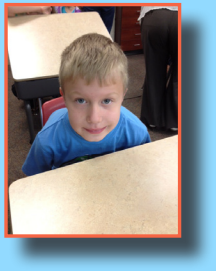
United in Health

Did You Know?

An estimated 1,000 Nebraskans have a neuromuscular disease. Muscular dystrophy can affect people of all ages. Although some forms become apparent in infancy or childhood, others may not appear until adulthood.



MDA Muscular Dystrophy Association
Fighting Muscle Disease

COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARITIES℠
NEBRASKA

Many people have never heard of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy or DMD. Neither had Brent and Jennifer, until their son, Braden, was diagnosed when he was 3-years-old. DMD is a debilitating neuromuscular disease affecting mainly boys and causes profound muscle weakness throughout the body. There is no cure.

When Braden was born he was healthy and happy and met every milestone of development. Brent and Jennifer never thought anything was wrong until Braden's two year well child checkup. He wasn't talking as he should and later that year, he started falling more, had trouble climbing stairs, and tired easily when walking for a short distance. Blood work pointed to the fact that Braden had Muscular Dystrophy. After getting the news, the weeks that followed were some of the worst in their lives. Brent and Jennifer looked up the disease on the internet and were completely devastated.

Right now, Braden is 8-years-old and loves sports, especially basketball. He has a hard time even shooting the ball because of how weak his arms are, but he never quits. He loves being with his friends and enjoys school.

Since being diagnosed, Brent and Jennifer have been active within the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) and have attended many events to support finding a cure. They hope with all of the money raised that they will help to find a cure for Duchenne and all the other diseases the MDA raises money for. Although this is a devastating disease, they are confident that there will be a cure soon, because of all the promising research studies being done.