Announcing The Myocarditis Foundation’s Traveling Exhibit “Not a Blank Canvas: Portraits of Myocarditis”

What better way to show the world the impact myocarditis has than telling the stories of those people affected by this devastating disease. The Myocarditis Foundation has been hard at work compiling stories and pictures of people whose lives have been touched by myocarditis.

These posters are now available to be shipped to fundraisers across the country. It is an overwhelming experience reading the stories from these remarkable people. In just the couple of events at which they were featured, we have seen an amazing response. Myocarditis is no longer some obscure, unknown disease; it is now a very real and personal disease that has disrupted lives across the world. It is the faces of babies, children, teenagers, and adults, needing to tell their myocarditis story. Through this outstanding exhibit we hope to further raise awareness because after all, knowledge nurtures hope!

If you are interested in creating a poster or using the exhibit at an upcoming fundraiser, please contact us at: info@myocarditisfoundation.org

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**Hana Hornbeck**
Phoenix, Arizona

**Our Story**

After losing our first son, Cole, in 2007, Lindsey and I knew that we wanted more children. We were pictured in a family photo two years ago, against all odds, in January of 2009. We were thrilled that we would be blessed with another little boy, when we discovered we were pregnant! On October 21, Owen made a grand entrance at 37 weeks and 6 days. He was 7 pounds, 4 ounces, and 20 inches long. It was a we-covered pregnancy as our happy little boy!

However, within a few hours, it became clear that Owen was having breathing difficulties. He was sent to the hospital and was diagnosed with Congenital Heart Disease for extra help. Despite their best efforts, Owen was not showing improvement. Owen’s lungs became scarred, his skin was peeled, and the doctors felt that he may be breathing his last breaths.

The doctors were honest and said that they were doing everything they could. They had given him total heart failure and was not expected to make it through the night, but we would not hear that for diagnoses and heart failure.

Since that day, Owen has been on oxygen with pulmonary hypertension and has been given a very special little name. Regardless of what “The Doctor” says, Owen is still just as strong today and is able to laugh and love without feeling anything.

After being released from the hospital, I immediately contacted the Myocarditis Foundation to tell them about the worst day of my life. We were shocked to learn about the stories of other children who had been affected with this cruel disease.

I was thrilled to call Hana and I was amazed at how much she was like our little boy. I immediately told her about our family and how we could be a resource to other families who are going through a tough situation with their child. I was so glad to have a new family to connect with.

Hana’s Story

Myocarditis Foundation

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**Tim Cardwell**
Albemarle, NC

**Our Story**

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**Tim Burke**
Harrisburg, PA

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