

DANNY 101

A short story about me, and my adventure!



Written by: Shannon Sobolik in Daniels perspective.
May 5, 2016



On the outside I may look like a normal teenager, However on the inside I am so much more



But you wouldn't believe the incredible journey it took to get where I am today!

I was born June 1, 1998. I was a late baby (nothing has changed much) So my mom had me by C-Section. My doctor realized while my mom was in labor something was seriously wrong and my mom and I were not going to make it without an emergency C-section.



After all that work I was born jaundice and a colic baby and I didn't see my mommy for all most
Two days because she was so sleepy from the stress, and blood loss.
The good news was we made it through all that.....

My mommy had a tough time with me when I was a baby.....



I cried A LOT.....and I never would sleep especially at night....

Everyone said to my mommy that its normal for babies to cry, but my mom knew better.

Through the years I would show signs of repetitive behaviors, sensitives to foods. I would hit scream, cry, and through huge fits no one could control.

I had a lack of interest in playing with others, I never had friends, because it was hard to make friends I always needed to be in control.

The older I got the more my behaviors stood out, and I couldn't continue preschool because I couldn't hold it together, and they thought I just needed more time at home.

By the time I got to elementary school, I couldn't manage a whole day in class sometimes it was just an hour and my mom would have to come get me.

My mom then had a long talk with the school social worker and she suggested to have me tested For ADHD, and Mood Disorder (otherwise labeled bi-polar which that diagnosis flipped from doctor to doctor).

This is the part where my life would change forever, and at times became down right scary for myself, & my mom.

Common Medications

Type of medication	Brand name	Generic Name	Duration
Short-acting amphetamine stimulants	Adderall	Mixed amphetamine salts	4 to 6 hours
	Dexedrine	Dextroamphetamine	4 to 6 hours
	Dextrostat	Dextroamphetamine	4 to 6 hours
Short-acting methylphenidate stimulants	Focalin	Dexmethylphenidate	4 to 6 hours
	Methylin	Methylphenidate (tablet, liquid, and chewable tablets)	3 to 5 hours
	Ritalin	Methylphenidate	3 to 5 hours
Intermediate-acting methylphenidate stimulants	Metadate CD	Extended-release methylphenidate	6 to 8 hours
	Ritalin LA	Extended-release Methylphenidate	6 to 8 hours
Long-acting amphetamine stimulants	Adderall-XR	Extended-release amphetamine	10 to 12 hours
	Dexedrine Spansule	Extended-release amphetamine	6+ hours
	Vyvanse	Lisdexamfetamine	10 to 12 hours
Long-acting methylphenidate stimulants	Concerta	Extended-release methylphenidate	10 to 12 hours
	Daytrana	Extended-release methylphenidate (skin patch)	11 to 12 hours
	Focalin XR	Extended-release dexmethylphenidate	8 to 12 hours
	Quillivant XR	Extended-release methylphenidate (liquid)	10 to 12 hours
Long-acting non-stimulants	Intuniv	Guanfacine	24 hours
	Kapvay	Clonidine	12 hours
	Strattera	Atomoxetine	24 hours

Products are mentioned for informational purposes only and do not imply an endorsement by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Your doctor or pharmacist can provide you with important safety information for the products listed.

The doctors had me on several medications over the years. I have had every medication on this list but two or three with never a solid diagnosis.

I struggled with my behavior at school, at home, and in the community.

No one could seem to figure out why I was so angry, sad, and upset.

I was diagnosed with ADHD, Mood Disorder, Disruptive behavior, (Bi-polar), ODD, Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Color blind, Myopia, from the medication I developed a Tic.

With these diagnosis I qualified for something called an IEP, at first I was on a 504 but that plan didn't meet my needs.

I was getting all kinds of services like OT, PT, Play therapies, counseling, and in home therapy, case management, medication management, and a few others I cannot remember, but I know the all schools I went to they had a resource room where I spent most of my days.

My biggest struggles was Middle school when the work got more demanding and the tantrums became bigger, and from my medication I gained an astronomical amount of weight and I was bullied not just for the weight but because well lets face it my behavior stood out, and I also could only read at a second grade level.



This was me a week
Before 6th grade. Here
I weighted 63 pounds.



And here I am close to
The end of that school
year. I weighed 168 pounds.

With this weight change came huge mood changes, my mom once sat up with me for Three days, and I had taken two trazadone's the doctor prescribed me to sleep. (it didn't work) It kept me up for three days straight sleep was a huge struggle.

I started to become very violent. Hurting others, myself, and objects in my house. I would refuse to go to school because I thought everyone was mean. When I was in 6th grade and into 7th I was arrested over 17 times For behavior, they would evacuate the classrooms when I had a melt down. They also put me in detention several times. I even tried to throw my mother down to the floor. The one thing I never understood was why am I so upset, how did I get here to this point, and why was I born this way?

At this same time I would get horrific nose bleeds I couldn't control.



Eventually my mother & Grand Forks County Social Services decided I would benefit from a program called Dakota Boys Ranch where my mom signed over temporary custody to the state. Which I was NOT happy about, and it made my mother so sad it broke my heart a lot but we have tried everything, and things were only getting worse.



Me and my mom.
At a visit.



My brothers and
I on a pass outing
From Dakota Boys
Ranch.



Me and my dad
At a visit.

Me playing
My guitar on
A in house
Visit.



I spent 9 months at Dakota Boys Ranch and 1 month at Stadter center, and I'm telling you it was painful. It broke my mom's heart to be away from me.....but you know it probably saved me! I was released from The Dakota Boys Ranch with a diagnosis that no one was ready for which was PDD-NOS. I also got to go to a great school which helped change my life Sheyenne 9th Grade.

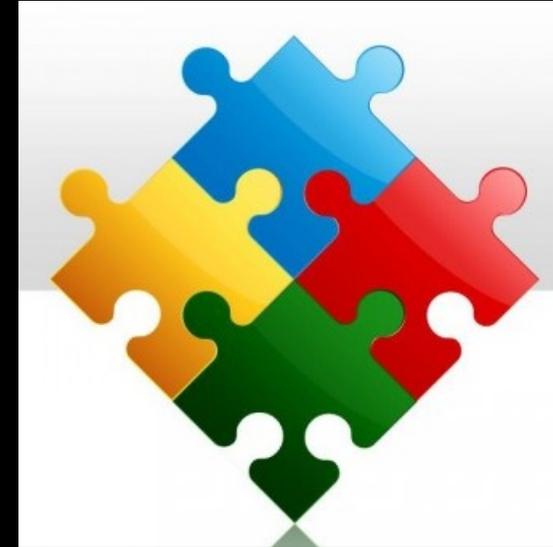


I got to learn a lot of new and fun things while I was away programs that were grant funded programs, such as Riding On Angel Wings which was my favorite And I still share with others today.

Recently I got to do a tiny talk about it for a presentation at a group that my mom helps organize called FM Special Needs Support Network, and the topic was on Riding with Angel Wings the co-founder was there too.

My mom and four other ladies put this group together to Help advocate for children like myself.

So let me share with you a quick minute about PDD-NOS and what it stands for, I am sure some may know it is on the Autism Spectrum. It stands for Pervasive Developmental Disorder –Non otherwise Specified. Which takes all those disorders I told you about in the beginning and lumps them into one.



AND BAM.....We now have a child
Who we understand, and know where
To find the right tools to help me!!!

I have to say this mom of mine is a fighter.....and that is why we are showing you this presentation when her and her friends heard about the budget cuts that were made to programs that help Individuals such as myself we got UPSET!!!

Also my mom owns a daycare with a good friend of hers Brianna who has a son on the Autism spectrum as well and together they fight for these children with special needs. They together have emailed all the legislators in ND, went on KFGO Mighty 90 to share about the cuts, and had a small press conference they are doing all they can to help.

While running a daycare and taking in kids with special needs too.

They recently got a grant called the "Inclusion Grant" they are one of the few who qualified for the whole grant.

Sadly this grant was too, cut \$5,500.00 dollars and this was to help with extra staff to help these special needs children which they have 7 in daycare. Which doesn't include myself, or my younger brother Elijah.



This is my brother Elijah who has Autism as well. But he has a different diagnosis than I do he has Asperger's, and Sensory Integration along with some issues with behavior. He doesn't get services like I do which is sad because it could help but he cannot get on the wavier because of age and no space.

With all of these budget cuts being made to the Autism disorders, and the people with disabilities it is limiting their possibilities. Without the services I have received over the years graduation wasn't something that was going to be possible for me considering I spent 90% of my day in the resource room and I could not function in a classroom. I had an extreme modified education plan, and I couldn't barely make it through a whole day of school until the end of my 11th grade year.



Had to share
Because yes I cut
My hair for graduation.
MOM MADE ME!!

What I want to share with you is I Daniel am graduating May 29th 2016. I spent the whole day almost in the classroom with only 20% of resource room time to catch up on work I was behind in. I am reading at a 6th to 7th grade level, and I have almost completely been off medication and down to only 20mg of Vyvanse a day. Which is HUGE! I also am moving into my first apartment after graduation...no I do not hold a job yet because school and work are too hard, BUT I am working on it every day. And I have a great service called Vocational Rehabilitation helping me.

Still as an adult I am needing services, however, there isn't much available for adults with disabilities.

My mom and I wanted to share all of this because there are so many people that do not understand what Its like to struggle with a disability and needing help with or without all the services that I was provided with.

Without these services who knows where I may have ended up.....It certainly would not be to my Graduation in May 2016!!!!



This is Evan (Brianna's son) and Elijah (my bro) who they Are both on the Autism spectrum.



So for those who think this budget cut will not hurt anyone think again...Its affecting them, myself and All of the ND children which are our future!!!!

DOESNT MATTER HOW
MANY TIMES YOUR
WORLD IS TURNED
UPSIDE-DOWN.
AS LONG AS YOU
HAVE **HOPE** IT WILL
ALWAYS TURN BACK
AROUND.



nationalautism.org



THANK YOU!