultures and their beliefs. I dream of becoming a historian. I think I'm lucky to be alive and to be able to do the things that fascinate me. Now, it's time for me to help other children..."

Yanik is a curious child who is eager for knowledge, friendly, sensitive and endearing. He has an impact on everyone around him. He has motor cerebral palsy in all four limbs and his torso, but his intellectual faculties are not affected. His health problems have been an around-the-clock source of worry. Over the years, Yanik has undergone many hospitalizations and surgeries. He needs help with everyday tasks: washing himself, getting dressed, feeding himself and turning the pages of his book. The whole family has been involved in the adventure. His grandparents moved nearby, and life was gradually organized around Yanik. He is an optimistic child. Despite his fear of operations, catheters and blood sampling, Yanik is happy.

Six years have passed since we met Yanik. Two years ago, he was diagnosed with epilepsy, which he is facing with his characteristic courage. This challenge has not

prevented him from continuing to marvel at the world, living life to the fullest and setting an example for those around him. The teenager he has become is a living inspiration and a model of resiliency. When asked how he's doing, his reply is unequivocal: "Everything is great. We're happy."

Part of his current quality of life is inseparable from Opération Enfant Soleil's work for sick children and their families. For Yanik, Opération Enfant Soleil represents the hope of lessening the sorrow and suffering of sick children and the parents dealing with their illnesses, and also allows them to be happy.

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

Véronique Vilon

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

Visit operationenfantsoleil.ca to learn about the journeys of all the province's Enfants Soleil through their profiles and videos.

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