



propel themselves. Goalies use the same equipment as their teammates but modifications are made to the glove that allows them to maneuver.

Katie, now 17, has been a patient of Shriners Hospitals for Children since she was 2 years old. She was born with a vascular malformation in her left leg that eventually led to the complete deterioration of her knee cartilage, causing her tremendous pain. At the age of 12 her knee pain grew so bad that she needed a wheelchair for mobility. Katie's doctors gave her a choice – to have her leg amputated or have her knee permanently fused. Katie chose to have her leg amputated. Shortly after the surgery Katie was introduced to adaptive sports which was a turning point. She became very active and now in addition to sled hockey Katie participates in competitive swimming and track.

We look forward to watching Katie and the U.S. Women's Sled Hockey team as they prepare for the 2018 Paralympic Games which will be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea.



Scoliosis superhero helps others during Scoliosis Awareness Month and beyond

Shriners Hospitals for Children — Salt Lake City treats patients like Katy Litwiller who use their experiences to help others. On a whim Katy decided to audition for NBC's singing competition *The Voice* in 2015. Adele's *Rolling in the Deep* flowed seemingly effortlessly from Katy's lips. The judges never suspected that due to scoliosis the 15-year-old's ribs were pressing into her lungs with such force, she would be breathless by the song's end. Katy advanced one more round in the show despite being just weeks away from a spinal fusion surgery to correct a 68-degree curve, a procedure that could save her singing career. Katy also needed an osteotomy – a surgical procedure to change a bone's alignment – to correct a birth defect. The goal was to get her spine to a more manageable 25–30 degree curve by reshaping curved vertebrae. Spine surgeon Stephen Santora, M.D., performed the successful procedure in the fall of 2015