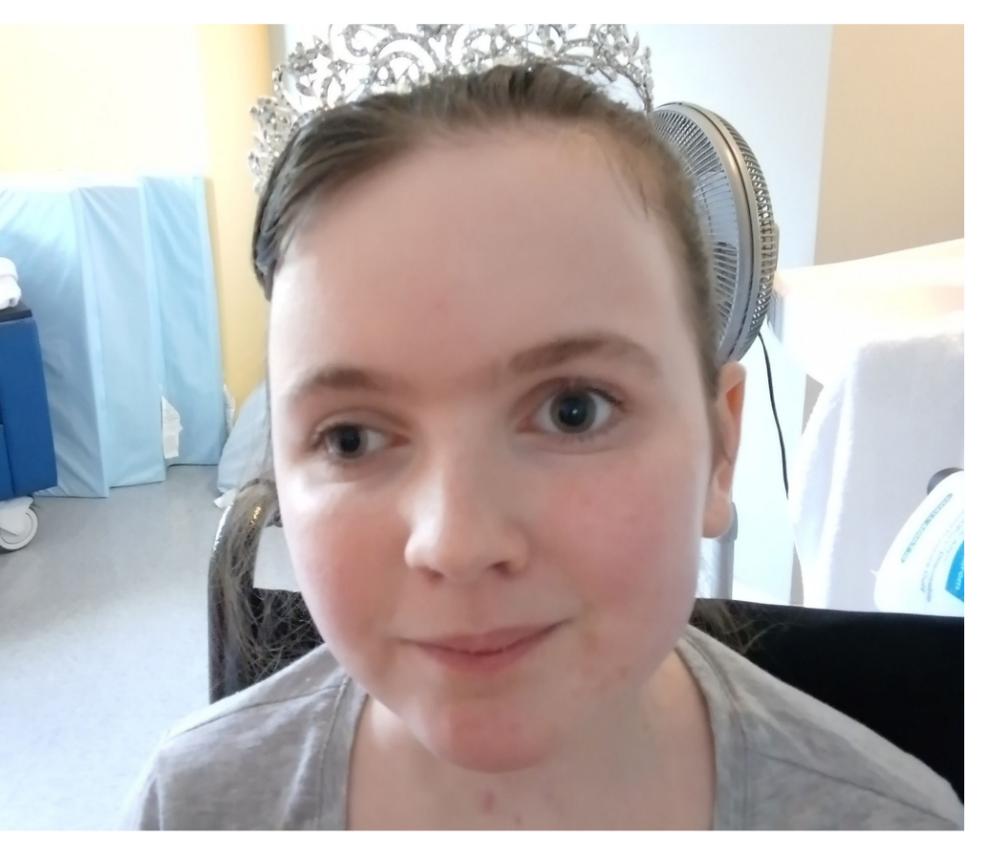


NEXUS CHAMPION

HOPE WOOD



“The Nexus doctors and staff are miracle workers.”

CONNIE USHER
Hope's Grandmother

Hope Wood is a fighter. She sustained a traumatic brain injury, facial and skull fractures and pelvic fractures after being struck by a car, and her family was first told not to have high expectations. After a five week stay at a Louisiana trauma hospital, a local children's hospital explained they weren't the right fit to care for Hope. Her family didn't know where to turn, until Nexus Children's Hospital agreed to admit Hope and said they would do everything possible to help.

“The Nexus doctors and staff are miracle workers,” explained Connie Usher, Hope's grandmother. **“We can never repay our gratitude for all they did. They took the slim chance on a little girl who we were told would never do anything.”**

Hope arrived at Nexus for the brain injury program, which included clinical monitoring, frequent neuro checks, tracheostomy management, tube feed management, pain management, and physical, occupational, and speech therapies.

“I was so impressed by her progress. A month or so in, Hope was opening her eyes. At first it was just a little and now they're wide open,” said Connie. **“Then the care and therapies started and today she can feed herself, write, play games. She can basically do everything for herself except tie her shoes!”**

Connie remembers visiting Hope when she walked up and down the stairs for the first time and another visit when she walked well over 400 steps, never asking for a break or wheelchair assistance. Brenda Salas the Rehabilitation Supervisor said: **“Hope has never failed to amaze us with her persistence and outgoing personality. She has made significant progress from requiring total assistance for mobility to taking steps without support.”**

Hope was at Nexus Children's Hospital for six months before discharging before her 14th birthday — a milestone her and her family were very excited about. After arriving

in a minimally conscious state, she has made outstanding progress.

“Her recovery was phenomenal,” said Taryn Townsend a Speech-Language Pathologist. **“From starting the process of communication via speaking valve to having her tracheostomy tube removed. As her stay was coming to an end, she would be talking nonstop with her peers.”**

Even Hope has great memories from her time at Nexus, saying, **“I made a lot of good friends, and the staff was good to me. I loved physical therapy, going to the gym, and playing on the Wii. Walking with the gait walker was a lot of fun, and when I got my speaking valve, I talked a lot! Everyone there helped me get better so I could finally go back home to my family and friends.”**

Connie explained leaving Nexus was bittersweet, saying **“We loved everyone, and it was so hard to say goodbye to our Nexus family, because that's exactly what they are now. Everybody at Nexus was wonderful and amazing, and so knowledgeable. They really know how to treat these kids.”**

The family is excited for the next chapter ahead for Hope and knows she will thrive because of the great recovery and foundation set at Nexus Children's Hospital.

“I wasn't sure about sending Hope all the way to Houston,” explained Ray Usher, Hope's grandfather. **“But now, six months later, all I can say is wow and thank God for Nexus! I can't thank or praise them enough!”**

NEXUS

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
MENDING MINDS.

A Nexus Health Systems Facility