

Look closely

What do you see?

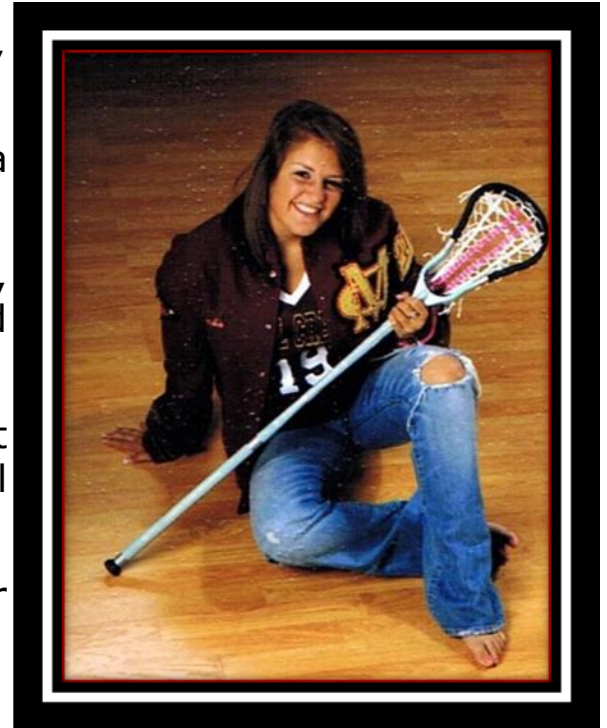
This is our beautiful, 17 year old daughter, Anna.

You may know her as a friend, a neighbor, or a student.

You may see her fun painted fingernails, sparkling blue eyes, cute bare feet and amazing smile.

You may see her lacrosse stick, letter jacket and senior ring – signs of an active high school student.

You may see her out with friends, eating dinner after a big game or shopping at the mall.



Look closer

What you likely DON'T see are the scarred pads of her fingers, calloused from the multiple finger sticks she must do each day to check her blood sugar.

You don't see the backs of those eyes, retinas so fragile, withstanding for now the stresses of life with Type 1 Diabetes. You don't see the risk of complications in her lovely feet.

You don't see her insulin pump, likely on her upper arm or lower back, keeping her body infused with life-giving insulin.

You don't see her purse, backpack, or handbag – though one of them is there, just out of the picture – holding the keys to her daily routine: blood glucose monitor and strips, spare pump supplies and insulin, extra batteries, and fast acting carbs to ward off low blood sugars.

You don't see what goes through her mind before she takes a bite to eat: "What is my blood sugar? How many carbs are in this meal? Will I exercise or be sedentary after I eat? Will I have to drive? Am I going to eat my whole meal? Should I give insulin now or wait until I'm done eating? ---- Is anyone watching me?"

You don't see her daily routine: *up in the morning (check blood sugar), eat*

*breakfast (count carbs and give insulin), drive to school (check blood sugar), eat lunch (check blood sugar, count carbs, give insulin), take a test at school (check blood sugar – since stress can elevate it), leave school (check blood sugar to drive), lacrosse practice (check blood sugar and eat snack/give insulin), eat dinner (check blood sugar, give insulin), go to bed (check blood sugar and eat snack/give long-acting insulin via syringe), middle of night (set alarm to check blood sugar if too low before bed)... day after day after day after day after day after day... **Diabetes never sleeps and never takes breaks.***

You don't see that she lives with a chronic illness – Type 1 Diabetes – and that each day is filled with a million details. You don't see that it touches everything she does and everything she is.

Look a bit closer... you might just see how desperately she STILL hopes for a CURE.