

Girl with alopecia uses headscarves to inspire other kids with hair loss

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Image 1. Rosie Quinn started a nonprofit that creates headscarves for kids with alopecia. Photo: Humankind via USA Today

Rosie Quinn has no hair. Her hair began to fall out when she was 2 years old. At the time, she did not care.

Paula Quinn is her mother. She said they would find chunks of hair on Rosie's pillow. Within weeks, her hair was gone. "And it was just like coming out," Paula said. "And so we took her to the doctor, and they diagnosed her with alopecia universalis."

Alopecia Patients Lose All Their Body Hair

Alopecia universalis is a health condition. The person loses all their hair. There is no hair on their head or body.

Rosie was still outgoing. When she was 4 years old, things changed. She started feeling self-conscious about not having hair.

People would point at Rosie. They would call her a baby. Paula noticed that Rosie became shy.

Paula wanted her daughter to feel good again. She got the idea from Rosie's paintings. She printed one on a headscarf.

Rosie Wanted To Make Headscarves For Other Kids

Rosie loved her new headscarf.

"I felt super happy and super confident," she said. She wanted to help other bald kids like her. Rosie thought they should all have headscarves.

In 2016, Rosie and her mom started a group. It is called Coming Up Rosies. The group makes "smile kits."

Each smile kit has painting supplies. The child makes their own design. Rosie and her mom use the painting. They make it into a cape or headscarf. Rosie also writes cards to the kids.

Coming Up Rosies is reaching many people. It is now in 20 hospitals. The group has sent more than 1,100 Smile Kits.

Rosie is now 8 years old. In September 2019, Rosie won a prize. It is for her efforts to make the world better. The prize is called the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes. It is for kids ages 8 to 18.

The mother-and-daughter team want to send more smile kits. The scarves made Rosie feel better. They hope other kids feel the same.

Rosie no longer wears the scarves as much. She already feels great. Rosie wants other kids like her to love themselves. She wants them to "not be scared to go outside and have fun!"

