



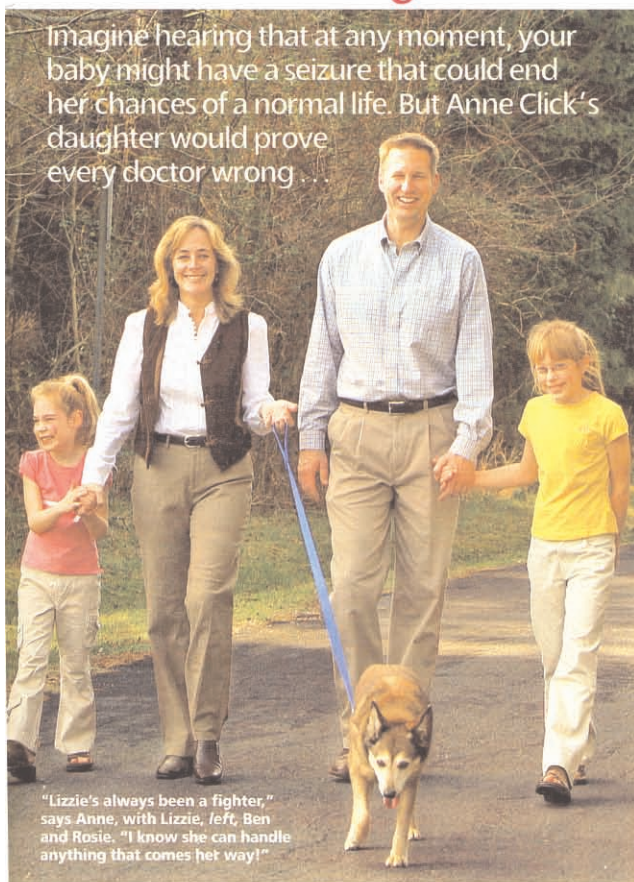
God Bless America Woman's World

A great week
made easy!

April 3,
2007

Power of Faith

All any mom wants is for her baby to be healthy...



Imagine hearing that at any moment, your baby might have a seizure that could end her chances of a normal life. But Anne Click's daughter would prove every doctor wrong...

"Lizzie's always been a fighter," says Anne, with Lizzie, left, Ben and Rosie. "I know she can handle anything that comes her way!"

The worst part was waiting for the other shoe to drop.

Doctors told Anne Click that her baby girl Elizabeth would have seizures so dangerous, she might never live a normal life. Yet the Leonardtown, Maryland, mom had no clue when they would strike...

Anne and her husband, Ben, were thrilled to give three-year-old Rosie a sister. But when Lizzie was born, a port wine stain covered one side of her face.

And though doctors said it could be lightened, tests revealed it was more than a birthmark—it was a sign of a rare neurological disorder. Lizzie had Sturge-Weber Syndrome, where abnormal blood vessels develop on the brain, causing glaucoma and debilitating seizures.

"When she's older, we can prescribe anti-seizure meds," the doctor said, "but not yet..."

So every morning, Anne worried it could happen that day. Every night, she was afraid to sleep, terrified Lizzie might have a seizure. And sure enough, one day when Lizzie was four months old, she began seizing.

The seizure lasted for 30 agonizing minutes. An MRI showed damage to both sides of her brain and a nearly paralyzed right side.

The power of Lizzie

"It doesn't look good," neurologists admitted grimly. Lizzie would likely be learning disabled—and perhaps never regain motor function.

Still, as Anne gazed at her, Lizzie flashed a toothless grin.

"I'll never give up on you, Anne vowed. Seeking support online, she found the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Sturge-Weber Center in Washington, D.C. There, doctors formulated a combination of medications to keep Lizzie's seizures in check.

"Please, call anytime," pediatric neurologist Dr. Anne Comi urged, giving the Clicks her cellphone number.

And doctors weren't the only

ones watching out for Lizzie: She was on prayer lists all over the country. Friends and strangers alike prayed, "Send Lizzie a miracle..."

Meanwhile, Lizzie never stopped smiling—even during physical therapy. And defying all odds she was walking at 13 months—and keeping up with Rosie, who urged her on every step of the way.

"You rock, Lizzie!" Rosie cheered when Lizzie played soccer.

And when Lizzie underwent treatments to fade her port wine stain, Rosie squealed, "Lizzie, you're beautiful!"

Today, six-year-old Lizzie's thriving in a regular first-grade class, takes dancing lessons and is proud to be a Brownie.

"I'm lucky," she says. "I have lots of heroes. My teacher, Dr. Comi, my sister—and my mommy and daddy!" Lizzie is Anne's hero, too.

"Lizzie has a will of iron and a spirit as bright as sunshine," she beams. "She's taught me to never underestimate the power of faith—and of little girls!"

—Kristin Higson-Hughes

Did you know?
You can start an online prayer circle at www.beliefnet.com.