



# Bright Light Foundation

## David Tadrzak

*2013 BLF Recipient*



God forever changed the lives of David, Leann, and James Tadrzak on April 9, 2012. David and James, his son, were driving home from Cypress

Christian School baseball practice. David began to feel bad and pulled into the Lowe's parking lot (1st God thing). He got out of his truck and lay on the ground (2nd God thing). He told James to call his Grammy and ask what the symptoms were for Heat Stroke while they waited on Leann to arrive. While talking with David's mom, James noticed that David had become unresponsive. James hung up and tried

to call 911 with David's phone and it would not go through (3rd God thing). He then flagged down a man in the parking lot and asked if he could use his phone to call 911. That phone also would not go through, so he then had to stop a 2nd person and ask for his phone. The call went through and James began to explain what was happening. Leann arrived while James was talking and James handed her the phone. She said that David was gray from the neck up and did not think that he was breathing. When the man, whose phone we were using, heard he was not breathing he dropped to his knees and began CPR (4th God thing). (If David's phone had gone through, there would not have been someone there to start CPR).

As soon as the CPR was started the EMS drove up (5th God thing). They were right across the street from Lowe's. They began to work on David in the parking lot. They had to shock David's heart 2 X's before he was stable enough to ride in the ambulance. David arrived at St. Luke's Hospital with his heart beating and in the process of having a heart attack. (The EMS guy came by to visit David the next Sunday morning and told Leann that for the first time ever in his career a heart attack person's heart started after being shocked without having to have any medicine. It started beating on its own. They rushed David to the Cath Lab and began the process. We were told that it would be about a 45 minute procedure, and 2 hours later, the doctor appeared. We were advised that David should have never made into the back of the ambulance. David had what the doctors call a "Widow Maker". The main artery to the heart was 100% blocked. The



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doctor worked very hard to clean the artery out so a stint could be placed into the area of the blockage (6th God thing). David was

stable for a while as they were trying to bring his body temperature down to help with the brain trauma that was sustained when he stopped breathing for the 7 to 10 minutes, when his blood pressure bottomed out. He then had to be rushed back into the Cath Lab to have a balloon pump placed around his heart. He kept the balloon pump in place till Thursday evening.

David stayed in St. Luke's hospital for a total of 3 weeks. He was then transferred to TIRR Memorial Herman Hospital for 5 weeks. While he was at TIRR, David worked with many therapists. Before he left TIRR David was walking with much help 500 feet. David was then transferred to a skilled nursing facility. He stayed there 2 1/2 weeks and from there we brought David home on June 19, 2012. David came home with a feeding tube and a catheter. Because of the lack of therapy David received from the skilled nursing facility when he arrived home he could no longer sit, stand, or walk with even assistance. We had to start from scratch again. It was about mid-August when David spoke his first word since April 9th. Then from there things started hopping. David began to sit without being belted into a chair, he also began to stand and walk with assistance. By the end of August David was walking totally on his own. The catheter was removed in early September and the feeding tube came out at end of December 2012.

Since mid-September 2012, David has been involved with speech, vision, and occupational therapies. Each one of the different therapies has made a huge difference in the process of David's recovery. He is also involved with a program called Learning Rx, which is a brain training program that is helping with the recovery from the brain injury. David also works with a trainer twice a week, which is helping with his overall physical abilities. David has come such a long way, and still has a ways to go, but with God's direction and provisions, we know that David will make a full recovery. David is one big walking miracle "in progress" and the biggest one is that David's heart is almost 100% fully functional. We were told that his heart should be 40% damaged due to the heart attack. After having a second heart cath done on July 5, 2012, the test showed that David's heart has less than 2% damage at the very tip. Our God is in the business of miracles and the Tadrzak family is able to see one almost every day. Everything happens in God's will, God's way, and in God's timing!



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