

August 16, 2004

Hello all,

I told Annie yesterday that I had been delinquent in sending emails to all her friends and that I was going to write to all of you today. I asked her what she would like me to tell you. Annie grinned and said "Tell everyone hi for me and tell them that I look great". Annie's personality is still there. She still loves to make people laugh.

The family has given up on the in-home therapy. Just couldn't find anyone they felt was really helping Annie. Annie's sister-in-law belongs to a city owned gym and took Annie and her mother and sister for a trial visit. Since then, Annie goes 3 to 5 times a week to the gym and works out with a trainer named Kevin. He has been wonderful with her and makes very productive use of their time together. She is regaining her balance slowly but surely.

The best news seems to be that Annie is now aware that she doesn't remember things. She also carries on a conversation without spacing out after a couple of minutes. Her invisible friends seem to be gone for now. She actually asks pertinent questions and listens to your answers. She still cannot find the bathroom in the house - has no idea where it is. But some brain cells seem to be working that were not before.

You may recall, from the earliest emails, that Annie was doing puzzles for ages 2 to 5. She then graduated to 6 to 8. She is now doing jigsaw puzzles for juniors. This is major when you consider her eyesight and what she has been through. Yesterday, while doing a puzzle, she found a very difficult piece. Her mother commented on how well she was doing. Annie, replied "Not bad for a half blind person, huh Ma?".

So there is improvement for our Annie. Her mother reminded me yesterday that one of the first neurosurgeons they saw in Denver said a two year recovery. Say your prayers that he was right.

Linda