**2018 Jodi Brookhart Award Winner**  

 In 2014, the Pearce family was in high gear. Chloe was in the 3rd grade and 10 years old. She was mischievous, funny, playful, and a handful, just like all of our kids. Chloe loved soccer, cheerleading, swimming, and playing outside. She loved school and was often in trouble for talking too much.

 On January 21, 2014, Chloe’s parents received a call from the school about an accident that Chloe had. Chloe had slipped while running and fallen on the playground. She was in and out of consciousness, and the school called the ambulance. Thirty minutes later, Chloe was rushed in an ambulance to the Emergency Department and diagnosed with a concussion.

 When Chloe returned to school, she heard from the other kids that she was “vibrating” on the playground and the kids thought she was dead. What no one knew in the early days was that Chloe had a terrible headache, could not find her words while speaking or reading, and was constantly dizzy and off balance. After 6 weeks, Chloe tried to return to school for half days. Then, Chloe had her first big seizure and was diagnosed with epilepsy.

 Chloe has also faced doubt from others that she even had symptoms. Since she seems healthy on the outside, many doubted that she actually had any health issues. Chloe’s headaches are debilitating, her fatigue is real and her memory loss caused the inability to complete schoolwork. This went on for four years. Then, in 2018, she received another concussion.

 Just a few weeks after her second concussion, and subsequent worsening symptoms, Chloe traveled to Utah to receive treatment at Cognitive Fx, which is a program that retrains and heals the brain with an aggressive treatment plan for concussion. Chloe improved and the light was back in Chloe’s eyes. She was joyous, talking non-stop, and could remember everything she needed to. Her brain functions were at normal levels.

 Each day, Chloe has continuous improvements, less headaches, no short-term memory loss, and improved independent thinking. Most importantly, she is laughing, smiling and, at times, being sassy (teenager!).

 Chloe, for the first time in her life, is swimming 3 strokes at most meets, cooking her own breakfast, and doing chores around the house. Chloe is well on her way to beating post-concussion syndrome for the remainder of her life.

