

HEALTHBRIDGE CHAMPION GAVIN BULLINGTON



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In November 2017, Gavin Bullington underwent a benign tumor resection in which he acquired a postoperative syndrome called posterior fossa. Since the syndrome affected his ability to speak, move, eat, and open his eyes, Gavin needed physical and occupational therapy and speech therapy to redevelop skills to communicate and function independently.

“We toured many facilities, but after seeing HealthBridge Children’s Hospital, we felt very comfortable having Gavin here,” explained Veronica Bullington, Gavin’s mother. **“Once he got to the facility, he really started progressing in such a short period of time. It is a life-changing place. We feel so blessed.”**

The morning after Gavin was transferred, the Director of Therapy, attending physician, and team of therapists met the Bullington family and conducted evaluations to begin planning his individualized rehabilitation and discharge plan. From the start, Gavin enjoyed his speech-language pathology sessions, playing board and guessing games. He went from being nonverbal for over a month to saying “yes” and “no” just four days after admission to HealthBridge Children’s Hospital.

Once he started speaking, Gavin became more comfortable with physical and occupational therapy. His mother Veronica remembers him being timid at first but enjoying different activities — especially the swing — after he was reassured by HealthBridge therapists.

“The therapists had a lot of patience with him,” said Veronica. **“They helped Gavin understand they were helping him, so he started to love going to the gym to work on strength.”**

By all accounts, Gavin worked hard to get better and pushed himself without ever complaining. He was nominated for Hero of the Month by the Kid Wish Network for his determination, hard work, and positive attitude. Speech-Language Pathologist Leah G. said, **“Gavin found joy where he could and always tried his best. His laugh was contagious.”**

Veronica credits HealthBridge Children’s Hospital with helping Gavin enjoy the holidays while he was in rehabilitation, saying “they really spoiled him!” Like all patients, Gavin had his room personalized to his liking and even had decorations and a Christmas tree, making him feel more at home.

After nearly a month at HealthBridge Children’s Hospital, Gavin was discharged home. On a recent visit back to the facility, he was running around, talking, eating—so much so, that you would never know he went through any trauma.

“We feel HealthBridge Children’s Hospital is where we were meant to be. Gavin talks about being there all the time,” said Veronica. **“Everyone was so kind and caring and made you feel at home. For a child and family going through something traumatic, this is the place to go.”**

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