

one possible®

The Progeria Research Foundation

June 1, 2020

Dear Friends of The Progeria Research Foundation,

I first suspected Zach had a health issue when he was 8 weeks old. We noticed an unusual cluster of bumps on his stomach and called the doctor right away. The next 8 months was a blur of doctors' appointments. We finally saw a dermatologist who suspected Progeria, which was confirmed 4 weeks later by a DNA test.

I felt powerless and alone. My husband had seen something about Progeria on TV once but I hadn't, so we set out to learn all we could and soon found The Progeria Research Foundation. ***Connecting with PRF filled us with such relief – someone was out there who cared about my son, who was fighting for a cure.***

We enrolled Zach in the PRF-funded clinical drug trial at Boston Children's Hospital when he was 3, and that gave us a lot of hope that the drug lonafarnib would help him – which it did! PRF also connected us with other families who are now part of our extended family, gave us the Progeria Clinical Care Handbook to help answer our questions about things like daily medical care and school challenges, and kept their promise to always be there for us when we need them. Most importantly, they give us piece of mind – knowing there are world-class researchers in our corner, working to cure this fatal disease and help our son.



Zach at 18 months - always a happy, sweet baby!



Zach playing Fortnite with his friends.

Fast-forward ten years, and Zach is a smart, happy, adventurous kid with a heart of gold and an awesome sense of humor. He's a typical 7th grader who loves online gaming and hanging out with his friends. He's also on the Math Team and loves music – Queen is his favorite!

There are definite challenges that come with Progeria, but we're optimistic about Zach's future and have hope he'll lead a long and happy life because PRF found one treatment – lonafarnib – and is making so much progress on a cure.

I'm so grateful to PRF for fighting for Zach every day, and for making Zach and our family's future brighter. And I'm grateful to ***you***, for making that bright future possible through your continued support.

Tina Pickard

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This is why we do what we do. The Progeria Research Foundation is dedicated to making sure Zach and all children and young adults with Progeria have a bright future. Please continue your vital support and be ONE who makes the cure POSSIBLE!