



Welcome to Play for a Heart

Your team name is
TEAM VAUGHN

Your team is named after a
little boy named **Vaughn**.
Here is his story:

Vaughn Jones Dinnel was born on March 24, 2008 at a healthy 7lb 15oz and 21 ½ inches. He was born full term but via an emergency C-section. He had a rough time breathing at first and was immediately put in an oxygen tent as the nurses all thought he had too much fluid in his lungs from his birth. Within hours they realized after an x-ray that he didn't have all that much fluid and that there must be something else keeping his oxygen level so low even under the tent. A cardiologist did an echo on him and diagnosed him with what they thought was Transposition of the Great Arteries. Immediately within hours of his birth he was transported to Children's Hospital where they confirmed the diagnosis of TGA. What a stressful time this was – my husband bearing all the decision making and trying to understand what they were saying as I was no help post surgery.

Vaughn had an immediate Atrial Septostomy that evening to help his flow of oxygenated blood to his body. He was stable after the surgery and on the 4th day I was able to join everyone at Children's Hospital as we waited for Vaughn's big surgery day. On his 7th day of life Dr. Lacour-Gayet (the man we will always be grateful for) performed the Arterial Switch operation. Vaughn was in the operation for about 6 hours and as the team came out they said all went well and as planned with no surprises. Thank you Lord !! Of course they try and prepare you for the tubes and things but it is always quite a shock to see your precious little baby laying there but to know he was repaired and he should be ok was our saving grace.

Vaughn was released home on April 14th, 22 days after being admitted to Children's. He did have to go home on oxygen and a few medicines but we were elated! After a few weeks at home he still wasn't gaining weight or breathing very well (he sounded like a noisy seal) and we were sent to Children's again. Unfortunately we became very familiar with the term 'failure to thrive'. Vaughn was diagnosed at that time with Laryngomalacia, this is when you have too much tissue in your throat area that closes over your windpipe. He had his first throat surgery to remove some tissue from his windpipe area to help his breathing. We spent another 3 days at Children's but were released having our little guy breathe better than before but still on oxygen. Within 2 weeks we were back for a check up and they still weren't happy with his 'squeakiness' – so he immediately had another surgery that night! Another 2 days spent at Children's but this time released without oxygen!

Vaughn is now a thriving 17 month old that loves his sandbox and is a happy, easygoing little boy. We are so thankful for all the nurses and doctors at Children's who helped our little boy!