

I was 14 years old when I was diagnosed with epilepsy . I have had 7 grand mal seizures and many petit mal seizures. I may not have had countless seizures like many of the other kids and adults. But it has affected me, my life and has taken a toll on my family all the same. This disorder or so called disease has proven to be life threatening, financially troubling. But I hope one day that they will find a cure for not just me but every scarred soul and family who has been affected by epilepsy.

Throughout these 4 years ive been diagnosed with epilepsy, I have got to say that the first year was the most difficult. I had no idea what was happening to me I was scared felt all alone and said to my self over and over again "why me". During the first year I lost most of my confidence and self esteem, and would always let every thing get to me. I would always depend on my only parent, my mom and my brother. I got so dependent that even my friends noticed. I lost a lot of weight and got frustrated with my different medications because none of them would seem to have an effect or help my seizures.

Each time I had some sort of episode or seizure I always saw my family by my side. My mom, brother, uncle, aunty, grandparents, cousins, and friends. But as time passed and I turned sixteen and things started to look up. I was getting healthy again and did not seem to have any type of seizure or any sign of a seizure for about 7 months. I've been through 7 different medications and I finally found one that helped control them.

As time progressed I was getting better and I was thinking about my future. I started to get interested in dentistry. I was fascinated in this career because of the many times I visited the dentist and orthodontist. Being a dentist is just one of many goals I have yet to accomplish. My goals are to graduate and get my diploma, another is to go on to college and hopefully become a dentist. My dream is to see myself as a very successful role model for younger ones by helping my mom start a support group for people with epilepsy in our area.

I plan on being very successful in everything I do. I feel that I've accomplished a lot already just because I feel I've beaten epilepsy. I've won a science fair & a trip to Albuquerque, I've got to travel to many places by being involved in the American Indian and Science & Engineering Society (AISES) and by just getting this far in school and even getting on the honor roll this year.

I have overcome many obstacles in my life and this was one of the most difficult. I hope one day that kids all around the world will have the will and courage to go on even if they are diagnosed with epilepsy. So my last remark is to "never give up" and keep moving forward.