

Avid Golfer Lives Life to Its Fullest

Dave's Story



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– Dave Hensley

Meet 33 year old Dave Hensley. Dave and his wife Megan live in beautiful Holyoke, Colorado. While this city is small, Holyoke is the proud home of world-renowned Ballyneal Golf Club. Dave helped to build and develop this phenomenal course and in 2008, the prestigious Ballyneal, was ranked #13 in the United States and #53 in the world. Fortunately for Dave, he has been able to combine his passion for golf with his career.

Let's step back a few years to the day after Dave's high school graduation. He began to feel symptoms of severe nausea and back pain. His family took him to their local hospital in Gordon, Nebraska, where they were re-directed to a larger hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota that was better equipped to take care of him. The doctors there helped then 18 year-old Dave, by inserting a stint and performing lithotripsy to dissolve what they thought would be a onetime episode of kidney stones.

Fortunately for Dave, his next episode did not happen for another four years, when this time, he was graduating from college. Although very painful, Dave was able to pass the stone on his own. Dave and his family thought that he was just going to be the guy who would have a few kidney stones throughout life, but nothing to worry about.

Fast forward seven years to the summer of 2007. Dave wasn't feeling well and wondered in the back of his mind if something was happening with another stone. Believe it or not, even after an x-ray, Dave was misdiagnosed with gallstones and sent on his way, with no follow-up. Just two short months later, the pain became unbearable. Dave was able to get himself to the hospital where the doctors realized it was not gallstones, but a kidney stone. Dave went through the same battle with a stint and another round of lithotripsy along with many more tests to look for a cause of kidney stones.

OHF Patient Stories

Finally in the summer of 2008, Dr. Nasser tested his urine and found that Dave's oxalate levels were 7 times the normal range. He was referred to a nephrologist who wasn't able to see him for three weeks. Waiting was difficult, but the Hensleys were relieved they were heading to an expert.

During that wait, Megan, a Registered Nurse, began her own discovery process. She first checked online and immediately found the Oxalosis & Hyperoxaluria Foundation website. The couple joined the OHF Talk blog, where Megan realized Dave's symptoms just might be related to something bigger than a kidney stone. Before Dave met his nephrologist, the Hensleys reached out to Julie Olson, RN from the OHF Funded, Mayo Clinic Hyperoxaluria Center.

By the time they walked into their nephrology appointment, the Hensleys were armed with information from the Mayo Clinic Hyperoxaluria Center to present

Dr. Mark Teruel and requested Dave be tested for PH. Dr. Teruel started Dave on a regimen of calcium while the tests for PH were conducted. Dave and Megan awaited the results hopeful this protocol would decrease his oxalate numbers. Their fears came true: Dave was diagnosed with Primary Hyperoxaluria Type 1. Dave said, "Without the OHF website, the Mayo Clinic Hyperoxaluria Center, and a nephrologist willing to take the time to learn about this rare disease, my cause of kidney stones and hyperoxaluria would still be a mystery and the prognosis could have been much worse".

The good news is today, Dave is doing well. He is responding to treatment with B6, potassium, magnesium and lots and lots of water. His oxalate levels remain in the normal range. Dave lives a healthy life but knows all too well that he is suffering from a rare genetic kidney and liver disease, that at anytime can take a severe turn for the worse. Dave and Megan are grateful for his

current health, but as Megan says, "Finding out that Dave has PH1 was very scary, and we know what Dave may be up against in the future." They are hopeful that a cure will be found for PH, so Dave will never have to experience the complications of the disease.

Dave would like all to know how important, quickly finding the OHF Funded, Mayo Clinic Hyperoxaluria Center has been to him. Without the OHF's ongoing crucial research on treating the disease, Dave knows he may not be so fortunate in the future. The dedication of the Oxalosis & Hyperoxaluria Foundation is a daily inspiration to Dave and Megan. They realize the path of research is their only hope for finding a cure.

Spreading awareness and finding a cure for PH are top priorities for the Hensleys. Dave said, "Because of the Hyperoxaluria Center at Mayo my nephrologist has been able to treat another patient with high oxalate lev-



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els.” They know that time is of the essence and are not going to stop until the cure is found. Dave and Megan have plans to hold a golf tournament at Ballyneal for the OHF in the near future. They welcome any other patients/families in the surrounding areas to join them. As rare as this disease is, they know everyone must work that much harder to achieve their goals of awareness and a cure.

Dave and Megan are big fans of Facebook, and urge each and everyone to join OHF's cause on Facebook to learn more about the organization and what we are doing to find a cure. They feel it is a great way to reach your family and friends, inform them about the disease and raise money for the ongoing research and patient programs.

Dave knows that there are some things in life he can't control, but being diagnosed with PH, has helped him slow down, relax and enjoy every minute of the day with his friends and family. He feels grateful for his good health today and wants to become more involved in the OHF. Megan and Dave are members of the OHF Patient Advisory Board. The OHF would like to thank them for their efforts, because they are making a difference for all of those with Primary Hyperoxaluria.

You may reach out To Dave and Megan on OHF Talk via www.ohf.org.