Hannah's Story

At just four years of age, Hannah started getting bald patches. Soon after, she was diagnosed with the lifelong condition Alopecia Areata, which causes hair loss.

At first her family tried covering the bald spots with different hairstyles but Hannah also started to lose her eyebrows, eyelashes and even more hair.

"As a family, not knowing what this meant was very difficult as our beautiful little girl who loved to sing, play and hang out with family and friends was losing her hair," her mum Christine said.

One of the most difficult things for the family was Hannah being called names or teased. It started to take a toll on her naturally outgoing personality and self-confidence.

"As often happens, some adversity reveals strength, and Hannah has been remarkable. It was far from easy though. Hannah's confidence levels were dwindling and our bright and vivacious little girl was disappearing under the weight of her Alopecia," Christine said.

The family started researching and talking to others in similar situations. Hearing about Variety's wig program, they applied for a suction based wig.

"What an amazing experience it has been since we began our wig journey, Variety was there for the Hodge family all along. The thought of Hannah being able to be funded for a real hair wig was beyond amazing," Christine said.

These days Hannah loves her wig, which she has named Jasmine, and wears it with pride, able to wear during her netball matches and when she's on stage dancing, singing or acting.

"We see 'Jasmine' as a symbol of physical support to signal a confident new world in which Hannah can continue to be the bright, happy, engaged little girl we know and love."

"She can choose to use her beautiful wig to have as luxurious hair style as anyone, and at other times Jasmine the wig hangs on the shelf. With the help of Variety, she at least now has the option."

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