

Wesley is a very energetic 10 year old boy who loves baseball and soccer. On a regular Saturday soccer game a year ago May, he suddenly couldn't catch his breath in the middle of his soccer game. That following Monday we took him to his peds doctor where we thought we were looking at sports related asthma. The only sign that it may be something else was his coloring had been off and he was extremely pale. Monday night our lives changed with a single phone call from our emergency after hours team at our peds doctors office telling us to take him immediately to the hospital where we would have to give him several blood transfusions because his blood count was dangerously low. By Wednesday my husband and I were in a cold conference room hearing the unimaginable news that our energetic fun loving son was being diagnosed with Acute myeloid Leukemia. It was devastating knowing we would have to go tell our son the news and start treatment two days later. My son and I began our new life in the hospital for the next month straight with my husband and younger son visiting in the evenings and weekends. For the next three months we lived in the hospital a month at a time with a week home in between monthly stays where he received high doses of chemo trying to get his body in remission. We found out he's missing a chromosome as well which put him at high risk for the cancer coming back. They said our only option was to have a bone marrow transplant. Matt, myself and his little brother Will immediately got tested to see if we would be a match and could donate our bone marrow to Wesley. To our disbelief William was an 8 out of 8 match which is so rare! We were ecstatic but also very scared because this meant seeing your other child undergoing many test and a painful procedure. In September we were in remission thanks to the incredible team at Toledo Hospital and getting ready to transfer to Motts children's hospital at U of M to undergo his bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, we hit a road bump when we found out William (Wesley's little brother and donor) had mono and could potentially not be able to donate if he still had active mono cells in his system. Fortunately, our U of M team acted fast and were able to figure out Williams mono numbers in time to safely extract the bone marrow from Will and give it to Wes! The stay at U of M was brutal! Wes was so sick but always kept his spirits up by nightly bike riding around the halls, pranks on the staff and playing games with friends. We are coming up on a year post transplant in September and so far Wesley's been doing great!