

Update on Jessi Thorne:

Past Publisher's Note:

Last year, when Jessi Thorne needed our help for life-saving surgery, Tualatin rallied in a huge way to help Jessi get the help she needed. I am frequently asked about the outcome, so I made contact with Jessi a couple weeks ago, and here's what she had to say: - JC

BY JONATHAN CRANE, PAST PUBLISHER

JC - So how about an update as to your health? Are you 100% at this point or do you have lingering issues?

Jessi - As far as my health goes, I feel abundantly better than I did before. Sometimes, when I push myself too hard, my head will start to hurt, but feels more like a normal headache, and it is just my brain warning me that I may be doing too much and to take it down a notch. As time goes on, I do think this will improve, but the headaches are by no means debilitating. The biggest issue I would say is my neck. They had to cut through my muscles for the surgery, and that has been giving me problems, but I would happily live with this the rest of my life, compared to what I was feeling like before.

JC - What was the recovery like? How long after the surgery were you able to become active again?

Jessi - Recovery was brutal for the first week or so. I ended up staying in the hospital longer than planned due to complications. I reacted to the anesthesia, and got sick about nine times directly after my surgery, in the ICU. This put a damper on my recovery. The next few weeks at home were very boring, lots of laying in bed, and sleeping. Three weeks after the surgery, I went out to lunch for the first time. I did well, but then experienced "brain flooding" which is a form of sensory

overload. It gave me an overwhelming sense to get back into bed! I talked to many people that had the same operation and many of them said they weren't able to watch television or movies for MONTHS after surgery. It was too much for their brain. I wasn't able to jog or do heavy exercising until four months after surgery. The doctor did release me to slow and very careful rides in quads in August. One month I am lying in a hospital bed, hurting so badly, literally thinking I could die, and in the same year, I am healed enough to be on the sand riding! Lots of people ask about my hair. They shaved the back where they had to open it up, and about twelve circles bald around my head.

Luckily, only one was directly on the top of my head!

Sometimes they still stick straight up, but it is just a subtle reminder of how lucky I am to still be here.

JC - How is Landon enjoying his 'healthier' Mom? Are you able to be as active with him as you were hoping to be?

Jessi - It was the sweetest thing the first-time Landon visited me at the hospital. He was so gentle and concerned. He climbed up very slowly, and gave me a hug. He barely made it to the parking garage before he was crying, telling his dad the he was ready for me to come home. It has been so much better, because before, I sometimes could play through the pain for him, but it was the fatigue that was hard to fight. It is much different now. We can

go to Safari Sam's and play, we enjoyed many Pumpkin patches this fall, he had a great time trick or treating, I can chase him, dance with him, and take walks with him to the park. I am eternally grateful for how I can now be a different parent.



JC - The generosity of complete strangers was overwhelming to me. How did that make you feel during such a tough period in your life?

Jessi - It was so incredible to me to see random people donate their money, time, energy, and prayers to help a stranger. With the exposure, came a lot of nay-sayers, people who thought since I could not afford my surgery, I should be lying in bed all day, not doing anything. People who would say that I didn't seem sick, and doubted every aspect of my life. So when everyone from my community came together, it wasn't just the money, it was the thoughtful e-mails, it was the offers to help with food and with Landon, it was the organizing of fundraisers, so much more that I am not even able to recall. That was incredible, not just to me, but to my family. When my mom saw how Tualatin rallied behind me, I think it helped not only me, but also her get through it. It's amazing that there are so many people willing to do good for others, with absolutely no recognition, they just did it out of the kindness in their hearts. Even now, when I think about it, it brings tears to my eyes.

JC - What would you like to say to the people of Tualatin?

Jessi - To the people of Tualatin, no words would ever be enough to describe what I feel for you. I genuinely feel like I owe my life to other people. When I am out in the grocery store, at the gym, going through a drive-thru, I am always thinking in the back of my head that I am among people that came together to literally save my life. I could never do enough to re-pay everyone for their generosity, but I would like to try.



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