

30 Days/30 Stories®

Leila

Diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma at 9 months old

At the tender age of just 9 months, Leila was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma. No one expected to receive that diagnosis after what started out as a normal day. Leila was in to visit the pediatrician for her well-check, with no health problems or concerns. But after the pediatrician felt a large tumor in her stomach, and hospital tests confirmed the worst, life has never quite been the same. Leila underwent months of chemotherapy treatments, hospital stays, and doctor visits, which will not end anytime soon.

What is clear now, that wasn't clear at the time of Leila's diagnosis, are all of the things that God had put in place for Leila and her family before anyone even had an inkling of her diagnosis. Leila was born to a mother, father and older brother who loved her and awaited her arrival with lots of anticipation. Before Leila's birth, God had placed in her mom's heart that working full-time while being a mom was not an ideal situation for her. So she began looking for a part-time job and was fortunate enough to find one in April of 2019, only six weeks before Leila's diagnosis. This job would allow mom to work part-time from home all while caring for Leila and her older brother. It seemed at the time that everything was going as planned but God knew what was in store for the family.

While some parents are forced to quit working to care for their little ones after a cancer diagnosis, Leila's mom was able to keep her job without any interruption in income for the family. This was because her new job was so flexible that it allowed her to work remotely from any location -- whether it was during a hospital stay or next to Leila while she received her chemotherapy treatments -- and during any hours that fit into her schedule. That helped accommodate all the expected and unexpected visits to the hospital and doctor's office that come along with caring for a child with cancer.

Today, Leila is a vibrant and healthy little girl. God has deposited so much strength in her from such a young age that there's no telling where she'll go from here.

Written by Leila's mom, Linda

If you would like to donate in Leila's honor Click Here

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