September 23rd: Kris' Story, written by Kris Buss, PCFLV's Program Coordinator

PCFLV's 30 Days/30 Stories are about kids who are fighting, have fought or who are no longer with us. Stories told by the kids themselves, their families and their loved ones. Stories that touch your heart and make you want to hold your own children a little tighter, a little longer. Stories that inspire and make you want to do more, be more. Because of these kids and their families and so many more that I have met while volunteering these past 5 years, I was inspired to do more and be more.

I have three boys of my own that have brought me great joy and I am truly blessed to be their mom,. But they have now grown into responsible young men who do not need me as much as before. I have a wonderful supportive husband, who knows my love for kids has no bounds, and saw the happiness that volunteering for PCFLV has brought me. I was even able to share that love with my youngest son, Ian, as he happily joined me as a counselor at Camp Smile for 4 years, or as we cheered on kids together at the annual Fun Run as they ran the obstacle course.

Volunteering for PCFLV and now working with these kids and families as Program Coordinator is truly inspiring. I told my husband, after being hired, that I feel I have found my purpose. I am blessed to be a small part of each child's life, to celebrate their victories, to offer love and support during the tough times and just being a light in the darkness as they make their way through their journey. A quote that I found sums it up perfectly… "Their laughter will make your heart melt, their strength will make a grown person cry. If you ever see a child fight cancer, it will change your life forever." My life has been forever changed.