

On February 4th, 2023 Carmen was diagnosed with stage 4 high-risk neuroblastoma. After dealing with her symptoms for 7 months and multiple doctor's appointments, her diagnosis was not what was expected. After all, I don't think anyone ever expects their kids to be diagnosed with cancer. But cancer doesn't discriminate, it's not fair. Her baby sister was 3 months old at diagnosis and a lot of her symptoms were associated with nerves and changes in the household with the new baby on the way. But once we got the imaging done, she was immediately sent to the emergency room for expedited evaluation. That was February 3rd. Her main tumor site was located in her left adrenal gland. The MRIs showed her left adrenal gland and kidney completely absorbed in this tumor with metastasis up her aorta and spine and into her chest. After 18 months of treatment including 5 rounds of chemotherapy, a major resection surgery for tumor removal, 2 bone marrow transplants, 12 sessions of radiation, 6 rounds of immunotherapy, and many complications and bumps and a couple ICU visits later, Carmen reached treatment completion and full remission in June 2024. She is now starting preschool in the fall and active in swimming and soccer and loves playing with her friends and cousins and learning.