

## Manatee Hope Testimonial

The Humphrey Family was complete when their youngest daughter, Fiona, was born making them a family of six. After a childhood of being misdiagnosed not once, but twice, Fiona was diagnosed with a rare, terminal disorder called Sanfilippo Syndrome Type A, in 2016. Sanfilippo is a progressive neuro-degenerative, metabolic disorder that is caused by an enzyme deficiency and causes severe damage to the brain. Type A is associated with a deficiency of heparan N-sulfatase, and it is the most common and most severe type, with the average life span being just 15 years. Even though Fiona has been coming to therapy for a few years to help maintain her well-being and quality of life, the family did not realize how big an impact Manatee Hope would have on their lives until May 2018. Manatee Hope is a non-profit organization that provides holistic services, such as Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Speech, and Mental Health Counseling, to individuals who are underinsured and who qualify based on the low-income scale.

In May 2018, Randy, Fiona's father, had a grand mal seizure while sitting around a camp fire with friends in Orlando. Thankfully, his friends were familiar with seizures and acted quickly. After being transported to the hospital, he was diagnosed with a golf ball sized brain tumor. Within 12 hours of arriving at the hospital, he was having surgery to remove the tumor. The trauma of the tumor and surgery made it so he was unable to move the left side of his body and barely able to talk for the first month of recovery. Intensive rehab is costly, and since Randy was uninsured the family was unable to find any affordable options for him. Manatee Hope's mission is to bridge the gap in order for underinsured individuals to receive services. With the use of the Manatee Hope funds, Randy has been able to receive the intensive therapy required to regain his skills. Also, his family has been able to get the support needed to cope with the trauma. For the past four months, Randy has been able to receive 8-10 therapy sessions a week with a co-pay of just \$5 per session. He has recently graduated from speech therapy, but is still receiving OT, PT and counseling. His recovery is improving by leaps and bounds. He is very excited to be able to play with Fiona again, as well as getting back to work in the next month.

When asked about Manatee Hope, Randy had nothing but praise to say and said, "Without Manatee Hope I would not be able to do half of the things I am doing right now." He could not be more thankful for the opportunity to receive the services at such an affordable rate for himself and his children and said, "It has saved my family."



Please make a donation to:

Manatee Hope ~ 3821 East State Rd 64 ~ Bradenton, FL  
34208

