



Charlotte Cleverly-Bisman

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It seems that all kids dream of going to summer camp at some point in their lives. For five year-old, Charlotte Cleverly-Bisman, her wish to attend camp is more than just to run and play. As a quad-amputee, this is Charlotte's chance to be with other kids that have lost limbs, just like her.

Charlotte was a happy and healthy baby, until one day in June 2004 when everything changed. What initially seemed like the flu quickly became Meningococcal Septicemia, a blood poisoning disease that can result in death within hours. Survival did not seem likely for six month-old "Baby Charlotte" as she became known. The disease moved so quickly that she had to be resuscitated twice within the first half hour in the emergency room.

Over the course of three weeks Charlotte's parents watched in horror as death seemed to move upwards through their baby girl. After only two weeks, 80% of Charlotte's body was affected by the disease, blackened or blistered. By the third week, the time had come for Charlotte to undergo amputations of her arms and legs, or her life would be lost. The initial amputation, while saving as much of the limbs as possible, appeared successful. Unfortunately infection took hold, requiring further amputation on two of her limbs.

Amazingly, Charlotte defied the odds, surviving both the surgeries and the disease. Her recovery was a slow process as she learned to eat through her mouth again and her wounds began to heal. After twice a day therapy for three months, Charlotte was finally able to go home. While Charlotte continues to face challenges as she lives life without the full use of her arms or legs, she maintains a great smile and a desire to be active. This summer Charlotte will be carrying that smile with her as she attends summer camp with the grant that she received from the Challenged Athletes Foundation.