

My Life

I was a very healthy and active child growing up. I made great grades in elementary school and was considered to be ahead of my class in most subjects. When I was nine, my parents took me to Johns Hopkins hospital and I had surgery there. That surgery changed my life forever. When I woke up from surgery, I couldn't walk, speak clearly, sip through a straw, or write with my right hand anymore. I was still in a wheelchair six months later. I will always remember Dr. Carson at my bedside telling me that my facial droop was Temporary and my disabilities would be gone in a Few Days. His P.A. said, seven to ten days.

I will always remember my mom repeating what Dr. Carson said to us before my surgery, "My goal is not to kill your kid; I will follow your surgical guidelines during surgery." He achieved his goal, but he destroyed my life when he chose to breach the Standard of Care during my surgery. When I returned to school eight months later, I was called a "freak" and so many other names because of my severe facial droop.

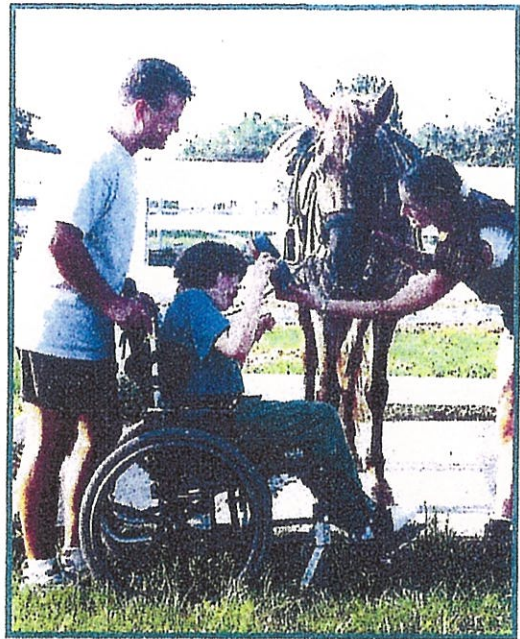
Years later, I still live with Dr. Carson's choice to try to get the entire tumor that was attached to my brainstem. When I became disabled through his surgery my parents started Suncoast Trailblazers a disabled horseback riding program and I learned to walk again. My mother lost her job at Raymond James Financial; I needed around-the-clock care. She wrote grants for the riding program and was hospitalized one weekend because of the stress. My father managed and also fundraised for Suncoast Trailblazers. He spent one hundred and fifty thousand dollars on the program, which had to be cancelled because of the lack of funding. He lost his income from his real estate business for years because of the program.

I live in my deceased mother's home and don't have the money to bring the mortgage current; It is currently in foreclosure. A disabled child becomes a disabled adult and with all of my daily struggles, I have no idea what the future holds for me.

-Karly Bailey



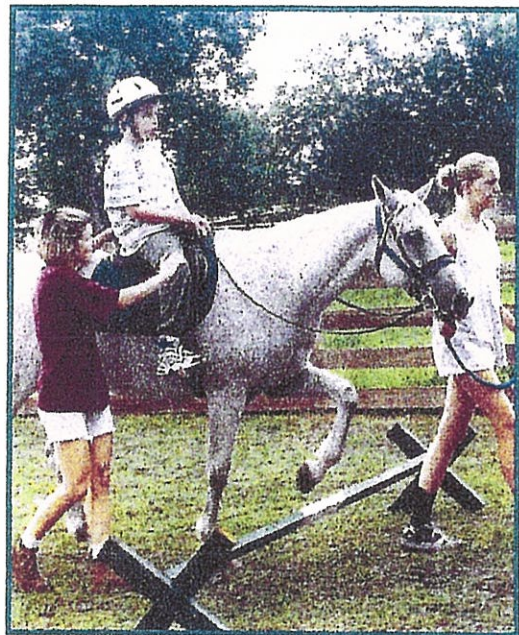
Suncoast Trailblazers, Inc., a non-profit corporation, is the vision of Therese Christian, a woman whose daughter, Karly, has cancer. Karly had three brain tumor operations and as a result of her second operation was left partially paralyzed on her right side. While in intensive therapy five days a week, for seven months, Karly became severely depressed and lost her desire to live. It was at this point her mother strapped Karly on a horse and watched the excitement in her eyes and the desire to live reborn. Because of this experience Suncoast Trailblazers, Inc. was born. We offer recreational and therapeutic riding programs for disabled and able bodied riders.



Horse Grooming



Making Friends



Line Leader & Side Walker