September 28th: Silas' Story, written by his mom, Cassandra

Silas' story begins in January 2018 when he started complaining of occasional leg pain. At first I thought he was faking because it would hurt then suddenly no pain at all. He would be running around the house like nothing was wrong. We even took him to his pediatrician for a checkup and when we got there, no pain. Then the fevers started on and off for days. He was always tired. My energetic 6 year-old was not himself.

Finally on February 5th, just 3 days before his 7th birthday, I took him to the emergency room with yet another fever. They immediately did bloodwork and, as I was on the phone telling my husband "I think he just needs fluids then well be on our way," the doctor came in and grabbed my hands and said, "I'm sorry but your son has leukemia and we need to get him to a children's hospital now." A transport was already in route.

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. I was physically sick upon hearing this. I was numb. From there, we spent almost a month in the hospital having numerous blood and platelet transfusions, chemotherapy, and a slew of other medications, patiently waiting for his ANC (a measure of the immune system) to go up. Silas was angry and hungry (due to steroids) for most of his stay, but still managed to make the nurses smile. When we finally came home, he was so weak he could barely walk more than 15 feet without almost collapsing. His daddy had to carry him up and down steps. He had physical therapy for 5 months. He has had good days and bad days. We have been back in the hospital for fevers and blood transfusions but through it all, Silas remains determined.

He loves going to clinic and making new friends. His hair is coming back in, and he got the ok to go back to school. He's now in 2nd grade and though he has to miss some school due to treatments and fatigue, he still pushes forward everyday. He is eager to teach his friends at school about his port and his clinic visits.

Silas and all children battling cancer are going through something no child should ever have to go through. It is a long journey, but Silas is a determined boy with lots of loving and supportive family. He is beating cancer one day at a time. He is my warrior!!!

Thank you for this opportunity to share Silas story. I still can't believe it's real. Nobody ever thinks this will be their life until one day, it is.