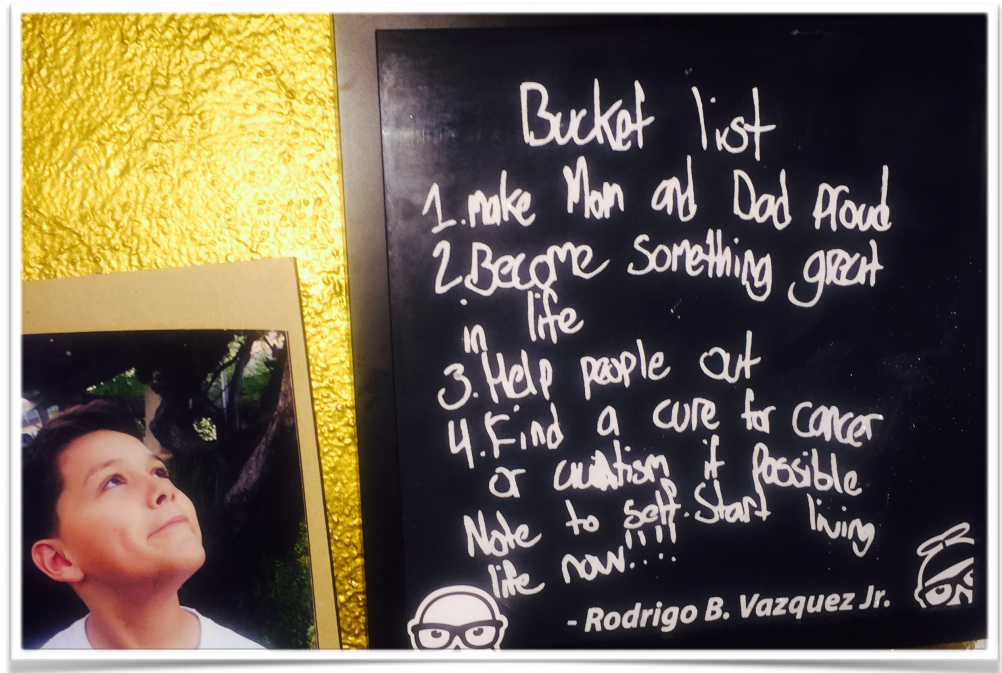




M&J

Helping Hands Inc.

We are building a better tomorrow, Today!



Roy Vazquez Jr.

A 13 year-old boy survived an Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM)

A rare brain injury leaves an 11 year old paralyzed. His family needs your help.

Wheelchair-van ranging from \$39,000 - \$60,000.



M&J Helping Hands, Inc.

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On a late Saturday night, around midnight, August 18, 2013, eleven year old Roy Vazquez Jr. was in his room playing video games. Roy's parents reported that they heard Roy scream out in agonizing pain. They rushed into his room to find Roy crying, grasping his head in pain saying that his brain was hurting. His parents immediately called 911 and took him to emergency. After doing a brain scan, the doctors returned to tell Roy's parents that he had suffered an Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) rupture.

Prior to this, Roy was a healthy young boy with no real health issues or previous illnesses besides Von Willebrands Disease, which caused him chronic nose bleeds since Roy was two years old.

Von Willebrand Disease

Von Willebrand disease (VWD) is a genetic disorder caused by missing or defective von Willebrand factor (VWF), a clotting protein. VWF binds factor VIII, a key clotting protein, and platelets in blood vessel walls, which help form a platelet plug during the clotting process. The condition is named after Finnish physician Erik von Willebrand, who first described it in the 1920s.

VWD is the most common bleeding disorder, affecting up to 1% of the US population. It is carried on chromosome 12 and occurs equally in men and women.

People with VWD experience frequent nosebleeds, easy bruising and excessive bleeding during and after invasive procedures, such as tooth extractions and surgery. Women often experience menorrhagia, heavy menstrual periods that last longer than average, and hemorrhaging after childbirth.

Hemophilia.org

Brain AVM (Arteriovenous Malformation)

A brain arteriovenous malformation (AVM) is a tangle of abnormal blood vessels connecting arteries and veins in the brain.

The arteries are responsible for taking oxygen-rich blood from the heart to the brain. Veins carry the oxygen-depleted blood back to the lungs and heart. A brain AVM disrupts this vital process.

An arteriovenous malformation can develop anywhere in your body but occurs most often in the brain or spine. Even so, brain AVMs are rare and affect less than 1 percent of the population. The cause of AVMs is not clear. Most people are born with them, but they can occasionally form later in life. They are rarely passed down among families genetically.

Some people with brain AVMs experience signs and symptoms, such as headache or seizures. AVMs are commonly found after a brain scan for another health issue or after the blood vessels rupture and cause bleeding in the brain (hemorrhage).

Once diagnosed, a brain AVM can often be treated successfully to prevent complications, such as brain damage or stroke.

mayoclinic.org

During the incident, while Roy was suffering the brain bleed and strokes, he was still able to communicate. He complained of nausea to his parents, and said while lying in bed, that he felt like throwing up.

Paramedics raced to Roy while his father stayed on the phone with 911 dispatcher. Roy began to experience brain stem strokes restricting his ability to speak, and soon thereafter, paralysis set in. As the paramedics arrived, Roy said his last words to his father, "I love you and you are the best dad ever". Roy then slipped into a coma.

Roy's AVM was located in his left cerebellum. According to the Aneurysm and AVM Foundation, "an AVM is a complex tangle of abnormal arteries and veins." Arteriovenous Malformations (AVM) is usually congenital, meaning the word from birth and can go on undetected until it is too late. Fortunately, Roy's AVM was detected the day of its rupture.

Roy not only survived the AVM rupture, but also survived the complications that occur after a brain bleed, an aneurysm and multiple strokes in his brainstem. However, there is so much work ahead of him.

Roy's Mom wrote: "When a parent is placed in a 'Life or Death Situation' and their child lives but has suffered a catastrophic injury like Roy has, what do you do? As a parent, you will do everything and anything for your child... We will never give up and have placed our trust in God. We won't give up and we will continue to fight AVM alongside our son and continue to do anything conceivable to help him recover.

Roy has come a long way and still has more to accomplish. He has a bucket list to complete that he wrote at the age of ten. A list that we hope to have him fulfill on his journey. Roy is remarkable boy and deserves every possible chance for a full recovery. We now need help with many things that we never thought would get in the way of our son's recovery. Transportation is our biggest hindrance at this time. We need to have the ability to attend all of our son's medical appointments. Without the ability to access care, my son cannot recover.

Roy Vazquez Jr. needs our community's HELP!!!

M&J Helping Hands is helping the Vazquez family find donations to get Roy a Wheelchair Accessible Van, so that they can get to his appointments. Please go to <http://www.gofundme.com/helproyvazquez-com> or donate to M&J Helping Hands, Inc.