

Sonja Natalia Stefanovic

We are grateful to have Sonja recognized again as an honouree in celebration of the Rebecca Run for SMA 15th anniversary.

So much has changed for us since our sweet Sonja was the honouree in 2007. First was the wonderful birth of our amazing son Julian Dale in January of 2008 – big, strong, and free from SMA. I was only 9 weeks pregnant with Julian when I completed my first 5km run in honour of Sonja in 2007.



Life was busy and joyful but tinged with sadness for us during Julian's early years. His smile and laughter, however, helped heal our hearts. Our biggest and best surprise came a few years later when we found out that Julian and Sonja would have a sibling: Mila Lilian was born in June, 2012, and is also SMA free. We are all so thrilled to have her in our lives, and Julian and her have a lovely bond. Mila says poetic things like, "The stars are the babies who died, blinking at us".

We have found many ways to incorporate Sonja into our family and let the children know of their big sister. Julian also runs in Sonja's memory for the Terry Fox Run at school.

This year is the 10th anniversary of Sonja's birth and death and I am once again running in her honour.