

INSPIRING HOPE

Mallory McDevitt - “Fully living my life as a Congenital Heart Defect Survivor....”

Hi, my name is Mallory McDevitt. I was born in 1990 with Tetralogy of Fallot with Pulmonary Atresia. When I was one week old, I underwent my first open-heart surgery. Since the cadaver part that I received did not grow with me, at age 11 I needed another surgery to receive a larger pulmonary artery. As high school was ending, I began to experience more fatigue, but I was excited to go off to college. However, after only a few weeks away at college my doctors wanted me to come home for a routine cardiac cath.



During my cardiac cath, my heart went into Ventricular Tachycardia and I had to be shocked 3 times. The decision was made that it was time for me to have my 3rd open-heart surgery and give me a pulmonary valve. This meant that I would not be able to return to college right away and I was devastated. My surgery went well but there was still the V-fib issue and we began discussing the possibility of me having an ICD. This is the last thing I wanted but I knew I needed to have it. While I was recuperating, I finished all of my college classes online so I did not fall behind. Then, two weeks before my second semester began, I had my ICD implanted and I

can't believe I actually started my 2nd semester on time after all of that.

I am so thankful to have all the support of my family and especially my doctors and nurses at Nationwide Children's Hospital. I am currently a senior at Drake University. I am a History major and want to be a museum curator. I have studied abroad in France, started a French Club at my college, have an internship at a museum house, work part-time and take a full class load. It isn't always easy trying to be “normal” and deal with all the issues your heart problem can create but I am able to live a blessed life and love all my life- savers at NCH. As a matter of fact, I should be transitioning over to the adult program, but I can't leave Dr. Wheller just yet.

If you've had a similar experience, or would just like to talk to Mallory about living with heart disease, her contact information is listed below!

Mended Hearts of Central Ohio

www.MendedHeartsCentralOhio.org - Mallory.mcdevitt@drake.edu;

It is great to be alive – and to help others