

## Hard Work Pays Off

*Dave & JoAnn McKenzie, MNRI® Parents, St. Paul, MN, USA*



**M**y daughter Diana was born normal in 1983. At the age of 10 months she had a status seizure (which is a prolonged seizure) and from that she was induced into a coma. She was in a coma for 3 days. When she awoke from the coma she had brain damage throughout her whole brain and severe liver damage.

This left her completely floppy with no muscle tone, and no reflexes. She was diagnosed with viral encephalitis, yet the cause was still unknown. Since she was under the age of 2 years her final diagnosis is athetoid cerebral palsy. The cause is still unknown. Diana is quadriplegic and fully dependent on others for all of her care and needs. She has lived at home her entire life and I, her mother, am her primary care giver.



Dave & JoAnn McKenzie



Diana McKenzie out at the hair salon.

I have been providing many types of therapy in our home for Diana for years. Shortly after the time of Diana's diagnosis we began working with Gillette Children's Hospital with outpatient therapy. This meant I had to bring Diana to Gillette several times a week. Bringing Diana back and forth just about every day became too much. It was at this time outpatient therapy was stopped and we started working with A Chance to Grow. While working with ACTG we had speech and occupational therapists who came to our home for several years, eventually the state made cuts and we had to start to bring Diana to ACTG for speech and OT. We also began a neuro-physiological therapy program as a family which was run by myself and volunteers in our home six days a week for six hours a day. Diana did this program for 18 years which helped to keep her body well maintained.

In 2005 at the age of 22 Diana was first evaluated by Dr. Masgutova. Dr. Masgutova set Diana up with a program, that we did at home daily for a year. Diana attended Dr. Masgutova's Children's and Adult Conference in 2006 in Florida. We came home and did 5 programs and worked daily on reflexes that we had learned at the Conference. Since 2006 Diana has made many great strides. Her symmetry has greatly

improved. The curvature of her spine is an S-curve (it was a C-curve which is worse) and is decreasing, not increasing! This is unheard of for her age. In 2008 the degree of the curvature lying down was 98 and in 2009 Diana's spine decreased to 90 degrees. This is greatly due to Dr. Masgutova diagnosing that Diana's spine is too big for her core body and that Spinal Galant and Trunk Extension were dysfunctional reflexes. Dr. Masgutova's manipulations and suggesting working daily with these reflexes has greatly helped Diana. If we had not got this information from Dr. Masgutova, she would have been destined for rod surgery. Diana's muscle tone has also improved significantly. We still follow Dr. Masgutova's program today, 6 days a week, and see Dr. Masgutova a couple times a year. At the present time Diana's symmetry is still improving, the scoliosis is still decreasing, and her spine is flexible. Her spasticity is decreasing immensely, the reflexes are integrating. Her muscles, tendons, and ligaments are growing. Her seizures are decreasing and fine motor skills are improving and she is vocalizing a lot more. Diana has started speech development and reading and now her cognition is increasing day by day. We see more and more improvements over the years as we continue to do this program.

Diana is on no medications and has never had any surgeries. MNRI® pays off in the long run versus taking the easy way out (surgeries). Diana's body is currently going through some EXTREME changes (a lot that can be visually seen in the past couple months) since we have



Diana during an outing at the Minnesota Arboretum with her mother, JoAnn, and Kaity McKenna, Diana's Personal Care Attendant who does MNRI® along with JoAnn.



Diana McKenzie today.

been doing Dr. Masgutova's program 6 days a week, almost every week. We are very excited to see such very positive changes coming so quickly now. It seems as though we have been preparing the body for so many years and now it is getting ready to snap back into place. Diana has a left dislocated hip but she is gaining muscle mass around the joint which is then holding the hip in the joint a lot better, and her spine curvature is still decreasing. We continue to gain more and more symmetry throughout the whole body. We are diligently working with her Trunk Extension Reflexes that are lengthening all the ligaments in the legs.

One thing that has changed a ton in the past few months is her left side, along with the hip (she was slouching down to the left). We have been doing Breathing Reflex techniques and strengthening her rib cage and other areas so much that she is not slouching over as much anymore. Her bottom left ribs are starting to lay down nicely and aren't as protruded as they were. Everything is really just starting to come together very nicely!



*Diana, we congratulate you for your new achievements as one of our first Conference participants. We are so proud of your success! Dear JoAnn, we thank you as a true MNRI® Mom. Your testament that you LOVE to do MNRI® exercises with your daughter is the key for your success! Thank you for this attitude. And thank you to Diana's family for your trust and good work! – Dr. Masgutova & MNRI® Team*