
Hello! My name is Amanda Weichers and my husband and I have one child, a 2 year old son named Beau (pronounced "Bo"). We would like to tell you a little about Beau's story and why we are organizing the Bowling for Epilepsy Awareness event that is being held on Saturday April 10th, 2010 at Maple Lanes in Waterloo, Iowa. All money raised at this event will stay in Iowa and will be donated to the Iowa Epilepsy Foundation.

Beau was born on February 7, 2008 at 41 weeks and had some breathing complications at birth that required that he be hospitalized in the NICU for 7 days. Aside from his early problems Beau remained a very healthy little boy although we had started to become concerned with some of his developmental delays. Before we could determine the cause of his delays we had the scare of our lives. On July 29, 2009, Beau, at the age of almost 18 months, suffered a major seizure in his sleep and aspirated a lot of vomit. Upon finding him in very bad shape, the ambulance arrived and got him to Covenant Medical Center. That evening he was transported by ambulance to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital in Iowa City. After numerous tests it was determined that Beau has a rare congenital brain abnormality called Dysgenesis of the Corpus Callosum. As it is explained on the NODCC website, each hemisphere of the brain is specialized to control movement and feeling in the opposite half of the body, and each hemisphere specializes in processing certain types of information (such as language or spatial patterns). Thus, to coordinate movement or to think about complex information, the hemispheres must communicate with each other. The corpus callosum is the main connector that allows that communication. Beau has a portion of his corpus callosum, but it is very misshapen and small. This diagnosis gave us an explanation for his developmental delays. After he was sent home he suffered from more seizures. Beau was diagnosed with epilepsy and was also found to have an abnormality in the right side of his brain. Beau's seizures have all occurred at sleep and they cause him left sided paralysis for up to 2 hours following the seizure. Beau takes medication twice daily to control his seizures but changes to his medication have been made recently due to a recurrence of seizure activity. Beau attends numerous speech and physical therapies every week and has just recently begun to take a few steps on his own!

We are holding this event to promote awareness about epilepsy and brain disorders in general. I'm excited to be a part of raising money for research on ways to cure epilepsy. We love the "Beau"tiful child God has given us and we want to help him and other children, teens and adults living with epilepsy. Please join us in our endeavor and let's make a difference for Epilepsy in the State of Iowa. Not another moment lost to seizures.

God Bless,
Amanda, Andy and Beau Weichers

Please contact me to register for this event, gain sponsorship information or with any other questions you may have: 319-215-7987.

