

February 22, 2004

It is a bittersweet task to be asked to write about SMA and how it affects our family. I read Shea's letter and feel proud that Larry and I raised her to be confident and look at the glass half full, instead of half empty. And as we in our home promote that attitude, there is a reality to this situation that must be dealt with, hence my appeal to you to consider donating to this cause. Only a handful of children fight this monster daily, and because it draws so little attention in the medical field, the chances for its cure is far less likely than say cancer, or AIDS. Children with SMA I, won't be here to fight the battle, as they rarely live past 2 years of age. Make this your opportunity to make a difference.

The "Walk for Shea" is so important to us as a family in many respects. It reminds us that we are not alone. People care and want to help, and even you seeking this website, exhibits that to us. Secondly, the money raised goes specifically to Families of SMA, a small organization comprised only of volunteers that in some way have been affected by SMA.

Though to most, an unbearable thought having a child with such challenges, we now realize the gift we have been given. She forced me as an adult, to reprioritize my life, and has brought to the table, more insight into the purpose of life at age eight, than I in my 42 years of living it!

She is perfect. But unlike her, I do pray every day for there to be a cure so that my strong-willed daughter is at least able to experience all of life your children do.

My greatest wish is that in some way, Shea influences your life. Your participation in the "Walk for Shea" is the beginning of that journey. We all struggle to reveal the reasons we were put on earth, and that's one battle Shea doesn't need to fight. She was born with wings; we need to earn them.

Megan O'Shea Megale
"Shea's Mom"

