



Bright Light Foundation

Matthew Sherertz

2010 BLF Recipient



Matthew Sherertz had a motorcycle accident in June 1992, one week after his seventeenth birthday, that forever changed his life. He was lifeflighted to Hermann Hospital in the Medical Center with multiple life-threatening injuries to his abdomen and additional injuries to his face, upper jaw, arm, and leg. Nine hours of surgery involving the equivalent of five major surgeries saved his life. Dr. Red Duke, his trauma surgeon, said Matthew was the first person he had seen live with the magnitude of his injuries. His abdominal injuries involved his entire digestive system and have left him with significant lifelong issues involving digestion. The front upper part of the bone in his mouth was ripped out. He has had multiple surgeries on his mouth and dental implants placed twice but due to the magnitude of the injuries they have failed both times. In September 1996 complications from the original surgeries caused life-threatening issues resulting in surgery and another long recovery.

Matthew faces health challenges daily and is medically disabled as a result. Getting enough nutrition is a daily problem. Nausea, fatigue, and pain are challenges as well. He faces significant dental work in the near future.

The Bright Light Foundation enables Matthew to receive care that significantly impacts his life in a positive way. Although the health challenges are many and ongoing, it is comforting to know that there are people who care and make such a wonderful difference in the lives of people they do not know.

God bless you all.