

October Child of the Month

On November 8, 2016, our happy-go-lucky, sunshine-loving, nine-year-old daughter arrived home from school with a headache and fever. Assuming she was coming down with a cold, we weren't concerned. But on the third day of her mysterious fever, we took her to the doctor – just to be on the safe side. Hours later, an ultrasound revealed an enormous mass in her abdomen and pelvis. Within days, a biopsy confirmed that our daughter had cancer, and we were transferred via ambulance to MD Anderson, where treatment began almost immediately for Ewing sarcoma. A rare and aggressive tumor of the bone or soft tissue. Suddenly, our daughter could no longer attend school with her identical twin sister, and her season of lacrosse was over almost as soon as it had begun. Our older sons held down the fort at home many days, and out-of-state family took turns flying in to help over the coming months.

On September 9, 2017, after 14 cycles of in-patient chemotherapy, a 10-hour surgery, and 20 rounds of radiation, our daughter rang the bell at MD Anderson, celebrating the completion of her treatment and total eradication of her tumor. During the course of her treatment, we spent countless days in hospital rooms as life-saving, donated blood flowed through our daughter's veins – a gift that helped make it possible for her to start school and a new cheerleading season with her sister this fall. Consider yourself hugged today by two ecstatic 10-year-olds who are taking fifth grade by storm, because your blood donation not only gives life – it offers hope and limitless possibilities to cancer patients and their families.

