

BOY continued from page 4

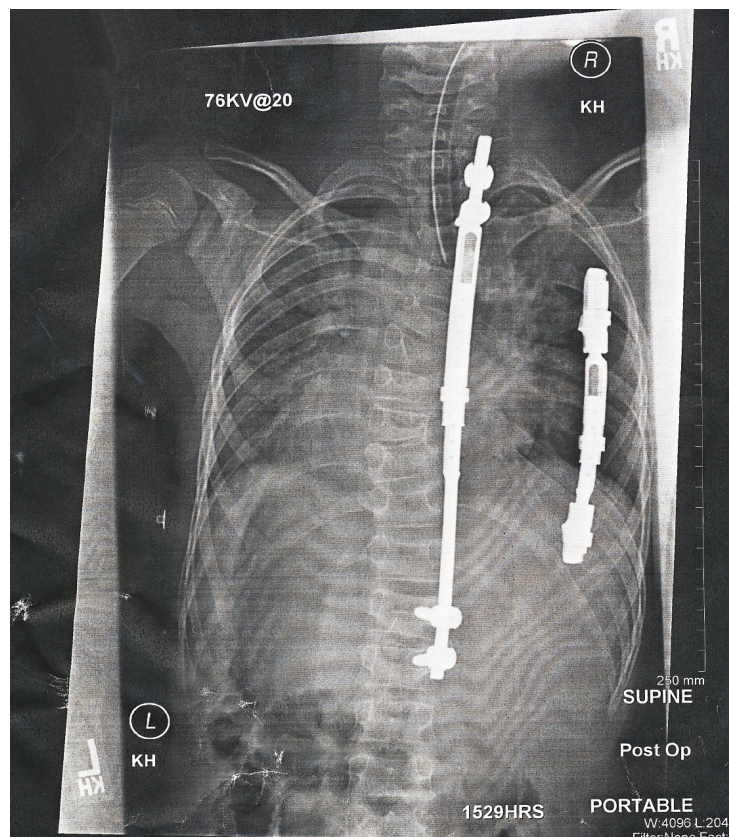
favorite car is a Mustang; he plans to own one when he is older. Hunter also loves spending time and playing basketball and football with Susan's fiancé, Larry.

Hunter is in his last year of Cub Scouts. Mom Susan is a Cubmaster and says Hunter loves being active in Scouts, even volunteers his time to groups that he is not in. Susan said, "Hunter has a big heart, he interacts with all of the kids. He has a lot of friends and I've noticed is conscious of including everyone, bringing in kids that others may have left out."

I said to Hunter, "You had a rough start, that must mean there are great big things in front of you." He flashed a big smile at me and nodded. I told him I could see how special his mother was to him, he looked at her and put his arms around her, as if words weren't needed. Even I could see exactly what that hug meant.

Hunter said that he has a lot of support from friends and family and it means so much to him to have that support. Susan added that the Shriner's Hospital in Minnesota has been wonderful to them and where they know them by name. Hunter said he isn't scared by hospitals and that he just had surgery six weeks ago. He said he doesn't take pain meds because he doesn't like the taste. I asked him what he would say to other kids who maybe were sick or had to go to the hospital, he looked me straight in the eye and said, "You don't have to be afraid, It's all gonna be ok."

■ by Taryn L. Sonnenfeld



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