

BLEEDING DISORDERS FOUNDATION
OF NORTH CAROLINA



260 Town Hall Drive
Suite A
Morrisville, NC 27560
919-319-0014
Fax: 919-319-0016
www.bleedingdisordersnc.org
info@bleedingdisordersnc.org

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Dear Friends,

My family's life changed after the birth of our second son. We already had one healthy son, and everything went as planned with Noah's birth. But when he wasn't brought back to us quickly after his circumcision, we knew that something wasn't right. The doctors started asking if there was a history of bleeding disorders in my husband's or my family, because they couldn't get the bleeding to stop. It took hours of constant pressure, along with stitches and cauterization for the bleeding to finally slow. The next morning we received the diagnosis that we were entirely unprepared for – moderate hemophilia A. Noah spent a few days in the NICU where he received his first factor infusion and then we took him home.

We knew that we had to learn all that we could about hemophilia. My husband and I both knew that hemophilia was a bleeding disorder, and that in the past, people with hemophilia contracted HIV, though that didn't happen anymore. We did some research and found out that there was an organization in NC, **Bleeding Disorders Foundation of North Carolina** that provided support for people with hemophilia. We quickly started attending all their events so that we could learn more. I was connected with another mom and we met many other families who have children with bleeding disorders. I learned from the men with bleeding disorders – Blood Brothers – about what it's like to grow up with hemophilia. The people who we have met and connected with over the years have become like a second family. We support each other through our ups and downs, and never have to feel isolated or alone.

That was more than eleven years ago, and Noah is a typical kid! He plays soccer, rides his bike, plays with his friends, and spends entirely too much time on electronics! And while he sometimes complains about having hemophilia, he hasn't let it stop him. He looks forward to BDFNC events, where he can meet up with his friends who have a bleeding disorder like him.

We knew we needed to give back to the organization that helped us so much, so we started participating in the walks in 2012. Fundraising has provided us a great opportunity to share and educate those around us about hemophilia and bleeding disorders. Friends and family have always been so willing to support us. Riley and Noah have also started fundraising with a lemonade stand.

BDFNC is an amazing community! They provided my family hope and continue to provide the same kind of support to individuals and families across North Carolina. Please support the 2022 Family Festivals & Walks, so that others can find the same support and community that has helped my family through so much.

Thank you,

Gillian Schultz
Director of Programs