

December 2008

Dear Friends:

I was pregnant! After months of trying to conceive our first child, my husband Brian and I were finally expecting. Our hearts were full, life was good, and we were about to begin a new chapter in our lives. When Logan was born on time, at a healthy weight and all parts intact, my family could not have been more overjoyed. Everyone was laughing and crying, begging to hold him. We were so very, very happy.



Things changed quickly. Within a day Logan's body temperature started to drop. He was unresponsive and quiet. A lumbar puncture and countless blood tests showed he was fighting an infection of some kind. He was ambulated to a nearby NICU for observation and placed on heavy IV antibiotics. A terror-filled week passed. Logan began to stabilize. He would cry, respond to touch, and eat like a horse. He was discharged with a clean bill of health. Logan's health scare occurred in June of 2006, just before CF testing became a part of California's newborn screening with the help of the Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc. (CFRI).

At a month old Logan was baffling his pediatrician. He was always hungry, consuming huge amounts of milk every two hours, but losing weight drastically. She ran yet another round of blood tests and found our answer.

Logan had cystic fibrosis. He was immediately sent to Stanford to confirm the diagnosis with a sweat test and to meet the CF team. I had no idea what CF was. I thought it was an infection and that Logan would get some medicine and be fine. I was wrong.

Cystic fibrosis affects approximately 30,000 people in the US. As with our

case, a lot of people diagnosed with CF have no family history of it. Logan and others with CF have to spend hours a day doing treatments, taking medications, and doing airway clearance therapy to stay healthy. This disease affects every part of your life from eating, to breathing, to hygiene, to mental health. CF used to be a death sentence for children, and many did not live beyond elementary school age. Now with new research and treatments, Logan and countless others with CF can expect to live well into their 30s and beyond.

Since 1975 CFRI has taken steps to find a cure for CF and provide support to those affected by this deadly disease. They played a key role in making it mandatory in California to screen newborns for CF. Had we known Logan had CF as soon as he was born, it would have placed him on the road to better health immediately and we would have been saved a month's worth of anxiety about not knowing what was wrong with him.

Today at 2 years old, Logan is doing very well. Thanks to relatively early detection and support from CFRI, the CF community, and the doctors at Stanford, he is maintaining a healthy weight and height. He is active, funny, and incredibly smart. He has friends, and touches the heart of everyone he meets. I am learning to live for the day and look towards tomorrow because with new research and more awareness of CF Logan's future is bright.

Please help Logan and others with cystic fibrosis by supporting CFRI. With your help we can improve the lives of people with CF and look to tomorrow with less fear. Any gift you can give will bring us one step closer to a cure.

Sincerely,

Andrea Wood - Logan's mom

**PS** – Now in its 34th year, CFRI depends on your gift to continue to meet the needs of our CF community. Thank you for your support!