



The Harvey Family

(James, Deila, Jed and John Sutter)

Our journey began on December 3, 2002. James and I went in for our routine check up around 10am. I was concerned that Jed had not been kicking as usual. After not being able to find his heartbeat with a manual monitor, they hooked us up to a monitor at the hospital that would record every small contraction. Jed's heart rate was not recovering like it should after each contraction. This was worrisome. Therefore, after his heart rate dropped down to 60 bpm, Dr. Fairbanks, along with Dr. Dubrevac, decided that an emergency C-section was appropriate.

James Edwards Harvey (Jed) was born at 1:10 PM. We did not know that he had Down Syndrome, nor were we aware of his existing heart condition. We were in total shock. Jed had what is called an A/V canal defect. In short, he was not getting the oxygen he needed for good breath and without a heart surgery he would eventually succumb to congestive heart failure. Later that same day, Jed and James were flown to Billings, while I waited on pins and needles for another two days. He was admitted to the NICU at St. Vincent's and James settled into our new "home" at the RONALD McDONALD HOUSE (our saving grace) for the next two weeks. After bringing Jed home, we spent the next three months confined to the house (only leaving for pediatric and cardiology visits). We did not want our little angel to get any kind of sickness before his surgery.

On April 14th, 2003, we traveled to our new "home" in San Jose, CA. Jed, on the recommendation of our Cardiologist (Dr. James Wiggins), would be having his surgery at the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital (Stanford Medical). On April 17th, Jed has a very successful surgery to repair the damage to his heart and a remarkable five days later he was released from the hospital (the doctors said that was highly unusual - normally it was 10 -14 days). He began immediately to grow and prosper (even walking at 17 months). He has been literally running ever since.

Jed is now a thriving seven year old and a first grader at Heck Elementary in Belgrade, MT. Although we still struggle with Jed's speech and his "busy" nature, he has brought nothing but pure joy to our lives and our family (which by the way grew by one fantastic younger brother, John Sutter, on July 25, 2008).

Although we began Jed's life in a crazy haze and financially it was a little tricky for awhile, with prayer and support from family, friends and other families who had "been there", we have come out on the other side with a strong, confident, loving, smart and all around wonderful child who we could not imagine our lives without.

