

Zander's Smile

Zander is not defined by his condition, Spastic Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy, but by his general sense of happiness and unflappable spirit. Younger brothers, Tucker and Sawyer adore the 9-year-old, as do parents Amy and Jason.

Zander is non-verbal, has a G-tube and has cortical vision impairment. He loves loud music, really loud music of any kind and also the colour green, the brighter the better. His favourite thing to do is swim and he also loves going really fast in his wheelchair.

Zander's mom stays at home in order to provide him with the consistent and specialized care he requires. Currently, Zander has some medical issues that will need to be addressed and in the future, he will need spinal surgery.

The family was very excited to be travelling to Disney's Give Kids the World Resort in October. Because of Zander's medical needs, they have never been on a vacation together, so the anticipation of his wish trip was a huge event in the family's life.

'Our ability to travel anywhere is extremely limited and Children's Wish was able to provide all the specialized care and insurance needed to make this happen. Without Children's Wish, it's way too scary and hard to travel anywhere on our own,' Amy says.

'The opportunity for his brothers to experience this wish trip with Zander while he is still with us was an absolute joy for them. I just can't even tell you how amazing it was. It takes a lot of hard work to get a smile out of Zander, but they were abundant on this trip. Zander even laughed a full belly laugh on one of the rides at Epcot, which of course made me cry. The whole experience was so memorable from beginning to end, my boys are still talking about it and watching our videos over and over. Thank you so much to those who support The Children's Wish Foundation, Ontario Chapter for this memory that we will forever get to have of Zander, it makes my heart so happy,' Amy says.

