

Prepared for Emily's site on March 2, 2022.

Journal

August 24, 2009

Emily is now home! She still has to go to MFB on Mondays and Wednesdays for outpatient therapy. Emily would like to thank all of you that checked in to see how she was doing and those of you that left messages. Thank you for all the kind words and prayers.

August 18, 2009

Emily went home last Saturday and stayed till Sunday late afternoon. We had a birthday party for her on Sunday, she turned 19! She will be coming home on the 20th of this month. She will still have out patient therapy every Monday and Wednesday at Mary Free Bed. I would like to thank all of you that are still sending cards and sent her birthday cards also. Thanks!

August 4, 2009

Sorry for the delay at updating Emily's caring bridge page. She is progressing great with her therapy and is learning more and getting stronger every day. She will be getting an overnight pass for the night of the 15th so she can be home for her 19th birthday on the 16th of this month! Then if everything goes as planned she should be home on the 21st, with out-patient therapy to follow. She wants to express her thanks to those of you who continue to send her cards and pray for her. Thank you, Julie

July 26, 2009

Just a quick update on Em, she is doing great and has been able to leave on passes for a day out very often. This gives her a break from all the therapy that she has every day.

She was able to go out yesterday for an early birthday dinner for Holly at Chilis with Holly, Scott, Ava, Dustin and me. She should be able to get an overnight pass so she can come home for her birthday on August 16th(she'll be 19!). Will try and keep you updated. Thanks, Julie

July 22, 2009

Well, Emily found out today that she will be at Mary Free Bed untill August 21st. She is a little upset but she understands that it's for the best. She has many things yet to learn. She is wanting to come home so bad. We were hoping that she'd be back for her 19th birthday(August 16th). That's okay, we'll just have a party up here at MFB for her! Julie

July 16, 2009

Good news! Emily is now out of isolation!! The last tests all came back negative and now shes a free woman! We spent the last half of the day outside and in the rec room.. She just had to touch anything and everything outside of her room, it was pretty funny! Only a few more weeks and shell be home!!

Dustin

July 16, 2009

Yesterday was Emily's trip home for an evaluation on the house. The two therapist and insurance lady went through the house measuring for the ramps, doorways and other items that might need to be changed for her. She had friends, family and neighbors that came to visit her while she was home. She should find out today or no later than tomorrow if she can leave isolation. She can't wait!

July 13, 2009

Emily got to go out again yesterday after her different sessions with therapy. By the time she got back to Mary Free Bed and visited with us for a while she was exhausted and

ready for bed. She will be coming home on Wednesday for her home evaluation for a few hours and then by this Friday she should find out if she can leave isolation. Things are going great with Emily and we will keep in touch. Julie

July 11, 2009

Wow, what a great day Emily had!!!! After she finished with her therapies for the day we got her ready and helped her into the car and off we (Emily, John, Austin, Holly, Scott, Ava, Me and Tequilla) went to the mall! She had so much fun shopping...she hasn't done that in a long time. Then we took a break and had some lunch at the food court. Then she went shopping again lol. On the way back to Mary Free Bed we made a quick stop at Starbucks for a Caramel Frapp (Emily loves her Starbucks) and then it was fries and a cheese burger at Wendy's lol. I think she's getting tired of hospital food! Then we came back to Mary Free Bed and sat outside and visited for a while. She is doing so good, making great progress and will be home before long. Will continue to stay in touch with everyone so you all know how Emily is doing. Julie

July 9, 2009

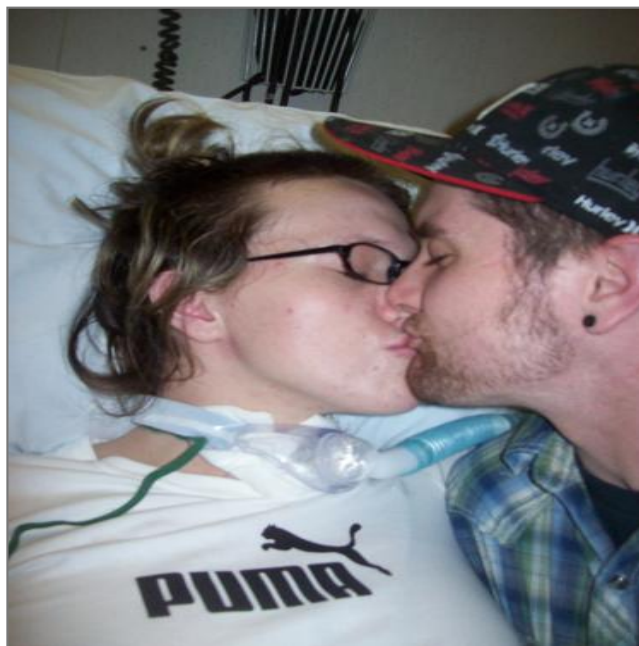
Emily found out today that she can leave on an outing this Saturday. She (and the persons that take her) needs to learn some things before she can go like, going from her wheel chair to the car and then back to her wheel chair. She (and I) even learned how to pick her up from the floor the correct way if need be, so we don't injure her. There are also other things she will need to learn. She is so excited! She needs this, she's been in her room long enough. She hasn't quite decided yet where to go, maybe the mall, a movie or out to eat. Maybe all three knowing Emily lol. I will keep in touch. Julie

July 8, 2009

Sorry it's been so long since Emily's Caring Bridge Journal has been updated. She is doing great here at Mary Free Bed. As you know she has been isolated to her room because of the VRE but she has been able to go outside to do some of her physical therapy. Other times she stays in her room for her occupational, recreational, speech and physical therapy. She should be in isolation for only two more weeks then she will be

able to go downstairs to the gym. They are really impressed by her progress and she was told today after her evaluation that she should only have 4 more weeks left here, depending on how well she keeps improving. I'll keep you all updated on Emilys progress. I just want to say again Thank You so very much for all that each and everyone has done for Emily and for our family since her accident. I'm so very glad that Emily has such wonderful and caring friends and family. She will need all of you to be there for her when she comes home. Julie

June 21, 2009



Hello Everyone sorry for the late update...Theres plenty of good news and some bad....Ill go ahead with the good news...

First off Emily got her pic line, and trach out this week!! So no more IV's or breathing treatments =) she has been going through about 8 hrs of therapy everyday... This includes OT, PT, Speech and other stuff...

Now the bad news...Friday we found out the doctors found some traces of VRE in her system and she has been isolated to her room for possibly the next 3-5 weeks...anyone who comes and visits her has to wear gloves and a gown...Hopefully it wont take that long for her to be stuck in her room...

She has been doing so well despite all the setbacks...I know she enjoys everyones

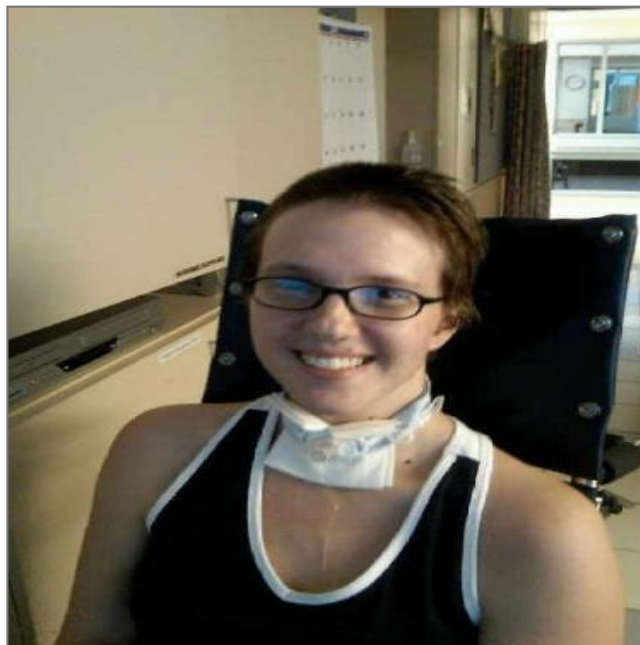
comments/cards/thoughts ect..

I also asked her to marry me cause as we all know shes amazing in everyway possible, and I am very lucky to have her, I am excited to tell the whole world that one day soon she will be my wife =)

So thats all the news for now, take care

Dustin

June 15, 2009



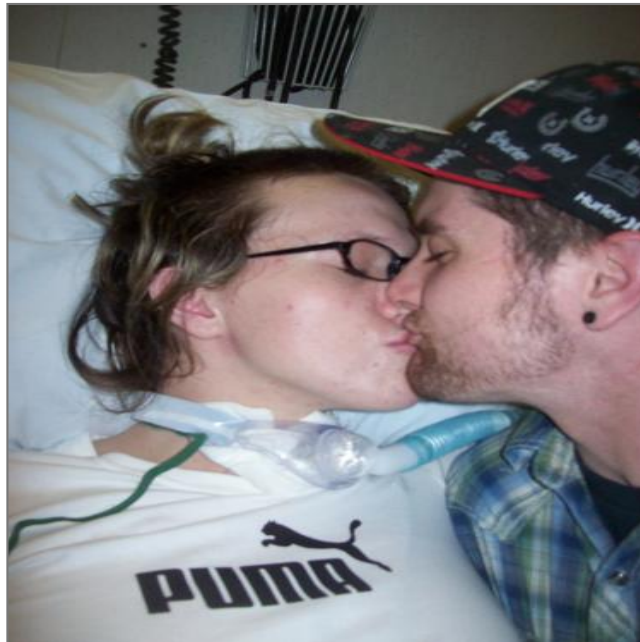
Well Emily made it to MFB alright, she is comfortably situated in room 318...This place is pretty awesome and I think shes going to do wonderful here!!!

Tomorrow she starts her first full day of therapy, but it sounds more of a summer camp then a boot camp =)

well thats it for now talk soon!

Dustin

June 14, 2009



Hello everyone!

Busy day for Emily today, She had tons of visitors!!! Thanx to everyone who came up!!! John and I got to take Emily outside today she had a blast!!!

Aunt alice came up today and chopped all of Emmys hair off!!! I mean almost all of it, but she looks so damn cute!!! I will post some pics when I get a chance to take some!!!

Tomorrows the big day for MFB, So I figured Id post some directions, here they are

South: (From Kalamazoo)

- North on U.S. 131 to Wealthy St. exit (Exit 84A on your left)
- Turn right on Wealthy St.

Lot 5 and Lot 6 (for Orthotics patients and Clinic patients)

- From Wealthy, turn left into the Circle Drive and park in front of the building (in Lot 5)

- If there are no spots available in Lot 5, enter Lot 6 from the Circle

Drive

- Additional overflow parking is also available in the Parking Ramp

(see instructions below)

- Orthotics is located on the second floor of the Inpatient Building
- Clinic registration is located on the first floor of the Inpatient

Building; enter the front doors and turn left

Parking Ramp (for visitors to the Inpatient Building)

- From Wealthy, turn left on Lafayette St.
- Enter the Parking Ramp on the right
- Park on any level of the ramp (parking is free)
- Go to level 3B and take the skywalk over Lafayette St.
- Follow the signs for patient visiting

thats all for now see you soon

Dustin

June 13, 2009



So I took Emily for a stroll down the hall today for the first time, she wanted no part of leaving the room but after 15 minutes of begging and convincing she finally gave in, and guess what?!?.....she loved it!!

One more day and shes off to MFB..I will try and post directions tonight or tomorrow... until then enjoy some new pics!!!

take care

Dustin

June 11, 2009



So Mary Free Bed is a go for sure on Monday! Things are moving along in the right direction finally after a very up and down 45 days! Emily has been getting on here and reading everyones posts herself, so feel free to say hello!!!! She also wanted me to tell everyone hello and thank you!!!!

Talk soon,

Dustin

June 10, 2009



Good News!! If all goes well Emily will be at Mary Free Bed as early as Friday but for sure on Monday as long as she continues to do well!!! So thats a very good thing!! Hopefully not too much longer now and shell be home to see everyone!!!

talk soon

Dustin

June 10, 2009

Hey everyone, sorry its been a few days since my last update. A lot has been going on for Em, shes been doing a lot more physical therapy, trying to eat more, and fighting the speaking valve....However she learned how to talk by covering up the trach with her finger...She spent a good hour or more talking last night, it was totally awesome to finally hear her voice!!! Still no update on when shes going to get out of here and up to mary free bed...The doctor ordered an x ray for tomorrow on her chest, so if things look good, hopefully they can pull the trach!!!

Well thats all for now, talk soon!

Dustin

June 6, 2009



Hello Everyone, just wanted to update real quick and let everyone know that Emily got a smaller trach put in yesterday, which means it will be easier for her to talk and breathe now...the next step is having the trach completely removed!!

Holly and Scott came up with baby Ava today and Aunt Emily finally got to see her!!! She was so excited to finally meet her niece...Holly took lots of pictures so I could add them to this site, so be sure and check the pictures section!!!

Thats all for now, talk soon

Dustin

June 5, 2009



Got Some Good News! Emily had an eating test done to see if she could eat and swallow past the Trach, and she passed! So last night she got to eat her first meal in 38 days!! She had Chicken tenders and a chocolate shake lol...

I made a quick video last night if anyone wants to check it out,

<http://vids.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.individual&videoid=58500126>

talk soon,

Dustin

June 3, 2009



Well its been an interesting day, I was let go from work today due to my attendance, but there were no hard feelings involved and at least I can be with Emily now, I signed up for fall classes at KCC last week I plan on going full time for physical therapy and draw unemployment until things settle down....

On a lighter note Emily has been off the vent for two days now, they even took the vent machine out of her room!!! Shes still havin issues with coughing and getting the junk out of her lungs but shes strong enough to breath on her own...hopefully a few more days now and theyll remove the trach!!

Shes been in good spirits all day, espically when she has visitors...and yes she can have visitors now! Shes at select specialty hospital across from bronson, 2nd floor, room 2044...

Thats all for now folks..talk soon

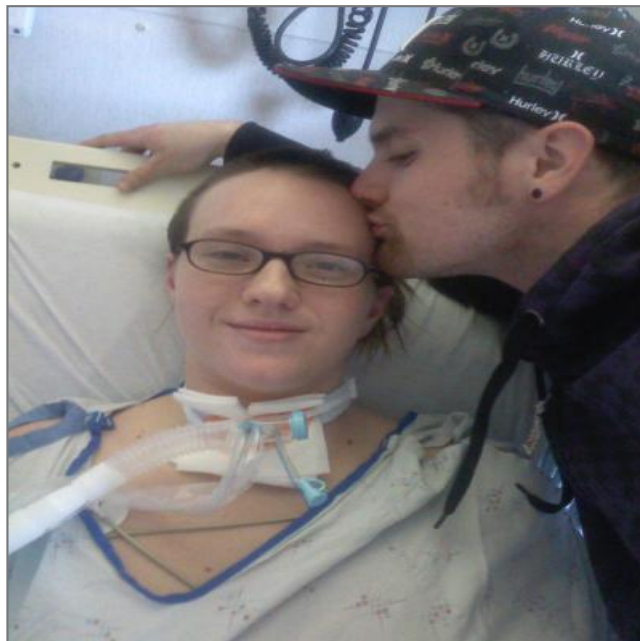
Dustin

June 2, 2009



Although I didnt get to see my love today, I did hear she had a good night with steph and erika, heres another new pic for everyone =)

May 30, 2009

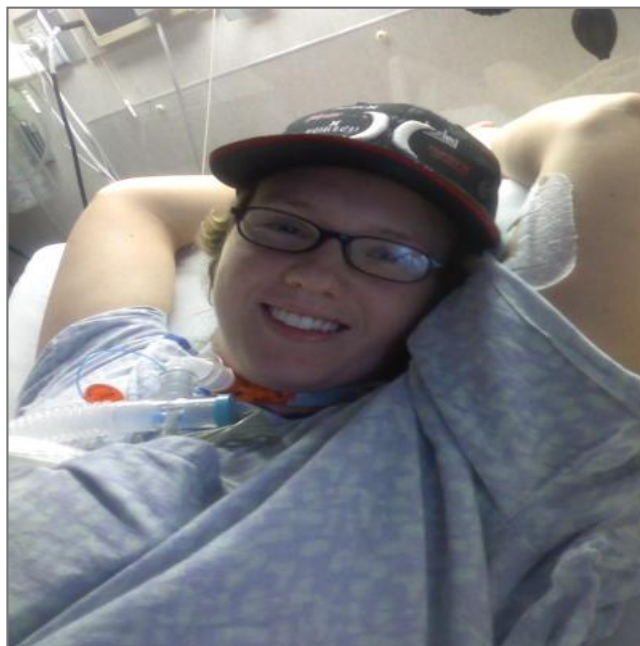


So I spent most of this morning reading emily all of everyones postings on here, and I

read her comments from her facebook and myspace as well...She really enjoyed them..shes still in good spirits for the most part..she got a bath this morning and I could tell she felt so much better..there starting to take her off the vent more and more everyday, so hopefully soon shell be in Grand Rapids for rehab!! So thats pretty much it for now...talk soon

Dustin

May 28, 2009



What a great day its been for Emily, she has been in such great spirits...this morning they got her off the vent for a little while and put a trach mic in her throat so she could talk to us!!! It was great to hear her talk, although it wore her out quite a bit...after that she got to enjoy her first shower!! The nurse said she even shaved her own legs!! So its been a wonderful day for her...

We sat and talked for awhile, I told her how special she is and how much everyone loves her, and how lucky I am to be with such an amazing person...She was all smiles and she took my hat and put it on, So I took a picture...

She looks beautiful with a hat on too...Thats it for now...

Dustin

May 27, 2009



Good to see more and more people signing the guestbook!! I read them to Emily almost every night.....So keep signing and Ill keep reading!

Today was a pretty good and busy day for Em, she has moved to Select Care hospital which is across the street from Bronson...its more low key and they pay a lot more attention to her here.. Which is what she needs...The goal is for the nurses here to ween Emily off the vent so she can breathe and cough on her own...hopefully it wont take more then 7-10 days but thats what theyve said for the last 2 weeks now...but shes been in good spirits and Im confident shes going to pull through this...thanks again for all the continuous support!!!

p.s. heres another kiss em is blowin for everyone

Dustin

May 25, 2009



1st off another HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the bake sale and raffle, at the bank today for Em...It was another great turn out!!! Thanks again!!! =)

Today was a pretty mellow day for Emily, the doctors put her on some meds to make her rest so her lungs can heal faster... she has been sleeping all day and all night...so nothing really new to update on, other then she is getting better day by day, its a slow process but shes on the right path....talk soon

Dustin

May 24, 2009



=) Emily is the most wonderful and amazing person I have ever met...She has been through hell and back in the last 26 days and she is continuing to fight off every odd against her...These nurses and doctors have been under estimating her from day one..Shes going to come out of this and be stronger then ever...

Shes been fighting high and low tempertures for the last few days, but she continues to be in good spirits for the most part...Today has been a fairly good day so far, shes still fighting some infections and high temps but her vitals have been PHENOMINAL!! Hopefully by mid week shell be ready for Mary Free Bed...she is doing really well physically and mentally thus far...We are so proud, so blessed and so thankful for her remarkable recovery to date....And thanks again to everyone and their continuous support :)

talk soon

Dustin

May 23, 2009



Heres a photo of the wall of fame!! Almost running out of places to hang things!!

It seems almost everyother day Em has a good or a rough day...She has been pretty emotional today, shes starting to understand whats going on now that they are weening her off of her medications...Shes also been trying to fight off infections to, so shes been either really hot or so cold her teeth chatter like a machine gun...but on a good note her lungs are getting better and better and hopefully tomorrow they can take her off of the respirator....but I will update as we go...talk soon

Dustin

May 23, 2009



Heres a quick kiss from Em, showing off some good spirits =)

May 22, 2009



Today was a very good day for Em, shes getting stronger and better each and everyday...I have been sitting and talking to her most of the night...shes been in good

spirits...hopefully by the end of the weekend she can have her trach removed so she can talk again....I read her all of the guestbook comments and she seemed to really enjoy them...so please continue to post on her guestbook!!! Thats it for now...hopefully just more and more good news from now on!

Dustin

May 21, 2009



Wow!! What an amazing turnout for the benefit dinner!! THANK YOU to everyone who came to show their support, THANK YOU to Nagels for donating some of the food, THANK YOU to everyone who worked serving the food and THANK YOU to everyone else who helped in any way!!!

John and Julie really appreciate everything the community and everyone else has been doing for them and Emily...so again WE cannot THANK YOU enough!!! THANKS!!!

Also I had a chance to tell a few people how Emily was doing, Shes had a pretty rough week so far and a lot of little issues keep setting her back, however tonight she is doing very well and is starting to get back on track, so lets keep her in our thoughts and prayers that she continues to make a healthy recovery....talk soon

Dustin

May 21, 2009



Well this week has been a pretty rough one for Em, she has had pneumonia for the last 3 weeks and its been a little difficult for her to get over it, however it is getting better then it was....Shes had some high temp fevers as well, do to infection, but theyre working on that as well...Emily has made phenominal progress, but its been the little things that keep holding her back...Hopefully in another week or so she will be ready for rehab, but we are in no hurry to rush her if shes not ready health wise...I would like everyone to please continue to keep Emily in your prayers...she has come so far so fast, we just need to continue to support her and have hope that she will make it past these rough times.....

May 19, 2009



Soo...This Thursday May 21st, there is a benefit dinner at Tekonsha High School for Emily. Hot dogs and sloppy joes, Its from 4-7 pm....\$5 suggested donations

I also just got word that next Monday the bank is doing a bake sale for Em as well...I will keep you informed as I hear more!

We would like to THANK EVERYONE who has come to the hospital, sent cards, donated money, said prayers, and everything else you all are doing for Emily...it is truly amazing how much she is loved and cared for!! THANK YOU ALL for the support!!! It has been greatly appreciated!!!

May 19, 2009

I am starting a video for Emily tomorrow for anyone who would like to say hello to her, Ill be at my house in Tekonsha in the afternoon so please email me or call if youd like to say something to her.....269-830-0594....thanks again and talk soon

Dustin

May 19, 2009



So a quick update for right now, Emily has been doing remarkably well at recovering, however she got pneumonia a few days after entering the hospital and shes been fighting it ever since....its getting better day by day, but its delaying her ability to move to Grand Rapids for Rehab....hopefully by the end of the week to early next week she will be at Mary Free Bed.... thats all for now, ill continue more updates soon!

Dustin