



BLANK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

IOWA HEALTH - DES MOINES

March 19, 2010

Dear Friend,

Cabin fever had struck the McAlexander household in early March 2009. After planning a weekend getaway and spending time as a family, Jacy just wasn't acting like his normal fun-loving self. In addition, pain in his chest area concerned his parents, Kerri and Earl.

Once they returned home to Rockwell City, Kerri's mothering instinct kicked in and she took Jacy to their local pediatrician Monday morning. They were referred to Blank Children's Hospital after finding a concerning spot on a chest x-ray.

Jacy was scheduled for surgery within a week and Dr. Michael Irish removed two ribs and a tumor the size of his mom's fist. After waiting for biopsy results, Jacy was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma which is a malignant round-cell tumor cancer. This rare disease causes cancer cells to be found in the bone or in soft tissue

From the very beginning, Jacy had a tight bond with all of the doctors, nurses and Child Life staff at Blank Children's. After 14 treatments with hospital stays lasting 3-5 days, his face brightened at the thought of seeing his "Child Life Buddies." They kept his spirit alive and encouraged him through his treatments.

"Children shouldn't have to be told they have cancer, but thankfully Child Life was here every step of the way. We are so thankful for them and that the service is available."

Kerri & Earl McAlexander

At Blank Children's Hospital, the Child Life staff provides many valuable services to young patients and their families. Educated in child development, the Child Life Specialists' primary focus is to make the healthcare experience positive for the child through the use of developmentally appropriate techniques. They help children deal with the fears and emotions that often accompany a visit to the clinic or hospital after diagnosis.

Jacy's mom can sum up his experience in one simple statement: "The doctors and nurses saved Jacy's life, but Child Life saved his spirit." Won't you help save the spirit of more children by considering a gift to help provide this service which is completely funded by philanthropy dollars?

With gratitude,

David A. Stark
President & Chief Operating Officer

P.S. Just 11 months following his diagnosis, Jacy's outlook is promising and will be having his chemo-port removed mid-March.

www.blankchildrenshospital.org



515-241-6304



www.iowahealthfoundation.org

While doctors are saving their child, the Child Life Specialists are saving their spirits. Can our families count on your gift today?

YES! Here's my gift for Blank Children's Hospital's Child Life Program.

\$100 \$200 \$300 Other \$ _____

Please charge my donation: Mastercard Visa Discover

Amount \$ _____ Credit Card #: _____ Code: _____

Signature: _____ Phone: _____ Exp. Date: _____

FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

ADDRESS1

ADDRESS2

CITY, ST ZIP

My e-mail address is: _____ @ _____

Please write to us at 1440 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309 if you wish to have your name removed from the list to receive fund-raising requests supporting Blank Children's Hospital.

(Website)



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