

## Hayden MacIntyre

What an immense blessing that we are here, a full ten years since Hayden was a Rebecca Run honoree and 16 years since our family began our own very personal race for a treatment or cure for SMA.

In 2006, Hayden was a teeny six year old who had just embarked on his school career. Today, he is a young man of 16 and a Grade 10 honours student. Hayden never ceases to amaze with his perseverance, his passion for life, and his wit. With post-secondary studies looming on the horizon, Hayden is considering his options for pursuing Computer Engineering or Computer Science. The challenge will be in his accessing the right program for him. It will not be an easy road for our extremely bright young man with SMA Type I who requires full support and nursing 24/7. However, in true Mac Pac form, and with Hayden's guidance, we will figure it out.

Of course, our update would not be complete without a few words about Hayden's most amazing sister, Lauren. SMA siblings truly are like none other. Nearly 13, Lauren is an incredibly caring and compassionate young lady. She is herself an honours student currently in grade 7. Lauren has a flair for the Arts and also competes provincially as a synchronized swimmer.

While life with SMA can be extremely difficult, it is also exponentially more rewarding. In the past ten years, we have created some amazing memories together, but it is our summer road trips to the ocean that stand out the most.

Our family motto of "find hope in the gift of each new day" continues to propel us. Hayden and Lauren, our miracles and life teachers, guide us to live with love and hope.

