

30 Days/30 Stories®

Michael

Diagnosed with Pre-B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Michael Adam Buno was born on July 4th, 2012 at Lehigh Valley Health Network - 6.14oz, 22 in long, and a HEALTHY baby boy. In late January 2015, Michael started with a fever. On Monday, February 16, 2015 the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) said they saw Leukemia blasts. Within hours, Michael was getting an EKG, an EEG and a chest x-ray to make sure he was well enough for surgery and port placement the next day. They started lines in both his arms and then admitted him to the oncology floor.

The next day, he went into surgery where he had a bone marrow aspiration, port placement and a spinal tap. It was confirmed that he had Pre-B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, and we later found out that he had standard risk. Michael was 2 years-old. We spent the next four weeks as residents of CHOP oncology.

Michael has endured many bone marrow aspirations, spinal taps, chemo drips, sedation, chemo shots given at home, mouth sores, weight gain, weight loss, a feeding tube, hair loss, steroids, constipation almost daily, pain in his bones, and numerous medications. At one point he couldn't even walk or go up the stairs. Michael started vomiting just at the sight of a medicine syringe, so his dad taught him to swallow pills at 2-years-old.

Today Michael is 7-years-old. He started second grade this year. His older brother, Justin, is in 9th grade and his younger brother, Johnathan, was 4 on August 26th. Michael's port was removed in May of 2018 promptly after his treatment had ended. We are now dealing with side effects from the treatments that saved his life, but we are thankful he's still with us.

Not a single day goes by that I don't remember what we went through or think about the kind of life Michael was supposed to have. There were moments during that battle where I thought we had celebrated our last everything with our beautiful child. The scariness of those feelings and anxiety still haunt me today. No child deserves a cancer diagnosis, and they certainly deserve better treatments. I strongly believe that spreading awareness will lead to a cure.

Written by Michael's mom, Andrea

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

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