

Tori Turner's Miraculous Recovery

On February 21, 2015, Sam (age 5), Aleigh (age 3) and Tori (age 2) Turner were riding with their grandparents back home to Eufaula, Oklahoma when their car was rear ended at a stop sign by a truck travelling 60 miles per hour. While the grandparents and little Aleigh were unharmed, Sam and Tori sustained life threatening injuries and were taken via helicopter to Children's Medical Center (CMC) Dallas. Her parents Lauren and Clay Turner rushed to Dallas and became one of Ronald McDonald House of Dallas' guest families for the next 3 months.

Sam suffered a fractured pelvis, a broken leg as well as a lacerated liver and kidney. His injuries while serious, were quickly repaired by hospital staff. Tori suffered a traumatic brain injury and her brain began swelling. In addition, her lungs soon collapsed and her heart began to rupture. She needed to undergo risky medical procedures even to have a chance at survival. A heart catheter procedure was completed and a hole was drilled in her skull to reduce the swelling. She was also put on an ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) machine which kept her lungs working and took pressure off her heart.

For the next 42 days, Tori was on ECMO and also suffered from RSV and then pneumonia. Her prognosis was grave. Through it all, Lauren and Clay never left her side. With lots of prayers from people all over Texas and Oklahoma, Tori pulled through. In fact, her recovery was miraculous. Said Clay, "Even though I'm a strong Christian, it was a time of extreme despair for our family and Ronald McDonald House was a source of comfort for us. CMC Dallas took care of our son and daughter, but the House took care of my wife and me. The care given by the staff and volunteers at RMHD makes all the difference to families going through a medical crisis". After 10 1/2 weeks in the ICU, little Tori was finally moved out of the ICU and into a normal room in the pulmonary unit. By the end of May, she was finally released from the hospital and returned with her parents to Oklahoma for ongoing rehabilitation. On June 20, 4 months after the horrific accident, the Turner family experienced a special day. Little Tori, with her sister Aleigh, walked down the aisle as a flower girl in her uncle's wedding. It truly was a blessed event.

