



## LSL Life – Corlena

Mom: My hopes and dreams for Corlena during pregnancy was first that she was just a healthy child.

Dad: And having a little girl, as a father it's like, "Oh okay. I gotta get everything together. I'm the protector. I'm going protect her no matter what."

Mom: When she was born and finding out that she had the diagnosis of hearing loss, it was kind of surreal.

Mom: At first I was thinking like, "Yeah, the test, they don't know what they're talking about in the hospital."

Dad: Now, it probably hit me harder than it hit Kay.

Mom: Yes.

Dad: It was like, out of my control. I want to protect her from everything but this was one thing I couldn't protect her from.

Dad: And, and knowing that? It hit me hard.

Dad: Because I just wanted to be there for her, no matter what.

Dad: It was like, "Dang, my daughter, she might not ever be able to hear, the birds chirp. She might not hear the waves of the ocean."

Dad: But with, you know, more knowledge of everything and understanding, I was able to work through the initial pain and heartfelt sorrows that I was feeling.

Mom: From the initial diagnosis the resources that came about, there were so many.

Mom: Being introduced to them was just like the door, the gate to all this gold for Corlena.

Dad: To see her just respond to Mommy, "Whoa, that's you Grandmama! Whoa, that's you Mommy!" It was an overwhelming feeling of joy.

Dad: And to see my daughter really respond and hear? It was like, "Ah, everything's all good now."

Corlena: *We need a lot so we can make a sand castle.*

Brother: *Yeah.*

Corlena: *Now I'm gonna make a big butterfly, now.*

Brother: *You are?*

Corlena: *This green one, yeah.*

Corlena: *Oh! It's a good one!*

Corlena: *Here I am.*

Corlena: *I'm helping Jesse talk.*

Mom: Good! [Laughter]

Corlena: *Whoa! Whoa, she's pulling me! She's pulling at me!*

Dad: *Hey, how was your day?*

Corlena: Good.

Dad: *What did you eat for lunch?*

Corlena: *I made macaroni and cheese with spinach.*

Dad: *You made macaroni and cheese with spinach?*

Corlena: *Yeah.*

Dad: It's like watching a blooming flower. It's like just watching her just blossom into her personality, into her mannerisms, her characteristics.

Dad: Just to see her move and interact, that kind of wakes me up in the beauty of life.

Dad: To know that, hey, this is what I'm here for. Like, I'm here to make sure you're successful, and you're happy, and you're loved.

Mom: My big concern was she won't be able to hear those birds chirp? To know that she turned around, "Daddy, I hear the birds!" So just hearing that? It was a feeling of relief.

Grandmama: *Runners, take your mark! Get set! Go!*

Dad: *Pump your arms, pump your arms, pump your arms! Dig, dig, dig! There you go.*

Dad: *Give me the arms. Give me the arms. Give me the arms. Give me the arms. Yeah. Yeah!*

Grandmama: *Woooo! Hahaha!*

Dad: *High five!*

Dad: She says she always want to be a doctor and all these things. She loves animals. Maybe she'll be a veterinarian.

Dad: Maybe she'll be some kind of activist. Maybe she'll potentially be a poet, or actress, or a lawyer. There is nothing in my mind to say she cannot and she will not.

Mom: She is blessed with so many talents, with so many different attributes that could land her anywhere.

Mom: I can't even envision where she would be later in life. You know, because the sky's the limit for her. It really is.