

Cornerstone News



Family's First Experience

It's been said that "God never gives you more than you can handle"? Well this is what Cat shared with her family and friends soon after learning her son, Ethan, had been diagnosed with hemophilia.

Cat explained that as any mother would, she felt completely blessed knowing that Ethan was born a completely healthy baby boy. Of course, she fell in love. Her life couldn't be more perfect.

However, one day while dressing Ethan, Cat and her husband Steve noticed something was wrong. They noticed that he had a large inch and a half bruise with a bump underneath his collarbone. At the time, Ethan was only five months old...barely old enough to roll over, let alone cause a bruise like that. With this in mind, Cat remembered that she lost a cousin to a genetic disease called hemophilia 30 years ago.

Cat began researching herself on this rare and mysterious disease. She was relieved to learn that most men with hemophilia are able to lead relatively normal lives. Still in dismay and not wanting to believe that this was the case she told Ethan's Pediatrician about her family history of hemophilia. Without hesitation he referred her son to a specialist. The initial tests were inconclusive. Finally, after months of testing, Cat had the results: her son was diagnosed with mild hemophilia. Cat was relieved to learn that Ethan was not severe.

Soon after Ethan was diagnosed, he was referred out to another specialist. Every mother with a child affected by hemophilia knows what it's like to listen to their child scream in pain when being stuck by needles. On this occasion, it was too much to bear and Cat had to leave the room. After what seemed like an eternity of Ethan screaming, Cat decided to peek into the room only to find her son strapped to the table while the nurses tried and tried again to find his vein. It was then that Ethan developed his first bleed, and he was transported to the ER the following day.

After the experience, Cat negotiated with her insurance company so that Ethan could go to the laboratory at the treatment center, where they had more experience with hemophilia. Finally, after many frustrating months, Ethan was correctly diagnosed with severe hemophilia and he is receiving the treatment he needs. Although the process took so Cat and Stephen feel that God only gives you what you can handle-and realize together they can handle this. Ethan is now doing great. Cat and Steve are still in love.



Anna MacDonald



Cornerstone Kids

Clever Kids Science

Gas (Carbon Dioxide)

Supplies:

- Long-neck bottle (empty)
- 4 Tablespoons vinegar
- 1 Tablespoon baking soda
- 1 large balloon
- 1 small funnel



Directions: Using your funnel, pour the vinegar into the bottle. Then, place your funnel in the opening of your balloon and add the baking soda. With the filled balloon hanging, securely place the lip around the top of the bottle and lift. You will observe carbon dioxide form, which will fill up your balloon.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

French Toast Kabobs

Ingredients:

- *10 slices of cooked french toast using your mom's recipe
- *Thick slices of two of your favorite fruits
(bananas, strawberries, apples or another of your choice)
- *Powdered sugar
- *Syrup
- *Skewers

Directions: Cut the toast and fruit into nice size squares (toast and strawberries at least 1/8 by 1/8"). Form an assembly line and add to your skewers beginning with toast, fruit, toast, then second choice of fruit and so on until the end of the skewer and then begin your next. Place desired skewer on plate and pour syrup and sprinkle with the powdered sugar and serve.

KIDS: PLEASE ATTEMPT ONLY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF AN ADULT!

Grifols Acquires Alpha Therapeutic Corporation

Grifols has acquired certain assets of the Los Angeles-based Alpha Therapeutic Corporation. As a result, Grifols will be responsible for the manufacturing and distribution of the products Venoglobulin®-S, Alphanate®, AlphaNine®DS, Profilnine®SD, and Albutein®.

Grifols was founded in 1940 by Dr. J. A. Grifols Roig a hematologist and scientist. Grifols specializes in the development of high-purity plasma-derived medicines with outstanding records of safety and efficacy, including products used in the areas of immunology, hematology and intensive care.

“Today, Grifols is the European leader in intravenous immunoglobulin and out product, Flebogamma® *Immune Globulin Intravenous (Human) 5%*, is currently under review at the FDA. Flebogamma® will not be our first product in the US as Grifols has provided US patients with albumin since 1995. We also operating a US network of FDA-approved plasma collection centers under the name of Biomat USA.” Said Gregory G. Rich - July 25, 2003.



Just a reminder to all.....

Open enrollment for many insurance companies will be coming up in January 2004!!!

Thinking about making changes? **Considering** switching to another plan?

Contact your local representative or our **Reimbursement Department** at **866-616-6247** and we can assist you in making the right choice!!

PRODUCT ASSISTANCE

Did you know? ... some manufacturers have developed product assistance programs??? Patients residing in California who are participating in a state sponsored program like Medicare, Medi-cal, CCS, GHPP or a third-party insurance may be eligible to enroll in Baxter's *Factor Assist Program* as long as they are currently using Baxter's Recombinate, Hemofil-M or Feiba. Enrollment is easy and will help ensure that there is no interruption in receiving your factor in case you have a lapse in coverage. If you are interested you can call 800-888-4502 for assistance or visit their web-site at www.healthiq.com/factor assist. Aventis also offers assistance to their customers using Helixate-FS, Humate-P, Mononine or Monoclate-P with a third-party or private insurance. As a participant in this program, you'll have the assurance that your factor needs will continue to be met if there should ever be a lapse in your insurance coverage. *The Choice Assurance Program* is designed to offer you greater flexibility and maximum protection along with quick and easy enrollment. If you are interested in this program, call 866-415-2164 or visit their web-site at www.ChoiceAssurance.com.

BURR TO A SURE THING AT VALA'S

Mid-West Cornerstone sponsored a day at Vala's on October 11th that brought in both new and existing chapter members of Nebraska's chapter of the NHF. The morning started with chilly uncertainty due to rain, wind, and temperatures in the low 60's. Luckily a few hours later the weather made a turn for the better and the sky turned clear and blue. Mid-West Cornerstone would like to extend many thanks to Vala's staff for offering shelter until the weather cleared up. Roasted hot dogs, smores', piñata etc, brought in the beginning of fall, as all looked like they were having a good time. Another great year at Vala's to remember. Thank you Mid-West Cornerstone!



DO I HEAR AN AUCTION?!

Throughout the evening all you heard were the words 'sold to bidder!' -, now this was impressive. Heartland Hemophilia Association celebrates their second year holding the auction. Everything went, and there were even quests for next year. Thank you Heartland for the invitation! We'll see you next year.





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