Brittany Zebrauskys, at 10 years old, has taken more big game than many people three times her age.

Chances are, the Hartland girl has had more surgeries, too, with more than dozen under her belt because of a brain tumor.

Whine about it? Feel sorry for herself? Not her, she's just happy to be alive, and thrilled to be able to hunt big game that many people will never get a chance to.

“My mom (Tiffany) and dad (Christian) both hunt,” she said. “I was fishing by the time I was 2 and shot my first elk by the age of 8. I just love being outdoors, and when I’m hunting it’s even better!”

Like most people who enjoy the outdoors, it was Brittanys parents who got her going. But because of her special circumstances, there’s also some outside help, too.

Enter the United Special Sportsmen Alliance, a nonprofit group that specializes in granting seriously ill childrens and adults their dream hunts, fishing trips or nearly anything else that trips their outdoor trigger.

Brigid O’Donoghue, the president and founder of USSA, started the group back in 2000.

“My business, Bio-Tech Research Inc., works with hundreds of elk and deer farms and ranches across the country, so we can help with the funding,” said O’Donoghue.

Recently, Brett Favre became our largest sponsor to date."

O’Donoghue and Zebrasky met via a connection at Children’s Hospital and began their journey together.

“Brigid is awesome,” said Zebrasky, who is in fifth grade at Hartland North Elementary School. “We get along great, and she has helped me out a lot.”

Zebrasky said it was in December 2005, on Michael Traungott’s Lone Star Whitetail Ranch located south of San Antonio, Texas.

“Brigid asked me what I would like to hunt and I thought some venison would be great to have in the freezer so that’s what I picked,” she said. “I had already shot an elk, so a nice whitetail would be awesome. Most of the other girls in my grade think that shooting a deer isn’t so cool, but I tell them as long as you eat the meat, there is nothing wrong with hunting.

“The hunt couldn’t have gone much smoother.

“After the 14-inch, 11-pointer fell, there was a lot of celebrating."

will be on a TV show this spring,” Zebrasky said.

Zebrasky’s next hunt is being planned for a northern Wisconsin bear.

“We went before a couple thousand people at the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Convention and asked if anyone would be willing to donate tags,” O’Donoghue said. “Bear hunts are the No. 1 requested hunt for people coming to USSA for help. The problem is it takes seven years in Wisconsin to draw a tag, and many of the people coming to us don’t have that long to wait.”

Within seconds of O’Donoghue and Zebrasky pleading their case to the bear hunters group, a man came up to the stage and told them the his tag was now theirs.

“He said that he wanted me to have his tag,” Zebrasky said.

“There were 2,000 people and just three people, and it was just the right thing to do for someone,” O’Donoghue said. "I was very happy to do it and I’m just going to remember it for the rest of my life."