

**Joelle's journey to a new heart**

VIDEO	AUDIO
Joelle	"I love hearing the grinding of my skates on the ice."
	(nats of skates)
<b>JASON</b>	Speed...
	(nats of skates)
<b>JASON</b>	grace...
	(nats of skates)
<b>JASON</b>	strength....
	(nats of skates)
<b>JASON</b>	determination...
	(nats of skates)
<b>JASON</b>	Just some of the qualities of a competitive figure skater.
	(nats of skates)
<b>Joelle</b> <b>GRAPHIC:</b> <b>Joelle Hammann</b> <b>Figure Skater</b> <b>Lewiston, Minnesota</b>	"All your nerves just kind of calm down, and you just flow along the ice. You do your jumps and your spins, and everything just kind of works together. And everything that you've been practicing is just led up to that moment."
	(nats of skates)
<b>JASON</b>	15-year-old Joelle Hammann savors every one of those moments.
<b>Joelle</b>	"It's really fun here."
<b>JASON</b>	Because three years ago, not yet a teenager, was a much different moment in her life.
	(nats of skates)
<b>Joelle</b>	"April of 2017, I was in church. And I passed out."

<b>GRAPHIC:</b> <b>Holly Jacobs</b> <b>Joelle's Mother</b>	"We didn't know of many cardiac issues in our family at the time. But we found out that there was a genetic heart condition in our family, and Joelle was diagnosed with that same genetic heart condition."
<b>Joelle</b>	"ARVC, which is arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy."
<b>Michael J. Ackerman, M.D., Ph.D.</b> <b>Genetic Cardiology</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	"It's one of the cardiomyopathies, or heart muscle conditions. It probably affects about 1 in 5,000 people."
<b>Joelle</b>	"As you exercise more, all of your heart muscle turns into fatty tissue"
<b>JASON</b>	All of Joelle's athletic activities, including skating, needed to come to a screeching halt.
	(nats of skates stopping on the ice)
<b>Joelle</b>	"Your pumps cannot pump the blood through your body. And so it's hard to catch your breath. And it was hard to do my activities that I would normally like to do."
<b>Dr. Ackerman</b>	"And it had progressed from mild to now impressive, where we were already, just three months later, saying: 'Wait a second, this is unusually aggressive. Why is the pump getting so much weaker, so quickly?'"
<b>JASON</b>	A year later, as her heart condition worsened, Joelle would have surgery at Mayo Clinic.
<b>Dr. Ackerman</b>	"So now she's just turned 13. She's showing funny rhythms, heart electrical chaos, to where we had to then do a pretty strong counter move. And that is surgically install a defibrillator."

<b>JASON</b>	Eventually, Joelle's doctors allowed her to return to the rink. But every jump and spin was a challenge.
<b>Holly</b>	"March of 2019 was her last competition, and I was sitting with tears in my eyes watching her skate. And she barely could make it through a minute-and-a-half program, and it was difficult."
<b>JASON</b>	Just a few months later, Joelle's heart was failing. She needed a transplant.
<b>Holly</b>	"When we found out it was going to result in heart transplant, I was very numb."
<b>Joelle</b>	"July of 2019 I was put into the hospital."
<b>JASON</b>	Waiting at Mayo for a new heart.
<b>Dr. Ackerman</b>	"She was on a trajectory to death. I mean, there's just no way to sugarcoat how bad her genetic ARVC had become."
<b>Holly</b>	"She spent 48 days in the hospital. And received the call on September 7 <sup>th</sup> that she had received a heart."
<b>Joelle</b>	" There were a lot of emotions running through me."
<b>JASON</b>	The heart transplant at Mayo on Sept. 8, 2019, was successful.
<b>Joelle</b>	"I think it would be very different if I hadn't received a heart transplant. Either I would still be in the hospital, or I wouldn't be here at all."
<b>JASON</b>	Six weeks later, she laced up her skates for the first time since her transplant. And has since returned to competition on the ice.
	(nats of competition)
<b>Joelle</b>	"I've been able to resume full activity."
<b>JASON</b>	Joelle's journey... (nats up on skates)  — the many jumps, spins and turns that have occurred in this teen's life — have inspired a new routine for her future.
	(nats up of Like a Surgeon)

