

# Acton teen serves as McMaster Children's Hospital ambassador



Jessica Wilson

Jessica Wilson, 15, of Acton, has been officially announced as the McMaster Children's Hospital ambassador to the 2014 Champions program.

Jessica was only 10 days old when she had her first experience at McMaster Children's Hospital. She spent a month in hospital after being diagnosed with a congenital heart defect that required surgery. In

2010, at the age of 10, Jessica began experiencing an unrelated tightening in her throat that gradually grew more intense and made it difficult to swallow.

By November 2011, Jessica was unable to eat and barely able to drink even clear fluids. Underweight and malnourished, she was again admitted to McMaster Children's Hospital

where tests revealed she had a stricture, or narrowing, in her esophagus, leaving just a small space the size of a pen tip for food and liquids to pass through. Jessica spent the next month-and-a-half in the hospital as doctors treated the stricture using an series of image-guided, non-surgical procedures, to gently dilate the narrowed portion of her esophagus.

Thanks to the life-saving care Jessica received at McMaster Children's Hospital, she is once again able to eat normally and her life is back on track. Jessica continues to travel to the Hospital every eight-to-ten weeks for dilations but may require major surgery to repair the stricture permanently.

Jessica, and parents Diana and

Greg, will attend Children's Miracle Network festivities in Toronto along with the other Canadian champions who are acting as ambassadors for their hospitals. They will travel to Disney World to meet with the Champions from across North America. Jessica will also serve as Grand Marshall of the Walk for Miracles presented by Walmart in June 2015.

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