



Since 1977, serving the people
of North Carolina
affected by bleeding disorders.

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Dear Friends,

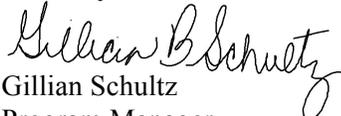
It is amazing how quickly life changes. In November 2010 Karl and I went to the hospital for a routine, scheduled C-section. Everything went as planned and we were so happy to welcome our second son Noah into the world. The following day he was taken for his circumcision, just as our other son Riley had 2 ½ years earlier. But time ticked by and he wasn't brought back to our room quickly like Riley had been. Some nurses came in to tell us Noah had prolonged bleeding, but nothing to be concerned about. Then the doctor came in and asked us if bleeding disorders were in our family histories, but we dismissed the questions. They told us they were going to stitch Noah up, which should stop the bleeding. It didn't. More time ticked by. They tried cauterizing but he still bled. Eventually the bleeding slowed down enough that the medical staff felt Noah could be brought back to us. The doctors drew blood, and in the morning we found out that Noah has moderate hemophilia A. We were told about hemophilia, treatment using recombinant factor, and how treatment had changed in the past couple of decades. We did end up having to send Noah back to the NICU where he was treated and the bleeding finally stopped. After several days in the NICU, we were able to take Noah home, but then what?

I remember the social worker at the hospital had given me the website for Hemophilia of North Carolina (HNC). I started learning about hemophilia. I found out how to join HNC and was also given the name of another mom in my area that I could meet. As I continued to learn, I felt like I needed to meet other people in the community. My family attended our first Annual Meeting and met so many nice people who understood what we were going through. I decided I wanted to get more involved with HNC, and I heard about a new program that was being developed called HOPE for those who had a young child diagnosed with a bleeding disorder. I wanted to be involved and help in whatever way I could. After volunteering for a few years, I became the Program Manager where I am excited to continue to help in the community, and plan and develop many great programs that educate and support our members.

Karl, Riley, Noah, and I attended our first walk in 2012. We named our team Hulk Smash after Noah's mealtime antics where he pounded the table like The Hulk. What a great opportunity to share and educate those around us about hemophilia. Friends and family were so willing to support us. I even got support from some of the students that I taught and Noah's teachers from his daycare. It is through this support and education that better treatments, even a cure, can be found.

From attending the many events put on by HNC including the Charlotte & Raleigh Family Festival & 5K Walks, it is evident what a tight knit community we are! It is this community that has helped me to see all the possibilities that Noah will have in his future. I hope that you will support the community and the 2017 Family Festivals & 5K Walks in North Carolina.

Sincerely,


Gillian Schultz
Program Manager

Hemophilia of North Carolina is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.