

Melissa Long

On April 19, 1988, Melissa was born. She was Jamey May's cousin. She was sick. And even though it was 17 years later and her parents could tell the doctors that CF was in her family, they could not find a doctor in Springfield Missouri that could diagnose her. It took us 6 months to talk them into going to Columbia to see Dr. B. to find out. And then oh yes, she had the dreaded CF, just like Jamey. But once she was being treated, she too began to thrive.

Her life was much like Jamey's. She lived on a farm with Mom and Dad and one brother. She also loved her animals. She had her horses, dogs, cats and she had chickens. She loved those chickens. They were exotic chickens. Yes, they had flumes on their heads and fancy feathers of all colors. She had so much fun with them. Their farm has the river running through it and at a very young age, she learned that she loved to fish. And then she learned about hunting. She and her dad and sometimes her mom would hunt rabbits, squirrels, turkey and deer. It was a sport that she enjoyed. Then at school she had so many friends. Again, like Jamey, she never complained and what everyone remembers is her smile and her sweet disposition. She always worried about others much more than about herself.

Jamey tried to share with her the things that he learned about CF along the way. He told her about his transplant and how he could 'Breathe!' That was about the time she started really getting sick. The doctors were talking transplant to her. But she had just graduated from high school and had so much left to do. She went to college, she got a job, she had a boyfriend. There just wasn't time for a transplant. And besides, she had just lost Jamey after he had his. I don't know that a transplant would have been the right choice for her. I do know, though, that she was having the time of her life when her tiny body gave out. She was only 20. That's how it is with CF - it steals life away. It's different for each victim. Longevity of life is different for each one.

We will always remember Melissa's beautiful smile and sweet disposition. She was our little princess. We were lucky to have had her in our lives also.