

Ariel Fortson

Age 11



Georgia

The Children's Hospital at The Medical Center of Central Georgia
Car Accident

On July 21, 2007, Ariel Fortson of Lizella, Ga., and her family were traveling home from a family trip when the unthinkable happened. A tractor-trailer driving too close veered in front of their vehicle and caused their car to flip several times. The entire family was ejected from the vehicle. Tragically, the accident was so severe, Ariel's mom Vickie and her sister Tamara did not survive.

Ariel and her remaining siblings were sent immediately to The Children's Hospital, where medical specialists fought to save Ariel's life. She was suffering from a massive head injury, fractured bones, severe abrasions all over her body, and a punctured lung.

Thanks to the talent and special care of doctors, nurses and staff, Ariel made a remarkable recovery and was discharged from the hospital and into rehab less than a month after the accident. Since her hospitalization, Ariel has formed lasting friendships with staff at The Children's Hospital and they encourage her to have "girl power," a motto that has helped her through some tough times.

Ariel, 11, is now able to participate in cheerleading and gymnastics. She loves to read, write, cook and design clothes and jewelry.



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