



MOVING LIVES.

Tyler John Vranick Fund

Tyler John Vranick was a baby who grew weak in his muscles when he was 2 months old. He was stricken with the little known disease called SMARD1. It affected his breathing and swallowing muscles as well as his extremities. He required a tube for food and a ventilator to keep him breathing but his spirit and courage shone through as a happy, smiling, alert boy who lived a full life until the age of 3 ½ years old. It was then that SMARD1 took his life. Tyler's parents, Steve and Josie Vranick, have chosen to honor him and celebrate his life by launching a campaign to raise money for the Motor Neuron Center at Columbia. Their goal is continue Tyler's legacy by supporting research and awareness of this little known devastating disease. All funds raised will go to a gift account set up in memory of Tyler for research and awareness of SMARD1. Thank you for your support with this journey.

SMARD 1

The full name of SMARD1 is spinal muscular atrophy with respiratory distress. This reflects the fact that some symptoms are similar to those of the more frequent genetic killer of infants: spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). However, the causes of the two diseases are distinct. SMARD1 is caused by inherited mutations in a gene called IGHMBP2, whose normal function is not well understood. Mice with mutations in the same gene develop a comparable disease, meaning that scientists have an animal model on which to work. Clinically, SMARD1 is characterized by severe, progressive weakness of muscles, particularly those involved in breathing. There is currently no known cure.