

2015

The SADS Foundation
Presents:

The **21st** *Annual*
No. Ball
at All



Justin Matthew Paul

Justin was born August 9, 2011, and was diagnosed with LQTS2 just eight hours after birth. Justin lost his color in the nursery shortly after he was born and the nurse initially thought it was his blood sugar, but she listened to his heart and thought she heard a murmur. He didn't have a murmur, but because she heard something they ordered an EKG and a chest x-ray. The results just happened to land in the right hands at the children's hospital and they immediately transported Justin to the highest level NICU at that hospital. The pediatrician at our hospital couldn't really explain what was going on, but we knew it was something with his heart. The doctors couldn't tell us whether or not he was going to live.



We said good-bye to him with our hands through an ambulance transport unit as he was being transferred. It was a heart-breaking birth experience. Justin spent two weeks in the NICU and we were allowed to take him home once we had learned CPR, were trained on the heart monitor, were instructed about his medicine, and had purchased an AED. We also needed to wait and see how his heart responded to the medication. The emotions and stress at the time were beyond overwhelming. He was on a heart monitor for his first six months and getting medicine seven times a day until he turned three-months old.

There is no history of LQTS in our family. All of our EKG's and genetic tests came back clear except for Justin's. At this point, Justin regularly sees an electrophysiologist and may need an ICD when he's older. Justin's birth story still brings tears to my eyes, but we are the luckiest parents in the world because his LQTS was caught.

Justin is now a thriving three-and-a-half year old, a loving little brother, and the most wonderful child a parent could have. He attends preschool three days a week and loves to play with his big brother, our cat, cars, trains, and trucks. Justin also can be found riding his bike, running around the playground, and enjoying gymnastics. We know Justin is meant to do great things and that is why his LQTS was caught at birth.

The nurse at the hospital truly saved his life and we are blessed for each day we spend with him, but the SADS Foundation has helped us in Justin's journey to live and thrive as a happy and healthy little boy. The SADS Foundation is a remarkable organization that is near and dear to our hearts. They helped our family during tough times, helped prepare us for Justin to enter preschool, and start a local network of SADS families in San Diego. They do an amazing job in educating, advocating and supporting our community.

-The Paul Family

"Keeping Hearts Beating" is the mission of the SADS Foundation. The funds raised through the "No Ball at All" campaign will save the lives of children and young people with heart rhythm abnormalities and help raise awareness of SADS conditions around the world. Your contributions and support make a difference!