

Aly's Story

In October last year, Alyson had been using a little potty seat to be able to reach into the cabinets. Her brother had took off the rubber stoppers, they kept it from slipping and it came out from under her one night and she fell. She complained for a few days that her back hurt but she had no bruising and no marks of any kind. We thought she may just be a little sore, she had landed on her behind. A few days later, I woke up to her coughing and crying in the hallway. She was on the floor, she could barely walk because it hurt so bad. I took her to the doctors right away where they told me she had bronchitis and they did a back xray to make sure she didn't break anything when she fell. The doctor called me the next day and said everything looked great. A week later, we went to the check up for the bronchitis and our family doctor referred us to an orthopedic doctor at The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center for an MRI. He got us in for the next day when normally it takes months to get an appointment with them. After doing a couple more xrays and looking it over, they thought she may have something else and admitted her that afternoon around 4pm. We got admitted to get the first available time slot for an MRI with no food in her belly before. The MRI happened the next day and came back mostly normal but with oddities that they weren't sure of.

Over the course of the next week, she had a ton of blood work done. First they found out she was anemic, then they found out she had walking pneumonia.

They did a bone marrow aspiration and biopsy on the 28th of October and had trouble getting any aspiration because her bones were "mushy". The next morning her doctors asked to speak to me and pulled me into another room. Just me and about 8-10 doctors. I knew as soon as I sat down. I couldn't breath, I couldn't move. He said "Ms. Laukhart, your daughter has cancer". Those words couldn't be true. My always healthy, happy girl? I immediately broke down. Nothing can make you feel more numb then someone giving you bad news about your child. Then I thought of her daddy. I lost it. I had to call him and tell him. I needed him right away but he was 12+ hours away with a broken cellphone, working hard to support us. I had to get a hold of him. I had to NOT be alone with a bunch of strange doctors watching me ball my eyes out. A wonderful ChildLife nurse went to sit and play with Aly until I came back. I tried to call his coworkers numbers, nothing. So I called my mom. I called his mom. Jared finally called me back. I can't even imagine how he felt, being so far away from her. Our hearts were breaking. Life was just starting to be better, facing cancer was the furthest thing on our minds. Jared's work sent him home, that was the longest 24 hours of my life waiting for him to step off that bus. Once we got back to the hospital, we got to sit down with the doctors and find out what type she had, how we were going to treat it and what our families future was going to look like. They found out she had B precursor Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. She started treatment on Halloween (10/31/2013). Alyson has been doing so great and as of December 4th, she is leukemia cell free!! She still has a year and a half of treatment which includes lab work, chemo pills, chemo in her chest port, chemo in her spinal fluid, handfuls of other medicines and lots and lots of doctors appointments.