

Dear Friends of CDD,

My wife, Karina, and I are the proud parents of incredible four year old twins, Tiffany and Timothy Asper. They were born full term on October 6, 2014, however, that is not where their story begins. I will regress to the point of where a concern revealed itself during one of the regular scheduled sonograms around 20 weeks. I used the word concern because all the normal tests given during pregnancy came back negative of any abnormalities. Therefore, no worries were in our minds up until this point. I thought it strange that the doctor told us that the long bones were measuring small and she recommended genetic testing beyond the norm. The tests results were normal except for one hit on a recessive gene on Tiffany's test. We still were not in panic mode as it takes two recessive genes to have a condition. Furthermore, the mathematical chances of fraternal twins having the same condition were astronomical. By week 24, I was doing my own research and resembling a genetic expert. After my research, I felt there was nothing to be concerned about. The doctor was not impressed nor convinced of my findings. A second genetic test was given and the results revealed nothing astray and I had written off the original recessive hit as an anomaly for the rest of the pregnancy. In my mind, I was convinced they were just small, however, the doctor still insisted something was off but was unable to reveal an official answer.



On October 6, 2014 our beautiful twins were born at Westchester Hospital and required a 10 day stay at the "NICU spa and resort" because they were extremely small. This is where we met the gentleman that would eventually give us answers, Dr. David Kronn. His specialty is genetics and "general mood ruining." After Tiffany and Timothy were released from the hospital, we had an appointment with this doctor a few weeks later. He shared the same feeling as our original doctor. He was perplexed that the two genetic tests given were negative. Still concerned he asked us for a second visit. At that visit, he mentioned that he may be able to arrange a very specific genetic test. This test is so new and modern that it required all four of us to get tested and paperwork had to be signed in case of what they may find. Evidently, this test is a deep dive into your DNA and borders on modern science magic. This test came back 5 months later with a very specific answer. I did not share the same excitement as Dr. Kronn in this finding because the test came back with the diagnosis of 3M syndrome II for both Tiffany and Timothy. Not only

is the condition extremely rare (like 20 cases ever reported if I am not mistaken), that both have the same exact condition. If my math is correct, the odds are roughly 1 in 433,000,000 million births and we doubled the odds by having twins with the same condition. The moral of the story is they are without a doubt extremely special twins. The diagnosis in itself is not good, but at the same time not that bad. The condition is related to short stature and everything that goes along with that. Similar to forms of dwarfism for a lack of a better term. This condition will present Tiffany and Timothy with challenges throughout their lives, but will not stop them from achieving all their goals. Looking at Tiffany and Timothy, you really cannot see anything wrong at first glance other than they are small. Small is an understatement. At 4 years old they weigh roughly 20 lbs and measure a tad over 24 inch's long. As a guess, roughly 1/2 the size of their peers for reference. I will forever be grateful to Dr. Kronn for getting the answer we needed.

After the initial diagnosis and the recommendation from the doctors, it was advised that we enter the Early Intervention Program to get Tiffany and Timothy any help



they may qualify for and/or need. We met with Karen O'Dea who single handedly helped navigate the program and she compassionately had my children tested. It was revealed they both qualified for physical therapy and speech therapy at a later date. Approximately at 1 year old, these special ladies, Susan Ficken and Colleen Sheldon, entered our lives. They have been a constant presence in my children's lives and utmost professionals throughout. Their creativity and sheer desire for Tiffany and Timothy to excel physically, emotionally and speech wise is evident. However, as time went on it was becoming clear that Tiffany was pulling ahead of Timothy. Her progress was increasing at a faster pace and we all were becoming more concerned for Timothy. It was not initially clear why he was falling behind.

As my children were turning 3 years old, we were introduced to C.D.D. I was not initially sure what the advantages were moving forward, as Tiffany was doing pretty good and Timothy, I was sure, was not far behind and would catch up to her. We chose to continue with the Early Intervention Program and had them tested for services through the center. As suspected, Tiffany did not qualify (that's good) and Timothy did qualify. This is where Tiffany leaves the story and Timothy continues. I was very nervous and had mixed feelings for Timothy's well being. That was to change very quickly. In the first week of attending C.D.D., I noticed that Timothy was happy and doing way better than we could have ever imagined. He became his own person like overnight! He was just so happy to go to school and looked forward to it everyday. It put a smile on all our faces. We pass by the school and he yells



C.D.D.! He is excelling there and that is thanks to all the teachers, therapists and staff. Also a special thanks to Ms. Cathy for making his trip enjoyable each day on the bus. As he continues to excel at C.D.D. for the second school year, we continued to look for answers as to why his mobility and speech were behind his sister's. Only recently have we received the final piece of the puzzle. He has been diagnosed with Spastic Diplegia Cerebral Palsy and that explains why he is still not walking at age 4. All the pieces came together. This too is also not a welcome diagnosis but does not have to be grievous. I am confident that Timothy is in the right place and he will excel with the help of the teachers and staff at C.D.D. They are laying the foundation for our son's success in the future and without a doubt they will succeed in their endeavor.

Please consider your support for this wonderful school and community service so they can continue to touch the lives of those

that need it. My family is very grateful for this outstanding program in our community. Thank you again; without your support it would not be possible for this school to continue.

Very Sincerely,

Jay & Karina Asper  
Parents of Timothy Asper  
(A boy that will reach all his goals)

