

A Miracle Child

Katy Green-Holden refuses to quit after extensive brain injuries and being given six months to live

By Jean Green-Holden
Special to The Record

Katy Green-Holden is a miracle child.

Sunday, Dec. 5 was her third birthday. That is a milestone for her because she was given 6 months to live shortly after she was born. Katy's trauma began the moment she was born in Austin. She was taken to the NICU where she spent 5 days enduring bright lights, buzzers, alarms, phones, and many painful tests including MRIs, EEGs, and X-rays to determine the cause of rigidity in her body. All test results were normal. The neonatologist who attended her was baffled and referred Katy to a pediatric neurologist.

When Katy was two months old, she still didn't even roll over nor reach for anything. Her doctors, by this time a battery of pediatric specialists, determined that she needed surgery to help her keep her food down. They repaired three hernias, bound her esophagus, and inserted a feeding tube in her stomach. They also took a muscle specimen to send out for genetic testing. The next day, Katy was rushed into emergency surgery to repair a tear in her stomach. She was hospitalized for a month, and would not allow us to put anything in her mouth after that. The preliminary results of the genetic testing indicated that Katy had a genetic disease and that she would live to be 6 months old, maybe a year. All that conventional medicine could do was prescribe medications to keep her comfortable. Katy's family refused to accept that diagnosis and prognosis and began the search for a cure for Katy.

Katy was taken to the mitochondrial research center in San Diego, CA for further genetic testing. The results of this testing indicated that Katy did not have a genetic disease. At this point, Katy did not have a definite diagnosis. The closest diagnosis was "abnormal brain activity, cause unknown."

Katy was then taken to a neurologist in San Antonio in hopes that he would recommend and monitor a Ketogenic diet (one very high in fats) to stimulate Katy's brain. Instead, the doctor recommended different medications. He wanted to concoct a "cocktail" that would help with the spasms and rigidity that Katy presented. He also recommended Botox injections in her thighs to relax the muscles. A pediatric neurologist recommended surgery on her spine to disable some of the nerves because, as she said, "You know, Katy will never walk." Katy's family vehemently objected to this prognosis and went elsewhere to find a cure.

Conventional medical practices have not been kind to Katy. Her little hands, arms, and feet are speckled with scars from pics for IVs and blood tests and attest to what she has endured. However, there is a wonderfully touching side to Katy's odyssey.

Besides the conventional therapies, physical, occupational, speech, nutrition, and counseling provided by the gifted therapists of Homespun ECI, Katy has been treated by many loving and kind alternative therapists. Katy has been to Indiana for a one-week Cranio-Sacral intensive and for five weeks of cranio-sacral therapy at the Upledger Institute in Palm Beach Gardens, Fl. where Dr. John Upledger and a team of specialists treated Katy. She has been taken to Brazil to the spiritual healing center of John of God, and has been treated locally by a healer from Canada. Amidst all these treatments, Katy has had other alternative therapy including chiropractic treatment by a NUCCA specialist, Reiki, aromatherapy, hydrotherapy, massage therapy, music therapy. She has also been treated by practitioners of various oriental therapies including Tui Na, Qi Gong, and Jin Shin Jytsu. Most recently, Katy has begun Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in San Antonio where she receives one hour of 99 percent pure oxygen in a monoplace chamber.

Conventional medical practices have not been kind to Katy...

However, there is a wonderfully touching side to her odyssey.

Katy had a 48-hour video EEG done recently at University Hospital in San Antonio. The neurologist, Dr. Charles Szabo, reported that Katy has 5 types of seizures and is seizing all the time. He also indicated that Katy has pervasive brain damage. He was astonished that she is still alive and attributes that to the care she is given by her family. Katy requires 24 hour care which she receives from her grandmother and grandfather, Don Manning. Katy's family is thankful for the power of intercessory prayer and meditation by hundreds of friends and family, for the love Katy is shown by all people who meet her, and for the healing ministrations of all the therapists.

Katy's alternative therapies are very expensive, \$1,000 per week, and insurances don't usually cover these.

Katy is a survivor. She begins her school education this month. She has her book bag and lunch box ready and is looking forward to all her tomorrows.

#1207A

2007.12A

Katy Green-Holden has undergone several treatments and conventional medical practices, but continues to survive. She celebrated her third birthday this past Sunday.

