



Megan Silcott

Reisterstown, MD

Megan Silcott was an all-American teenage girl – a statuesque and independent 16 year-old enjoying her high school years active in sports, hanging out with friends and preparing to get her driver’s license. She had dreams of acting or a career in fashion. On August 16, 2012 her life changed forever.

Silcott, who had returned home one evening not feeling well, woke from a deep sleep unable to get out of bed. Within 24 hours, she was paralyzed from the neck down, on a breathing machine and in an induced coma. She was diagnosed with Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM), a rare immune system disease typically brought on from a viral or bacterial infection where her own body was essentially attacking her spinal cord and brain.

After months of rehabilitation, Silcott returned home and, within a few months, took her first step. Two years later and despite setbacks, Megan continues her road to recovery, able to walk with a walker or crutches, go up and down stairs with assistance and shower on her own...four things that remained uncertain and almost impossible for a time. Silcott continues to attend outpatient therapy, massage therapy, Botox injections, workout sessions, pool therapy, acupuncture and practices at home exercises for movement stimulation and strength building to improve her condition.

She is determined to recover fully and pursue her dream of a career in acting or fashion. A piece of that dream will become reality on February 17 when Silcott walks the runway as a model in The Art Institutes fashion show at Mercedes Benz Fashion Week. There, Silcott will wear the fashions of designer Nina Perdomo a student at The Art Institute of New York City.