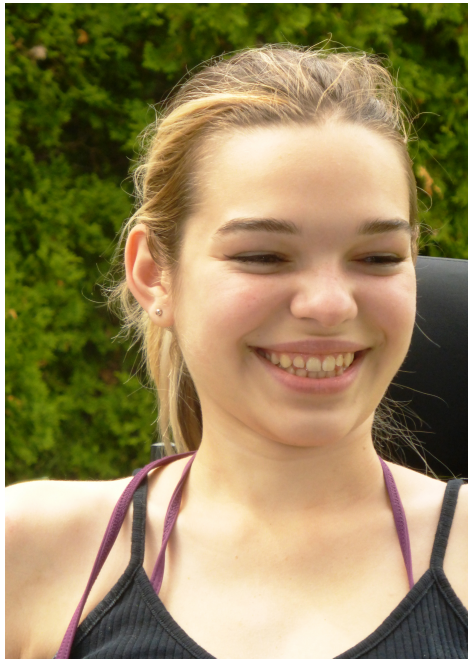


Rebecca Grace Van Fraassen

Rebecca is now 16 years old. She is in Grade 11 at high school and is on the Honour Roll. Her favourite subjects are Art, English and History. She has grown into a very independent young woman.

Rebecca has become a talented young artist. She goes regularly to a nearby Art Studio and would like to pursue a post-secondary education in the arts.

Rebecca got her G1 Driver's License recently and would like to get her G2 License as soon as possible. She loves going to concerts, dining out, travelling, going to the movies and having a houseful of friends over every weekend.



Sounds just like a typical teenager, doesn't it? Rebecca is that in every way except for the physical limitations SMA imposes on her. Ever since she was first diagnosed with SMA Type 2 in 2001, we have seen her living with the effects of the disease every day. She struggles to maintain independence while she continues to lose strength. It's hard for her to do the things we all take for granted like taking notes in class, getting through a snow covered sidewalk or visiting a friend who has stairs.

Since the inception of the Rebecca Run for SMA, \$2.5 million dollars has been raised to help find a cure. A very promising drug is in the final phase of a Clinical Trial before FDA approval. We hope that this will be the treatment that prevents Rebecca from getting any weaker.

We hope the cure is just around the corner so that no more kids have to suffer, no more parents have to mourn the loss of a child. The one thing we do know is that we have all helped get there more quickly than if we had done nothing.