

PATIENT
AMBASSADOR

Grant Heaton



Grant Heaton is a six-year-old boy who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Duchenne is a rare genetic disease that causes muscle loss due to an inability to produce dystrophin. This means that Grant's muscles (all of them) break down and turn into scar tissue rather than build back stronger. Boys with Duchenne are in a wheelchair around the age of ten and life expectancy is in their mid 20's. There is no cure for Duchenne and really no treatment.

Grant and his parents (Paul and Laura Heaton) went to a Shrine free clinic screening in Billings, Montana when he was three because he was having some trouble walking and was falling a lot. From there they were sent to Shriners Hospital for Children in Spokane, Washington. There they received the diagnoses of Duchenne. Albedoo Shrine and the Shriners Hospital have been instrumental in Grant's medical care with check-ups to monitor progression, physical therapy consults, and custom AFO braces (night splints). The Shrine has been such a rewarding and knowledgeable resource for Grant and his family as they handle this life altering diagnosis. They would like to say "Thank you from the bottom of their hearts."

Other than his Duchenne diagnosis, Grant is a boy through and through! He enjoys helping out with his folks' small bunch of cows and playing outside. He really likes school (kindergarten) and building stuff. Grant and his big sister (Elyse) are often building projects at home and playing nonstop. Part of Grant's physical therapy is horseback riding and this has become a great family activity.

The Heaton's are determined to have as normal and fulfilling a life for Grant as possible and concentrate on finding a "work around" to make sure he doesn't miss out on any adventures that come their way!