

and Katy has been steadily healing and rebuilding her life ever since.

Katy has been the target of bullying, has missed a lot of school and has been excluded from participating in many sports activities because of her scoliosis. However, having scoliosis has also helped her develop a strong sense of empathy, perseverance and bravery. Katy uses Instagram and her profile – @Scoliosis.Superhero – as an outlet for her feelings and a diary about her experiences with scoliosis. About 1,150 people follow her story online – many of whom are teen girls with scoliosis seeking encouragement and advice.

“Instagram has really helped me through this,” Katy said. “I don’t want others to feel alone. I really want to inspire children to stay strong, stay positive. They can get through it.”

Katy was ready to sing again just two weeks after her surgery so she decided to try out to sing the national anthem for the Phoenix Suns. “I had never felt so dizzy and weak but I did it,” Katy said proudly. Katy has since continued pushing herself further than she ever thought possible including another audition for *The Voice* in May 2016. While she didn’t advance to the next round, the judges and even her competing peers all agreed that her voice is very strong – a testament to the world class care she received at Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Unfazed by her daughter’s relentless drive, her mother Jennifer reflects: “Her voice is her therapy. When she was in trouble, she sang. When she’s happy – she sings.” Katy agrees. “We have been blessed by Shriners Hospitals for Children. I feel the love there... it feels more like home than any other hospital I’ve ever been to. Scoliosis doesn’t define me but I believe scoliosis has made me stronger.”

Scoliosis Awareness Month is observed every June to highlight the growing need for education, early detection and awareness to the public about scoliosis and its prevalence within the community.



Shriners Hospitals for Children Attains Highly Coveted 4-Star Charity Navigator Rating



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Rating showcases organization’s commitment to transparency and fiscal responsibility.

Charity Navigator, America’s premier independent charitable organization evaluator, has awarded Shriners Hospitals for Children with its prestigious Four Star Charity award. Such distinction recognizes Shriners Hospitals for Children for its sound fiscal management, commitment to accountability and transparency. Only 25 percent of the evaluated charities have received the coveted 4-star award, thus signaling that Shriners Hospitals for Children outperforms the majority of charities in America. The Four Star rating is Charity Navigator’s highest possible rating, indicating that Shriners Hospitals for Children adheres to best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way.

“We are honored to have attained Charity Navigator’s highest distinction. This four star designation is so coveted because it distinguishes Shriners Hospitals for Children from more than 1.5 million American charities,” said John McCabe, executive vice president, Shriners Hospitals for Children. “Charity Navigator differentiates charities like ours for being an efficient and transparent organization. This gives donors greater confidence in the charitable decisions they make.”

This is the third recognition that Shriners Hospitals for Children has received in the past year in the philanthropy category. Shriners Hospitals for Children was ranked the 91st largest charity in the world by *The Chronicles of Philanthropy* and the 53rd largest charity in the U.S. by *Forbes* magazine. “Receiving this rating gives Shriners Hospitals for