



## From "she never will"... to she can and she is! All because of H.O.P.E.!

Shortly after Kelsi's birth, my husband I were greeted by a well meaning geneticist. She informed us that there was "something genetic going on" with Kelsi. After sending this doctor away and a couple of weeks of denial, we had to admit that Kelsi did have, if nothing else, health and developmental needs. In search of answers, we spent 2 years with that same geneticist trying to discover the root of these needs. A month before Kelsi's 2nd birthday, she was diagnosed with Costello syndrome. She was the 18th person in the world given this diagnosis. So our journey into the unknown continued...

It is amazing the things that you can do... when the people in your life believe in you!

Although we made sure that Kelsi got the best therapies and interventions possible, we continually heard "she never will." Prior to her diagnosis, we were told that she wouldn't live long. As a toddler we were told that most likely she would never walk, never eat without a feeding tube and she would never be able to talk or communicate with others. "Don't get your hopes up" was a resounding phrase. With lots of faith and commitment... Kelsi lived! Kelsi walked! Kelsi talked! Kelsi CAN eat! Then she started school...yet again we were encouraged to be discouraged... that is until we learned about The Full Life Ahead Foundation where we found hope!

It was an incredible feeling to have others truly **believe** that Kelsi COULD! The Full Life Ahead Foundation advocated for Kelsi in school when we were told that she would **never** 

be able to read. Because Full Life Ahead was there and communicated Kelsi's **strengths and gifts**, the staff at the school began to **believe** that Kelsi could. Guess what? Kelsi learned how to read! Later when Kelsi was determined to have a job and get a paycheck, we turned to Full Life Ahead again. They were there for her as a young adult and for us as parents, **leading**, **guiding**, **educating**, and **connecting** the dots. It wasn't long that Kelsi had a job and Kelsi has held that job for over 3 years! One day Kelsi wants to have her own place to live. We **believe!** She **will!** 

The Full Life Ahead Foundation is all about **H.O.P.E.**! Helping Other People Envision all of the **possibilities** of what can be! As a mom, I have experienced **the power of H.O.P.E.**! A little over a year ago, I became Executive Director of The Full Life Ahead Foundation. I came here because with all that is in me, I **believe** that we can **spread H.O.P.E.** and the excitement of **accomplishment** to individuals with disAbilities and their families! This has been true for my family and now I have seen the **fruits multiplying** for other families.

On behalf of The Full Life Ahead Foundation, please consider a contribution to help us continue our work with families, bringing them the power of **H.O.P.E.** and the **excitement** of accomplishment!

Thank you from all of us, for your help!

Tammy Moore

**Executive Director** 

Wishing you and yours a full life ahead,

Henry Barclay III Founder, Board President

Jammy Moore Henry Barreay, " Judy Barclay

Judy Barclay Founder, President Emeritus

Jan Gallp

Jan Cobb Founder, Treasurer

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- Tammy Moore



Believe... Give and give H.O.P.E.!