



VHR Child #16: Nathon Riemenschnider

Age: 6 years

Hometown: Alex, OK



Diagnosis: Spastic Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy (GMFSC level V)

Background: Nathon is an extraordinary 6-year-old first-grader from Alex, Oklahoma, whose smile possesses the magical ability to entirely light up a room. Nathon is a boy defined not by his physical limitations, but by an unyielding spirit, a fierce determination, and a heart that craves attention and deep affection. Nathon's life journey has required monumental strength from day one. Due to complications during labor where he was severely deprived of oxygen, he was delivered via an emergency C-section in Lawton and rushed to OU Children's Hospital NICU, fighting for his life for 30 grueling days. Today, Nathon lives with a complex combination of neurological conditions: Cerebral Palsy (CP), seizures, dystonia, and torticollis. He is non-verbal and completely dependent on others for every daily need, receiving nutrition through a G-tube. Despite overwhelming challenges, Nathon is a true pioneer. As the only student in a wheelchair at Alex Elementary School, he faces structural hurdles every day with a brave face. He wears customized braces on his hands and legs, a supportive vest for spinal curvature, and uses a specialized communication computer to unlock his voice. Twice a week, Nathon travels to Duncan Rehab for rigorous occupational and physical therapy, where he is currently learning to master a high-tech power wheelchair controlled entirely by his head movements. Nathon is blessed with a beautiful, fiercely protective little sister named Zoey, and heroic grandparents who assumed full guardianship to give him the devoted, loving home he deserves. Nathon will soon undergo an updated MRI to determine if he is a candidate for a life-altering surgery called Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS), which could help calm the painful muscle spasms that keep him awake most of the night. Nathon is a living testament to resilience—a beautiful soul who teaches everyone around him what it truly means to fight, to love, and to overcome.

Information: Cerebral Palsy is the most common childhood motor disability in the United States. It is a neurological condition caused by brain damage or oxygen deprivation before or during birth. Nationwide, approximately 500,000 children under the age of 18 are currently living with CP. The odds of a child being diagnosed with CP are roughly 3 out of every 1,000 births.

Awareness Color and Month:

