

In Loving Memory of Erin Hurt: October 6, 2006 – April 17, 2019



By Allison Hurt

Erin was born at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, one minute after her twin sister (Haley) in the early morning hours of October 6, 2006. Born 8 weeks premature, Erin weighed in at just over three and a half pounds. She spent her first five weeks in the NICU, where I watched over her, along with her grandma and grandpa. Erin thrived after she got to go home, and grew into a beautiful girl, with big brown eyes and thick curly brown hair (which she hated but everyone else loved). She was smart, spunky, fun-loving and thoughtful. She had a special place in her heart for cats, friends, taking care of children and singing (in that order). She was a special girl and was loved by many.

Erin had her first seizure at 18 months old. It was diagnosed as a febrile (fever) seizure. After that, she had seizures with almost every fever until she turned 6 years old. At that time, just as the pediatrician had predicted, she outgrew them. Then suddenly, at age 11, she had a seizure out of the blue without a fever. I was told by the neurologist not to worry about it unless she had another one in the next six months. Just over six months later, she did have another one. At that time, her neurologist prescribed a powerful anti-seizure medication. This medication was so powerful, that the dosing had to gradually increase to get to full strength. Even at less than full strength the medication made Erin feel badly. She would sit on the floor and just cry because she didn't feel right. The medication also didn't seem to work for her, because she kept having seizures.

Soon after she was up to the full dose on this medication, she had a major seizure and quit breathing. When her mom found her, she immediately started CPR, while her sister called 911. The first responders continued to work on her all the way to the hospital. It wasn't until after they arrived at the hospital that they got a heart beat back. Unfortunately, there was just too much brain damage, and she passed away at the hospital later that same day.

Life will never be the same without this beautiful child in my life. In hopes that it prevents another tragedy, Erin's memorial fund is being used to enable the Danny Did Foundation to provide families with a potentially lifesaving device that detects seizures and alerts the caregiver. My daughter would be happy that contributions made in her memory are being used to help others.