

# A Brief History of Erin Elzea



Erin was born on June 28, 1982. She appeared to be a normal, healthy girl. At age one, she was diagnosed with Mucopolysaccharidosis, also known as Hurler's Syndrome. This is a "storage" disease. Due to a lack of one enzyme, her body would store sugar byproducts in every cell of her body.

Over the years, as Erin's disease progressed, she became increasingly disabled and wheelchair bound. She lost most of her hearing and vision. Breathing became difficult and was relieved with a tracheostomy.

Through her eighteen years of declining health, Erin demonstrated an amazing zest for life and insatiable desire for knowledge. She was a big fan of music, dancing by shrugging her shoulders to the rhythm. When asked by camp counselors for suggestions of activities she'd like to try next year, Erin responded enthusiastically, "hot air balloons and race cars".

In her short life, Erin touched many that she met. Her humor was contagious, her laughter so genuine and her love of social contact so obvious. Her teachers, friends, helpers and family were all part of the community in which she thrived.

Erin died on April 18, 2000, gently in her room. Her legacy might very well be a park and facility in which all can participate. May we all adopt Erin's traits of infectious enthusiasm, enjoying each other and always having a smile on your face. Let this park and pavilion act as a place for all to recreate and enjoy life to its fullest.

