

Stories

A Newsletter of Parishioners' Enlightening Stories of Life Events

VOLUME TWO

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Parishioner Families with Special Needs
- The Sydney Hudson Foundation
- Newsletter Notes From Fr. Eric Tellez

Parishioner Families with Special Needs

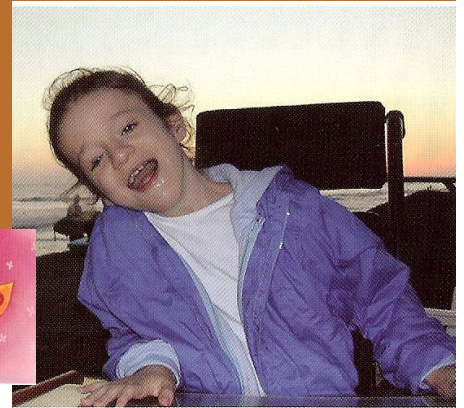
By Jeff and Julie Hudson

Sydney lived her life one joyous day at a time. She taught us the beauty and simplicity of God's love for everyone. Sydney was born with multiple disabilities and did not walk or talk—but understood and communicated in many ways. Sydney's sudden and unexpected death made us realize that she was given to our family as a gift from God and she taught us so many things.

We always felt grateful that we were able to care for Sydney's needs. We were

fortunate to be able to provide the equipment, therapies and services that she required and were incredibly lucky to have close family and friends supporting us along the way.

After Sydney's death on her 10th birthday, we quickly realized that we wanted to help other special needs children and their families, consequently, The Sydney Hudson Foundation (SHF) was born in 2006 by us, Jeff and Julie Hudson! We saw how difficult



Sydney Jean Hudson

it was for some families to get the equipment and/or services that they needed for their children. Our initial objective was to ensure that these families would not wait for vital equipment that their child may need. We had witnessed families waiting six months for insurance approval on a shower chair or having to justify the necessity of a communication

Newsletter Notes From Fr. Eric

With the second edition of our **Stories** Newsletter we spotlight the Hudson Family. The Hudsons have been parishioners for many years at St. Patrick and Sydney Hudson and her parents, Jeff and Julie, have been known and admired by a great number of parishioners for many years. Our parishioners have followed

their joys and challenges through the special needs of their daughter Sydney. The Sydney Hudson Foundation was conceived by Jeff and Julie as a means to help other special needs families through the same struggles their family had faced. I applaud the efforts of this Foundation in its mission to assist special needs families

and to help educate others about the quality of life we can empower those with special needs to achieve. I invite you to read their story.

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Eric Tellez



Sharing the spirit of Sydney's life

“My sister Sydney helped me learn a lot of things, such as having someone in your family with a special ability — she made people laugh.”

Molly Hudson

If you would like to help promote a full life for special needs families, please check out how you can help.



device, at home medical equipment or special orthotics. Having these basic necessities for Sydney brought peace of mind to us as parents and, in turn, helped us function more easily as a family.

As the foundation evolved, we also realized how important the recreational aspects of Sydney's life were for our family. The family that plays together truly does stay together! Sydney was the first child in a wheel chair to run the Phoenix Children's Hospital Kids Rock, which she did with her dad. The National Ability Center in Park City, Utah was a favorite place of Sydney's. She spent time swimming, biking and water-skiing in the summer and snow skiing in the winter. It was such a blessing to share this fun with her as a family and we wanted other families to have these opportunities too!

The SHF sponsors a special needs team called "Syd's Kids" that participates in the PF Chang's Marathon Kid's Rock One Mile Fun Run. Our team pairs up special needs kids with "buddies" that run, walk or roll together to complete the race.

We began funding camps and

recreational opportunities for special needs kids. In July 2007 the Foundation sent Dylan and his mom and dad to Park City, Utah for a week—all expenses paid. Dylan spent five days with other autistic kids enjoying horseback riding, rock climbing, swimming and water-skiing. His mom and dad got a much needed break during the

the cancer.

SHF supplied an eight year old girl who was paralyzed in a car accident at age 4 with a special stander. We had the good fortune to provide two families with handicap accessible vans which has made their daily lives much easier.

The Foundation has brought many blessings to our family and helps to keep Sydney's beautiful spirit alive. Sydney's short life taught us compassion, joy and patience. Her sisters (Taylor, Molly and Abby) witnessed her spirit and understand the importance of sharing the SHF mission with those in need. We all feel Sydney's presence when we interact with these special needs kids and their families and know that every little thing makes a difference in their lives.



Family van provided by SHF. Julie and Jeff Hudson are on the far right.

day while he was at camp. Our 2008 Park City camp recipient was Jessica. Jessica's mom, Jill, had been battling cancer and trying to take care of her daughter. Mom said, "It was the first camp that Jess had been to that they didn't ask her to leave...they understood her disabilities and made her feel special." The experience brought them together as a family. Jessica's mom died last month from



Promoting a full life for special needs children.

- Vital Equipment:**
 - feeding/shower chairs
 - positioning equipment
- Activity/Supplies:**
 - communication equipment
 - educational games/toys
 - therapy balls/wedges
- Recreational Activities:**
 - camps, classes, recreation therapy



The Sydney Hudson Foundation
(a 501c3 non-profit foundation)

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