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MISSION IMPACT



Elizabeth and Matthew Barnes

Elizabeth and Matthew Barnes fell in love with competitive swimming after Elizabeth's kidney transplant.

Driving their children from Mauldin to swim team practice every afternoon at the Middle Tyger Y is a big time commitment, but Susan and Christopher Barnes love the benefits their children are reaping from being a part of the Y Spartaquatics Swim Team.

"About two years ago, our children wanted to try swimming, so I contacted my friend Jami Jann, because I knew that her family was involved in year-round swimming," said Susan Barnes. "She said that her family was involved at Middle Tyger YMCA and loved it. This was just after my daughter, Elizabeth, received a kidney transplant and after my son, Matthew, watched the swimming in the Olympics!"

When Elizabeth was 10, her well visit check up revealed that her blood pressure was dangerously high. Further tests showed that her kidneys were shutting down. After 7 months of dialysis, Elizabeth received a kidney transplant. Her doctors said that swimming was one of the best activities for her. Susan scheduled an assessment with Coach Wendy, and both Elizabeth and Matthew went into the YSL developmental program that year.

According to Susan, "Since beginning the sport at ages 11 and 13, they have both continued and thrived in the program. They have made friends, improved, learned discipline, and learned how to prioritize and how to set goals. They both have fallen in love with the sport, for which I am grateful, as it is a lifelong activity. Matthew has just moved to the Senior 2 group and Elizabeth moved to Junior 2 this summer!"

Christopher, a minister, recently lost his position as a chaplain at a private school, and he homeschools Matthew and Elizabeth while he searches for employment, and Susan teaches high school math. Fortunately, a scholarship has allowed Matthew and Elizabeth to continue to be a part of the YSSC swim team, and they are grateful for the generosity of the donors who gave them this opportunity. Susan says, "We are so blessed to be a recipient of scholarship money!"