

NEXUS CHAMPION

JUSTIN SWANSON



“This place is magical.”

Justin Swanson was in an 18-wheeler accident on June 26, 2012, just nine months after his return from two military tours in the combat zone of Iraq. He suffered a compressed skull fracture after the 80,000-pound truck he was driving flipped three times after fishtailing on the road.

Like a true champion, Justin **“refused to lose”**, just as his dad taught him during countless hours of football practice growing up. From the lengthy surgery the night of the accident to his rehabilitation journey, Justin endured a lot and began improving once he made it to Nexus Specialty Hospital. After just three months, he came out of the coma he was in since post-surgery and signaled a thumbs up to his parents.

“We told Dr. Cassidy what Justin did but he didn’t believe us,” explained James Swanson, Justin’s dad. **“But I had it recorded and when Dr. Cassidy saw it he was all excited, and [from then on] Justin started responding more.”**

As part of the Nexus family for six years, Justin has resided at both Nexus Specialty Hospital and Nexus Neurorecovery Center.

He participates in speech-language, physical and occupational therapy as well as an aphasia group. His parents credit the amazing staff at Nexus for helping him do more now than ever before.

“He wasn’t supposed to do anything, let alone make it through the night, now he’s driving [his wheelchair], communicating, picking colors out and recognizing us and his friends,” James Swanson said.

Justin recently began using a new wheelchair that enables him to stand and roll around upright. His body is getting stronger and his parents believe that while the process may be slow, it’s also steady, and they see Justin being fully independent in the future.

“He’s counting to twenty, walking around the gym with three people around him and getting up all by himself,” shared Amy Swanson, Justin’s mom. **“The little bitty things are turning into bigger things.”**

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SPECIALTY HOSPITAL
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