July 2015

This is the tale of two photos.

Above is Marissa, wearing her 25 year Lilly Diabetes Journey Award™ medal, sitting with her son Connor, who is not quite two years old. A mom and her first born.

Below is Brenda, holding our daughter Marissa, when she was two years old. A mom and her first born.

That photo was taken on Marissa’s second birthday. Marissa was very sick, and had been for days. We didn’t know what was wrong. She would be diagnosed with type 1 diabetes just a few days later, when she was two.

The same age as Connor.

So much has changed since Marissa was diagnosed in September 1989. The tools we use to care for diabetes have improved dramatically. New medicines work to keep us healthy even in the face of diabetes. Researchers continue to pursue technological advances and a biological cure, and are as well working to ensure that Connor will never earn his own Diabetes Journey Award. The lives of everyone living with type 1 diabetes are immeasurably better today because of these advances, and our hope for a day when type 1 is no more seems within reach.

As you enjoy Friends for Life, should you see that little boy with the blond curls and infectious smile, take a moment to reflect on your own family’s journey and take comfort in the knowledge that a little girl who was diagnosed at two, so very many years ago, also enjoys the smile of that little two-year-old boy.

Jeff Hitchcock
President
Children with Diabetes

Marissa with Connor, just about two years old

Brenda with Marissa as she turned two years old