"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

— Helen Keller, 1889-1968, that hangs in Art Rice's special education class at Roy Elementary School

**Eye-Opening Experience**

For the first time, Hooper family sees the bright mind inside child silenced by rare disease

By Trent Toone

R UV — After nine years of life, 2½-year-old Troy has been unable to communicate with his family. Troy's weight is 27 pounds, his heart is the size of his head and he is fed through a tube.

For the first time, the Hooper family is seeing the bright mind inside their 2½-year-old Troy. Troy has been unable to communicate with his family for nine years. Troy's weight is 27 pounds, his heart is the size of his head and he is fed through a tube.

**ONLINE:** The Aridus Eyes Expressions system is the latest in technology to help express thoughts and feelings.

ONLINE: The Aridus Eyes Expressions system is the latest in technology to help express thoughts and feelings. It is a device that can be used to communicate with children and adults who are non-verbal. The system uses a combination of facial expressions and electronic devices to help people express their thoughts and feelings.

**Troy's family sits down to use the Expressions system that will allow the Hooper boy to use his eyes to learn and eventually communicate with them.**

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Left: Troy, with four electrodes attached to his head, at the Utah Children's Rehabilitation Center. When being reintroduced to the system, Troy uses his eyes to communicate with his family.
From the family’s home in Berkeley, Calif., the founder and executive director of the Opportunity Foundation of America, a nonprofit organization, presented his own Epiphany on Friday in front of Sarah Linda’s second-grade class at Bayview Elementary School in Alameda.

Baldy said the Epiphany requires $5,209 donation to the foundation, with the money used to produce more units. Baldy said there are only about 20 children out right now around the country, mostly in third-grade classes. The Epiphany has been used in homes, schools or for rehabilitation centers.

"Many will only ever play basic games. Many will go on to communicate boards, and a handful will be able to go on to education," Baldy said. "So what I’m still looking years ahead at sitting in front of the microwave and doing nothing."

All Rice, 8-year old Elementary School special education teacher, was one of the students who received an Epiphany during his Epiphany this week. His wife, Sally, is a member of the Opportunity Foundation’s board of directors, and when Art mentioned that he could be a candidate, a test was immediately scheduled. "He needs the eye, we need the Epiphany," Baldy said. "So many fortunate things happened. We were so surprised to meet this boy."

So much so, Corwin had initial results were astounding. "It’s very hard for a family that’s 8 years of caring, teaching and loving this child. Finally got the reassurance I needed to know that I was doing the right things," she said.

"He showed me that he could count and think at a higher level than I ever imagined," said Corwin. "Because he’s never familiar with the way Epiphany works, his family hopes he will eventually be able to communicate and learn at levels previously considered impossible."

**Discovering the diagnosis**

The boy was diagnosed at age 2 with a rare condition called giant cell acanthoma type 1. It is a metabolic disease that affects one in every 50 people. The condition, which is marked by a blood test, is not a mental retardation.

"His brain had no idea what his body was doing," she said. "As he got older, the symptoms just got worse and the list of complications kept growing."

Corwin says that in over two years no life has been left in the boy’s body. When he gets sick, which is often, she has to help his side through the taking time to make sure he gets his medicine and other needs met.

When mom needs a break, her twin, Susan, 12, and baby brother, Evan, 2, help out. She said, "It’s not easy. When I see the nurses helping him, I think, 'He’s not going to get to be the person he should be.'"

"He’s never said that will generally always know when there is something inside them. But when you realized it, it was like he was saying, ‘My god, look my world is going to come to an end. I’m just staring at him, he’s bright that child is.'"
3 help man escape burning Ogden home

Eye-Opening Experience

Child