



# Samantha's House

## An Overview



On May 12, 2003, ironically the day after Mother's Day, the life of Samantha Allen, an adorable eight-year-old Indianapolis girl, changed forever. Just after Samantha and her sister got home from school, a car hit Samantha as she was crossing the street to get a glass of water. In the days after the horrific crash, Samantha hovered between life and death with injuries so catastrophic that her own physicians suggested to her parents that death would be better for her. She was in a coma and endured numerous transfusions and procedures.

Samantha "survived" her C1 spinal cord injury, the same type of injury that Christopher Reeve suffered. Her life, along with that of her family—her parents and three siblings—will never be the same. Samantha will require round-the-clock medical care the rest of her life and is never expected to walk again or regain use of her arms and hands. A C1 spinal cord injury oftentimes shortens life expectancy as well.

Samantha's attorney, Jim Keller, along with Michael Hunt, founder of the Emily Hunt Foundation rallied around Samantha and her family. Immediately following the accident, and while Samantha was in the I.C.U., in a coma and critically ill, her physicians asked Hunt to meet with the family. Hunt's own daughter, 12-year-old Emily, is a paraplegic as a result of an amusement park accident and Samantha's physicians thought Hunt could provide the Allen family with hope. Since then the Allens, Hunt, and Keller have been working together to make Samantha's House a reality.

Their goal is to provide Samantha with a house that can meet her significant medical care and staffing needs and provide a place where she can be comfortable, a place that can truly be a home for her. A non-profit organization (501C3) has been created that will ultimately help not only Samantha, but other children like her, by adapting their homes to meet the needs of a catastrophically injured or ill child.

In the case of the Allen family, they were a typical, hard-working family, parents Jerry, a brick mason and Priscilla, a full-time homemaker, and children Samantha, Justin, Tiffany, and Cheyenne. Making ends meet, even before the accident, was a daily struggle. Without our help, the struggles the Allen family must face are beyond imagination. Won't you help us make a difference in the life of one child?

