



Korri Hoeger, 15 Earlville, Iowa

Iowa
vs.
Eastern Illinois
September 4, 2010

KID CAPTAIN

Korri Hoeger of Earlville, Iowa, wasn't feeling well over the 2009 Labor Day weekend, so Mitzi Hoeger, Korri's mother, took the teenager to see their family doctor in nearby Manchester.

What began as a routine visit, however, turned serious: Korri's blood pressure was a sky-high 172/120. Korri was transported by ambulance to University of Iowa Children's Hospital, where her medical team determined that she had Wegener's disease, an autoimmune disorder that causes inflammation of the blood vessels and organs. Korri had hemorrhaging in her lungs, and her kidneys were not functioning properly. It was truly a life-threatening condition.

"We were scared to death," Mitzi says, "but we also knew that Korri was getting the best care anywhere."

Korri received immunosuppressive medications to treat her disease, and she began kidney dialysis. By the end of September, she was able to go home, with regular trips to UI Children's Hospital for dialysis. A few weeks later, however, Korri had a serious fungal infection, due to her weakened immune system. She was once again very sick.

Mitzi credits the UI Children's Hospital team in identifying and treating Korri's infection. "We called the doctors when Korri started not feeling good again," Mitzi says. "We couldn't explain what the problem was; Korri said she just didn't feel right. But they trusted her instincts and urged us to bring Korri back to Iowa City so they could check her out. We're really glad we did."

Korri stayed at UI Children's Hospital for the next several weeks. She went home the day before Thanksgiving—a great moment for the Hoeger family.

Now a 10th-grader at Maquoketa Valley High School, Korri and her parents travel three times a week to UI Children's Hospital for dialysis. It's about 160 miles round-trip, but an alternative option is in the works. Korri soon may become the first UI Children's Hospital patient to receive dialysis at home. This will make things easier for Mitzi and Russ, Korri's father, and allow Korri to return to a more normal schedule.

By the time she's a high-school senior and fully recovered from her infection, Korri will be good candidate for a kidney transplant. In the meantime, she's excited about the possibility of home dialysis, going to school every day, and spending time with friends.

Through it all, Korri remains positive. When asked what she told herself during her hospitalization, Korri doesn't hesitate. "That I was going to make it through and everything was going to be OK," she says. "I just wanted to be home by Christmas, and I got home by Thanksgiving, so that was exciting."

As her mom says, "She's a strong kid."

Mitzi and Russ stress that words cannot express the appreciation they feel toward the doctors, nurses, and staff members at UI Children's Hospital.

"I like to use the word 'amazing,'" Mitzi says. "They will do anything to help you, and all they want is to get kids well and back to normal...that's their goal, and they do a wonderful job."





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Families rely on UI Children's Hospital for the highest level of pediatric care available anywhere.

That's why UI Children's Hospital is ranked as one of:

- America's Best Children's Hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*
- the nation's Best Children's Hospitals by *Parents* magazine

University of Iowa Children's Hospital

UI Children's Hospital has been dedicated to meeting the health care needs of children and their families for more than 90 years. We provide comprehensive health care for children from birth to young adulthood. Services range from wellness and prevention to the care of traumatic injuries, life-threatening and chronic illnesses, and developmental disabilities. As part of an academic medical center, UI Children's Hospital also performs ground-breaking research to help solve the mysteries of childhood diseases, in addition to training the next generation of health care professionals.

During the 2010 football season, University of Iowa Children's Hospital is proud to partner with the Iowa Hawkeyes to feature life-changing stories of pediatric patients treated at UI Children's Hospital.

Watch Kid Captains take the field at Kinnick this fall and learn more about their remarkable stories at uihealthcare.com/children.

You can help

The ability of UI Children's Hospital to offer top-quality care in a welcoming environment is due, in part, to support from generous supporters. Thanks to private gifts, we have been able to:

- Offer programs and amenities that **enhance the emotional well-being** of our patients and their families, making the hospital feel as comfortable and home-like as possible
- Purchase **advanced medical technology** that can more easily diagnose or treat childhood conditions
- **Expand and renovate our facilities** to reflect our commitment to family-centered care. Most patient rooms are now private, with space for parents to stay in their child's room, 24 hours a day.

With your help, we can do even more to help children and their families. Here are just some of the ways we can enhance our services with the help of private support:

- Build a new UI Children's Hospital, designed from the ground up as a state-of-the-art, family-friendly environment
- Create a research endowment aimed at solving childhood's most common and difficult conditions, from diabetes to leukemia
- Attract more of the world's best pediatric physicians and researchers to UI Children's Hospital

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