

30 Days/30 Stories®

Jeremiah

Diagnosed in 2012 with Wilms Tumor
at the age of 2

When Jeremiah was just two years old, we were concerned with what seemed to be chronic acid reflux and bloating. When the problem kept getting worse, we knew something wasn't right. That's when we encountered every parent's worst nightmare: our child was diagnosed in October 2012 with a Wilms tumor (a form of kidney cancer). He was rushed from our hometown of Bethlehem to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia.

Jeremiah did not respond to traditional chemotherapy, and we almost lost him. He had so many platelet and blood transfusions but nothing was helping him so he was admitted to the hospital for intensive treatment until the doctors could remove the tumor. This meant he would be in the hospital for months, and we knew we could not travel back and forth to our home, two and half hours away. Fortunately, we were able to stay at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House, located right next to the hospital.

The ladies of the Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley were my life savers. No matter what I was going through, there was someone there to lean on, a shoulder to cry on. They understand the world of a cancer parent – anyone's worst nightmare. They were there to talk to any time night or day.

When Jeremiah got the chance to get out of the hospital, he loved coming to the PCFLV to do crafts and for other activities, like PPL events, baseball games, and soccer events. He loves the toy closet and getting his favorite pizza. As a mom, I couldn't have done it without PCFLV. They gave so much help during our struggles and hard times Having a family of 7 is not easy, and they came in at the right times with gas cards, food cards, and lovely date nights, moms' nights, family nights, holiday gifts, birthday gifts… the list could go on. I can't thank them enough for all they do. No one fights alone! Being able to share a dinner with Jeremiah outside of the hospital… those things really brightened up our world and made my day and put a smile on Jeremiah's face.

Jeremiah beat his kidney cancer, but relapsed just two years later when doctors found a tumor in his lung. He fought even harder and beat it again. Jeremiah is a hero, according to me. He beat cancer twice, and even when he wasn't feeling well, he would help push the other kids at the hospital through.

Today, Jeremiah is in the 4rd grade. He spent his summer swimming with his twin brother, Cyprian, his older brother, James, and sister, Allya. He loves sports and for the first time, he is on the Bethlehem Raiders football team with his twin brother. He's got the moves and is the best kicker on the team. He still goes back to St. Christopher's Hospital every three months for check-ups, and we still stay at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House when he does—we have stayed a total of 100 times so far. Our outlook is positive. In October, he'll have been clear for four years. We've got a lot to celebrate! Jeremiah has so much potential and is really striving to be the best he can be. One kidney won't stop my hero!

Written by Jeremiah's mom, Maelynn

If you would like to donate in Jeremiah's Click Here

Photos by: Ryan Fisher of the Lehigh Valley Photography Group
(www.lvpgphotos.smugmug.com/FB:@lvpgphotos/IG:@ig_lvpg)

Sponsored By: OLYMPUS®