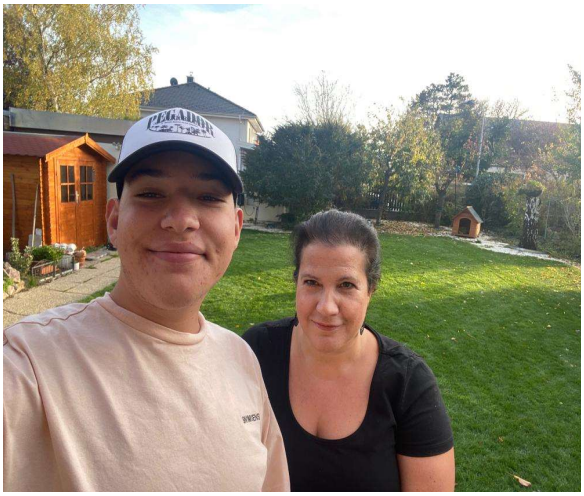
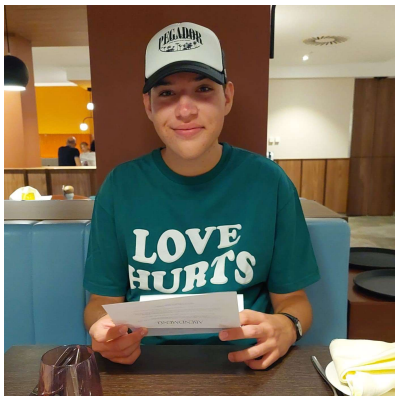
My name is Melanie Kellner. I live in a partnership, am a proud mom of a son and we come from near Vienna. My son Oliver was born in Vienna on May 21, 2008 as a "healthy" boy and without any complications. Since then he enriches us with his cheerful, inquisitive, friendly, combative and funny disposition.When Oliver was 7 years old, after a routine blood draw, we suddenly received a momentous diagnosis out of nowhere and without warning, which turned our lives around 180 degrees within a few seconds.



My son was diagnosed with LGMD2A in August 2015. LGMD (Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy) is a very rare form of progressive muscle wasting. Muscular dystrophy is considered to be UNHEALABLE until today.

In the meantime, my son unfortunately already has to struggle with the typical symptoms of this insidious disease, which unfortunately already severely limit him in everyday life. Looking back, my son has always done everything in the toddler age in the running condition and played already with 4 years in the football kindergarten and wanted with 7 years old to switch to American football. Unfortunately, with the diagnosis, joining a club was not possible and filled with pain, my son asked me the following: "Mom, exercise is my life, why does this stupid disease want to take it all away from me?". This is a question that I, as a mother, and we, as a family, unfortunately cannot answer.



Family is very important to us and we are grateful to have the best grandparents and a great partner or bonus dad at our side, who support and motivate us.

For us, "giving up is not an option" and after there were no therapeutic approaches for LGMD2A in Austria, we were lucky enough to meet Prof. Dr. Simone Spuler and her research team from the ECRC in Berlin (Experimental and Clinical Research Center - Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin) in 2017. There is already very important progress in the research on a gene therapy for LGMD2A and an eventual potential therapy is getting closer. There are two very important factors and that is "time" (which affected people often unfortunately have only limited) and "money", because research and clinical trials are associated with very high costs.

For this reason, we have jointly founded the association "Strong for cured muscles" in order to generate funds for the research work of Prof. Dr. Spuler and her team and to put an end to our hopelessness.

Please help us!