



worked with Ethan's two older brothers and as a result they developed a special empathy for Ethan's conditions and became very supportive following Mavis' example. Every therapy session proved a treasure of approaches from using a hammock to offer sensory input for Ethan to practicing handwriting without tears. Mom and Dad were in awe that one person could understand Ethan so perfectly and provide him with the individualized types of therapy that he actually needed to develop properly. In addition, a whole world of support opened up as a result of having Mavis and the Elks in our lives. Mavis was able to provide a plethora of community resources, advocates, social networks, and at-home therapy ideas for Ethan. If she hadn't been a part of the Major Project, she would not have had access to these invaluable resources with which to share.

Little Ethan has improved ten-fold since the Major Project came into his life. Without it, he would most likely be struggling significantly with severe developmental delays. Yes, he is still challenged and every year, we seem to find a new underlying condition that thwarts his development. But as we peel away the layers to his challenges, we find that he is very much like any boy in this world. He desperately wants to run, play, learn, grow, and be understood and appreciated for who he is. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Elks Major Project and his amazing therapist, Mavis Johnson, Ethan has a fighting chance to grow into a truly extraordinary adult. Our deepest and humblest thanks to all of you.



Danny and Janelle Kempton with their sons, Taylor 11, Cameron 10 and Ethan 7

Our deepest and humblest thanks to all of you.

Janelle Kempton



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California-Hawaii Elks Major Project, Inc.

Theme Child



Ethan
 Kempton





Ethan was born on June 16, 2006. His arrival was predetermined to be two weeks earlier than his due date because Mom had a history of huge babies. Ethan's brother, Taylor was born at 12.2 lbs. and 24 inches long and his other brother, Cameron was born at 10.2 pounds and 22 inches long. Gigantic babies! Labor was long and difficult and the doctor was concerned with Ethan's slow heart rate and apparent lack of oxygen. When born, he suffered oxygen deprivation due to the umbilical cord being tightly wrapped around his neck. In hindsight, it was a blessing that he was induced two weeks early because he might have had even more severe brain damage had he gone full term.

Little Ethan struggled his first day of life and doctors were baffled at the causes of his distress. They were tossing around possible diagnoses and in the process Mom and Dad were frightened and unsure of their child's future.

After spending a full week in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the hospital, Ethan was able to come home and be welcomed by his loving family. No clear cut diagnosis had yet been made concerning Ethan's challenges. Weeks and months passed and it was evident that Ethan was severely delayed developmentally. Severe crossed eyes, inattentive behavior, lack of clear speech abilities, overall lack of coordination, and little ability to crawl, sit, walk in a timely manner were some of his developmental delays. Mom and Dad spent countless hours in several different doctors

offices trying to grasp at a clear diagnosis.

Over the next few years, Ethan was severely behind in his developmental progress. Learning to walk was a challenge and although he seemed to catch on at 14 months, it was evident that his ability to stay stable while doing so would remain difficult for years to come. Finally years later in 2010, a neurologist was able to clearly diagnose little 4 year old Ethan with mild to moderate Cerebral Palsy. He made it clear at the time of his diagnosis that life would continue to unravel more and that more challenges would develop as he grew older. Along with the Cerebral Palsy, Ethan suffers from a myriad of physical, developmental, and psychological issues. Along the way, we have discovered a host of other things plaguing his ability to develop properly and in a timely manner:

1. Intermittent Ocular Misalignment (Crossed Eyes) and Nystagmus of the Right eye where he clearly uses the left eye for his visual needs.
2. Sensory Processing Disorder
3. Visual Processing Disorder
4. Apraxia of Speech—severe speech delays that have improved tremendously from intense therapy
5. Dyspraxia
6. Central Auditory Processing Disorder
7. Low Muscle Tone
8. Low Sensory Awareness which made for many years of constant drooling, etc.
9. Possible Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
10. Small and Gross Motor Difficulty

Back when Ethan was admitted into the Special Needs Program through the local school district, he seemed higher functioning than some of his peers that were challenged with obvious physical disabilities. At the tender age of 3, Ethan's needs were largely ignored because his peers' challenges seemed more obvious. Occupational Therapy was denied despite the fact that Ethan could not grasp a pencil or was constantly falling over and tripping over other students or classroom objects. It wasn't until 2011 when Ethan was referred to the Elks Major Project and Mavis Johnson, OT that

life began to dramatically take a turn for the better. As a huge blessing from the Elks, Mavis came into little Ethan's life at a time when Mom and Dad were scrambling for the means to afford private speech therapy to address his severe language and speech delays, let alone private Occupational Therapy. Most young families of typical children find themselves preoccupied with saving for college, but special needs families find themselves supremely challenged with the daily struggle of affording the necessary therapies that offer these challenged children some hope for a functional life. Life takes on a whole different dimension financially for special needs families. Life becomes a juggling act and saving for college a luxury because daily routines, special accommodations, medical/doctor visits and therapies can put an added stress on the families. In our case, the immense generosity of the California-Hawaii Elks Association, have given our son an angel to help him with all of his life issues.

When Mavis Johnson came into our lives, she was challenged with providing therapy for a child who could essentially not communicate effectively. Ethan was highly unintelligible and required much concentration to learn his unique garbled language. He would often grab her face and repeat himself incessantly with garble in an effort to communicate. When Mavis came into this little guy's life, Ethan could NOT do sooooo many things that most kids take for granted. He could not sit still, grasp a pencil properly, tie his shoes, button his pants, wear his clothing properly, write legibly, ride a bike/scooter/skateboard, jump on a trampoline, organize his thoughts properly, process proper sequences, etc. Mavis single-handedly discovered a lot of the things that challenged little Ethan and she easily found remedies for many of his ailments. We have never seen someone work with Ethan with as much efficacy as Mavis Johnson. He immediately took to her and knew that she loved him and was there to help him. There were many times his tantrums seemed out of control but she was able to use therapy techniques and other occupational therapy strategies to calm him down and encourage him to work. In part, Mavis also