

*Benefit for*  
**Olivia Griffin**

**November 12, 2017 | 4-7 p.m.**  
Lord of Love Lutheran Church  
10405 Fort St., Omaha, Neb. 68134

Join us for **dinner (free-will offering), a silent auction, raffle, and more!**

Proceeds will go to the Griffin family for Olivia's medical expenses.

If you'd like to help but can't attend, please send your contribution to Lord of Love, Attn: Griffin Benefit.



*Olivia's Story*

Olivia Griffin had just started her senior year at Westside High School in 2016 when she suddenly collapsed while going up stairs. She became confused, disoriented and very agitated. She suddenly was unable to recognize family, care for herself, had no short-term memory, bizarre personality changes, and was unable to walk or speak any words. She was hospitalized and Olivia's neurologist found a rare tumor in her pancreas that caused **paraneoplastic limbic encephalitis**. The tumor was removed and medication was started.

Limbic encephalitis is characterized by inflammation of the brain, caused by autoimmunity, an abnormal state where the body produces antibodies against itself. In Olivia's case, the antibodies are attacking her brain. She regressed to a three-year-old level and had to

re-learn colors, numbers, and how to walk and talk again through weeks of rehab. She continued to progress with treatment and therapy.

In June 2017, she had a reoccurrence of the limbic encephalitis and was sent to the Mayo Clinic for 10 days and received five doses of IVIG (Intravenous Immune Globulin) for her immune system. She is currently at home and experiences episodes of short-term memory loss, agitation, confusion, anxiety and impaired cognitive abilities. Treatment includes repeated doses of IVIG along with a medication called Rituximab, which is a chemotherapy agent used to shut down the immune system and stop the attack on the brain. The family is awaiting an insurance appeal regarding the approval of Rituximab for Olivia.

Please keep Olivia in your prayers.

*For questions, contact Susan Lueders: 402.707.3753 or [sdluederstc@gmail.com](mailto:sdluederstc@gmail.com)  
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