

Photo By: Kristin Boudon Photography

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For most of the past year, 9-year-old Tristan Beck has been on a long, challenging journey toward nose reconstruction after a traumatic accident left him with a missing nose.

December 20, 2017, was a normal day of winter break for the Beck family. Tristan and his older sister were visiting their mother's office to drop off food for a party. When they returned to the car, a dog was in the parking lot, showing no signs of aggression. However, when Tristan threw the dog a piece of food, it lunged at his face and pulled him down. His sister pulled him back, and the dog ran away. All his mother, Tina, remembers is that there was so much blood it was hard to see exactly what was wrong. "It was very hard for me to look at my son at first. My heart hurt and I was blaming myself for what had happened, but I wanted to be strong for him," she said.

The family called 911, and Tristan was transported to Seattle Children's Emergency Department.

### A Major Change

Dr. Raymond Tse, a surgeon with Seattle Children's Plastic Surgery team and Craniofacial Center, put Tristan under anesthesia to clean the wound and determine the extent of his injuries. The Beck family was devastated to learn that Tristan's nose and part of his cheek were missing, and that his nose would have to be reconstructed from scratch.

That evening, Tristan underwent the first of five surgeries needed to do so. "Dr. Tse was very calm and patient with us while our emotions were on a rollercoaster," said Beck. "While most of that day was a blur, what stood out was that every staff member we came in contact with offered their support, whether it was a cup of water, box of Kleenex, or just a quiet minute outside the hospital room to shed a tear and catch our breath."

Tse, who performs nose reconstructive surgeries for children with cleft lip and palate, said seeing Tristan after his accident highlighted the importance of the nose to one's face and self-image. "The nose is the centerpiece of the face

# Tristan's JOURNEY TO Recovery!