

*From an interview
by Jenn Adams Wilks*

Hi!
I'm Ellie!

Dreams



I have Proximal Focal Femoral Deficiency (PFFD), which made one leg grow slower. My left leg was nine inches (23 cm) shorter than my right. Doctors thought they might have to amputate my leg, but we found a doctor in Florida who could lengthen it. The “fixator” he attached made my bone grow a millimeter every day. Over the summer, my leg grew five inches (13 cm)! I got a blessing before one of my surgeries, and I know it helped.





Winter the Dolphin

In Florida I met a dolphin named Winter. Her tail got caught in a crab trap, but she was able to swim again with a prosthetic tail. A volunteer taught me how to make Winter dance and do other tricks. Winter never gave up, so I didn't want to give up either.

I have a stuffed dolphin that I take with me to all of my surgeries. It's missing the tail, just like Winter! It helps me have hope.

What I Do For Fun

I play piano, swim, rock climb, and ski. I also like to paint, make bracelets, and sew and cook.

and Dolphins

How I Help Others

A lady who used to be my Primary teacher is paralyzed, so I wrote nice things on hearts to put on her door and gave her a treat. I also wrote a poem about my dream of walking again. Because I've been through a lot, I try to help others who are going through hard things.

*I've had a dream, a very real dream,
One that's lasted my whole life through.
I dream about running, skipping, and dancing
And tumbling like cheerleaders do...*

*It was a hard and overwhelming year for me,
But I feel so very blessed that my dreams
came true.*

*I am grateful for miracles and answers to
prayers.*

*I now have no doubt that dreams can
come true.*

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- If someone is on crutches, see if they need help carrying things.
- Visit a friend when they've been sick. Bring a craft or game to do with them.
- Cheer up people when they're having a hard time.



GIVE US A HAND!

How do you follow Jesus by helping others? Trace your hand, and send us your story and photo, along with your parent's permission. Find out how on page 48.