



## Dayvon Macieux, 7 years old

Suffering from biliary atresia, and twice a liver transplant recipient

"I knew that Opération Enfant Soleil was an important cause. I had to go through the same journey as those families I saw on television to understand the full scope of it."



Dayvon is four months old when his mom notices that the whites of his eyes are yellowish and that his belly button is swelling, like a small balloon filled with water. At times, Baby is irritable and seems uncomfortable. A consultation at the CHU Sainte-Justine turns the family's life upside down. Dayvon suffers from biliary atresia, a rare condition that causes a blockage in the bile duct that carries bile from the liver to the small intestine. Dayvon's liver is irreparably damaged and will need to be replaced. The news hit hard. At only 5 months old, Dayvon is immediately put on the transplant waiting list. For the next few months, Dayvon and his mom's life consists of a long series of hospital visits to receive albumin treatments to replace the work of his liver.

On four occasions, Dayvon will be prepared to receive a new liver. Unfortunately, it's back to square one at every opportunity because the offered organ is incompatible for various reasons. It is a cruel ordeal for his family, torn each time between the hope that Dayvon will have a new liver and the mourning of the transplant that did not take place. Then, the fifth call is the right one: Dayvon finally receives his new liver. After three months of hospitalization, he can finally go home. But the disease is not done with the little fighter. The transplanted liver has a mechanical problem and about ten times, the ducts that have become blocked must be dilated.

The transplant does not work as planned and a new one must be considered. In the meantime, the child's condition deteriorates, and his days are numbered. But hope seems to lead the life of Dayvon and his mom. Little by little, his condition stabilizes and the doctors eventually tell his mother: your son WANTS to live! He is fed intravenously so he can regain his strength. In February 2019, Dayvon receives his second liver. Two months later, the little one goes home for good.

Since his second transplant, Dayvon has never been sick, never had a fever. He is a charming child, who loves life, who loves people, a ball of fire!

*Dayvon's family thanks you for being there for him and for all the sick children in Quebec!*

**Murielle Macieux**

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

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