Young Vent User Is a Happy Camper

Eight-year-old Elise was born with congenital central hypoventilation syndrome (CCHS), a multisystem disorder of the central nervous system where the automatic control of breathing is absent or impaired. Elise breathes on her own during the day, and a nurse accompanies her to her second grade class to assist with suctioning. At night, she uses a Trilogy 100 ventilator, having just transferred from an LTV® 950 ventilator.

"Elise absolutely loves camp," says her mother Samantha Glore. "She talks about it all the time and can’t wait to get back. It was hard for us to let her go, but Camp Pelican is very thorough in its evaluations and leaves no stone unturned. It gives her a chance to feel ‘normal,’ and to be away from us constantly asking her if she’s OK."

A wide variety of activities including swimming, sports, arts and crafts and special events entertain and educate campers. Staffed by a volunteer force of professionals including physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and educators, they also provide extensive medical and pulmonary care.

"Camp Pelican is a special place for campers and staff. Many of us return year after year because we know how much it means to our campers and also what it means to each of us,” says assistant director Cathy Allain.

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“As staff members, I think we benefit as much or more as the campers because we learn so much from them each day.”

The oldest of four daughters, Elise is very polite and well-mannered and handles her trach well, says her mother. “She’s a Girl Scout, she dances and does gymnastics. She doesn’t think she has any limitations and wants to do it all.

“She gives us a lot of laughs and joy.”

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2012 Camps for Ventilator-Assisted Kids


JUNE 3-8. Trail’s Edge Camp, Camp Fowler, Mayville, Michigan. Contact Mary Buschell, RRT, Camp Director, 231-645-0453, mkbuschell@yahoo.com, www.med.umich.edu/mott/trailsedge/index.html.


JUNE 24-28. PA Vent Camp, Camp Victory, Millville, Pennsylvania. Contact Robin Kingston, MSN, CRNP, 717-531-5337, rkingston@hmc.psu.edu.