

AMAZING KID

Amanda Wannamaker



Making a difference one child at a time!

110° Amazing Kid (November)

Amanda Wannamaker — An Amazing Kid

By Laura Page

Tamarah Wannamaker nominated her ten-year-old daughter, Amanda, to receive the honor of being this month's Amazing Kid because of the inspiration her daughter provides for children with physical struggles.

Amanda herself has struggled her entire life with a condition called Brachial Plexus Erb's Palsy, which is a paralysis in her right arm caused by an injury to the nerves in the arm that occurred at the time of birth.

Amanda's own difficulties have taught her to be accepting of other people's struggles. She has genuine empathy for people with disabilities because of the challenges presented by her own physical condition.

Amanda's injury was so severe that a specialist originally believed that her condition might prevent her from ever living a normal life. However, the doctor didn't count on Amanda developing into a person with a fierce commitment to overcoming her disability. The courageous little girl has worked countless hours performing exercises and undergoing strenuous therapy routines designed to increase movement and range-of-motion to the limb that had been immobilized by her birth trauma.



Contrary to her doctor's prediction, Amanda leads an active life, participating in gymnastics and playing soccer. Tamarah testified that Amanda has never been tempted to use her injury as an excuse to avoid physical activities, but has fiercely maintained a can-do attitude, refusing to make allowance for her disability and working hard to equal the activities of her schoolmates.

Amanda works harder at sports than she would if she didn't have her condition. However, her hard work generates a great pay-off in the assurance that she is attaining her personal best and becoming a role model for her friends.

Amanda owes a great deal of her positive attitudes and extraordinary accomplishments to her therapist, Beleste, who has always encouraged her to work hard and to keep pressing towards the goals that she hopes to accomplish.

Amanda's refusal to be limited by her condition places her in the company of some notable people who also coped with Erb's Palsy — ranging from Joseph Stalin to Martin Sheen. One of the most important women who ever lived, Queen Victoria, reportedly suffered from the same condition that afflicts Amanda.

Estimates run as high as two babies in a thousand that are born with the condition in America, which would mean that more than 600 thousand Americans may be facing the challenge that Amanda has been struggling to overcome.

Amanda has dedicated herself to raising public awareness of the disease. October was Brachial Plexus Awareness month, and Amanda rallied her Girl Scout troop together to help raise money to finance the search for medical remedies and treatments for the condition.

Tamarah said that Amanda lights up the room when she enters it. She loves life and enjoys confronting challenges and overcoming them. Her example provides inspiration for all children or young people who might imagine that they can't do something simply because some physical condition requires them to work harder than others might have to work.

Her struggles have provided Amanda with wisdom and insights into the nature of life that she might have otherwise missed. The necessity of overcoming her physical disability has provided Amanda with a goal that calls for an energetic response — plus one that requires a great deal of commitment and effort, continually challenges her to do her best, and doubtless provides her with a reason to look forward to waking up in the morning, just to see what each new day will bring.

Amanda has learned that struggles aren't limitations; that circumstances can't constrain accomplishments for any person who makes a deliberate choice to succeed.

We are impressed with this young woman and are glad to honor Amanda Wannamaker as November's Amazing Kid.

Send any opinion about the article to editors@110mag.com.

Do you know an "Amazing Kid" between the ages of five and 18 years old that is worthy of this award?

To Nominate an "Amazing Kid" go to www.110mag.com and click on The Amazing Kid Nomination link.