

# Making Dreams a Reality

Claire Stultz has run through the halls of KidsAbility. While that may not seem unusual, it is quite extraordinary. When she was born, her parents were told that she may never walk.

Her mother, Leanne, had always dreamed of having a little girl; dreams that included dance recitals and watching her go off to her first day of school. Claire was born with Mosaic Trisomy 22, a rare disorder that causes her cells to have extra chromosomes. Those dreams were put on hold as not only had her parents been told that she may never walk, but Claire's disorder also meant that she had other challenges ahead such as a heart defect, a hearing impairment and was at risk for future developmental delays. Claire was referred to KidsAbility when she was six months old.

"The support, knowledge and encouragement of everyone at KidsAbility have benefited not only Claire but all of our family. When we first came to KidsAbility we were terrified. They gave us hope for her and stressed all the things that Claire was able to do," says Leanne. Working with the therapists at KidsAbility in Guelph, Claire learned how to sit, walk, eat on her own and run!

"When I was born the doctors told my parents that I wouldn't be able to do anything," says Claire. "I went for lots of therapy and now I can do everything another girl my age can do."

Claire's family didn't envision that when their little girl was born that she would have so many challenges ahead of her. They also didn't imagine that KidsAbility would play such a pivotal role in helping Claire to realize her dreams. Giving back to the organization meant a lot to the Stultz Family. Claire's father, Ray, served on KidsAbility's Board of Directors in 2010 after serving as the Kids Can't Wait Guelph-Wellington Ambassadors the year prior.

"I go to school, I do cheerleading and horseback riding. I can do almost everything by myself because of the help that KidsAbility gave me. Things were hard for me and they are hard for some other kids too. I have some special needs though I like to say I am just special. All kids are special and if they need help they should get it like I did."

“When we first came to KidsAbility we were terrified. They gave us hope for her and stressed all the things that Claire was able to do.”



*Stultz Family*

Kids Can't Wait Guelph-Wellington Ambassadors  
2008–2009