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Make a Film Foundation fulfills Wichita teen's dream

May 26, 2011 | By Megan Strader | KWCH 12 Eyewitness News

(WICHITA, Kan.) — A Los Angeles based non profit has made the dream of a Wichita teenager a reality.

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Clay Beabout was born with VACTERL Syndrome. It left him with holes in his heart, a mishaped kidney and missing ribs. In his short life, he's undergone 40 surgeries.

Three years ago the Make-a-Wish Foundation introduced him to the Make a Film Foundation, who made his wish of being in a movie come true. The organization teams children with serious or life threatening medical conditions with film industry professionals to make short movies.

"Since the disease brought me to the Make a Film Foundation, I decided the movie should be about what life is like for me about every six months."

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For three years, Clay and his family worked with the Make a Film Foundation and flew to LA several times.

The 14 minute movie is both live action and animated and depicts what goes on in Clay's head while he's in surgery.

In late April, the Beabouts were invited to LA for the premier of the movie, Deep Blue Breath. They walked the red carpet and went through press interviews.

Clay told one reporter, "Having the opportunity to do this is really amazing. I'm a little freaked out and I really hope it turns out well."

It did. Clay and his family say they couldn't be happier with the result and the Make a Film Foundation

"How do you say thank you to someone like that. How do I say thank you to any of these people?" asked Clay's mom, Amy.

But Clay feels like he's come up with one way. When the film premieres in Wichita, he wants to use it as a chance to give back.

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A small way to say thanks, after making his dream come true.

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