

Help "Miracle Miata" beat the odds

Written by Abeni Hill

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On Saturday, May 3 a benefit will be held for Miata Smith ,20, who underwent a bilateral lung transplant in November of 2013.

Through this journey, Munah Wotorson-Smith has called her daughter "Miracle Miata."

"She is just a manifestation of his power," said Wotorson-Smith in reference to God. "My faith has been strengthened in his faithfulness."

Smith said relying on God helped her and her family stay positive. "If the family is positive that means God was positive."

On Nov. 6 of last year, Smith was diagnosed with a serious case of pneumonia. It began with Smith having difficulty breathing and two trips to the emergency room. The third time Smith was in the emergency room at Methodist Hospital and the doctors decided to keep her overnight for observation.

The next morning her mother, Wotorson-Smith was informed that her daughter's kidneys had been impacted by the pneumonia and she suffered from acute respiratory failure. The hospital admitted Smith into the ICU. As her oxygen levels became progressively worse and her lungs were succumbing to the disease, the doctors decided to put Smith on the waiting list for a lung transplant. The next day, a donor was found and Smith had a bilateral lung transplant two days before Thanksgiving.

After being in an induced coma for six weeks, Smith was discharged from the hospital and has been at home with her family. Her kidneys were also impacted by the pneumonia and have not resumed normal function since her surgery. Smith is currently on dialysis.

Smith and her family look forward to the celebration.

"We are so happy that the community came together to celebrate this whole remarkable miracle," said Wotorson-Smith. "We are just grateful for this second chance that she is here."

Smith is currently on the waiting list for a kidney donor. Her older sister, Malaika Smith has

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stepped forward as a living donor.

"When the chance came up I was 100 percent on board but it was scary," said Malaika Smith. "Most people wouldn't necessarily be excited, but she is my sister she is my life."

The benefit for Smith will be held at New Hope Baptist Church, 712 Burr St., St. Paul on Sat. May 3. Dinner will be available for purchase beginning at 5 p.m. and entertainment will commence at 6 p.m. There will also be a silent auction from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Donations for the silent auction are welcome until May 1. Persons interested in donating can email shamly17@yahoo.com for drop-off instructions.

Those interested in following the family's journey can visit www.caringbridge.org/visit/miatasmith