



Olivier Couture, age 7
Suffering from polyuric kidney failure

ENFANT SOLEIL FROM ESTRIE

“Giving to Opération Enfant Soleil is a way to express your support for sick children and their families. And knowing that we have support during tough times gives us strength and hope that we will enjoy better tomorrows with our child. Hope can move mountains!”

At 32 weeks of pregnancy, an ultrasound revealed that Olivier’s kidneys were abnormally dilated due to urinary reflux. The doctor informed his parents that this happens frequently in boys, especially at the end of pregnancy, but that everything would be fine. Two weeks after his birth, tests revealed that the dilation of his kidneys had increased. At the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke, the diagnosis was given: he was suffering from kidney failure caused by a malformation of his urinary system. This meant that his kidneys were unable to perform their tasks of filtering and disposing of waste products from his blood.

He spent the first four months of his life in the hospital and had to be operated on several times. He underwent a vesicostomy, which allowed urine to be drained from his bladder so that it could not return to his kidneys. Since the disease caused him to produce 3.5 litres of urine per day, he had to take in the same amount of fluids.

From birth to 18 months of age, a nasogastric tube allowed him to be adequately nourished and hydrated. This was eventually replaced by a gastrostomy, and he then had to be tube fed four times a day.

In 2018, his condition worsened and the removal of one of his kidneys became unavoidable. He has had to be operated on and then put on dialysis until a matching donor for a kidney transplant can be found. This future transplant fills Olivier and his family with hope.

Olivier’s parents join us in thanking you for being there for him and all sick children in Quebec.

Mireille Jacques and Michel Couture

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

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