



LEUKEMIA &
LYMPHOMA
SOCIETY®

fighting blood cancers

Honored Hero

Honored Heroes are volunteers with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society who have been affected by a blood cancer. They provide inspiration and support to all who join LLS in creating a world without cancer.

Martez D'Andre Bassett

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

As his bright red shirt proclaims, Martez Bassett really is tougher than cancer. At age five he experienced a series of painful symptoms. The doctor discovered a mass in Martez's abdomen and immediately sent him over to the ER at Rush University Medical Center, where Martez was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

In the short-term Martez required kidney dialysis, a breathing tube and numerous IV medications to stabilize his condition. His family, including his two grandmothers who have been closely involved in his care, learned from Dr. Paul Kent at Rush that Martez would need to endure 39 months of intensive treatment. It often required frequent and lengthy hospital stays.

Martez also received chemo injections into his spine, after the cancer was discovered in his brain. At one point surgeons had to remove a blood clot from one of Martez's eyes. The painful and intensive treatment was hard on Martez and his family.

Even though they knew Martez wouldn't always be able to attend school, the family enrolled him in kindergarten in 2009. His teacher, Mr. L, and fellow students were supportive even when Martez could do nothing but sit there with his head down on his desk. In 2010 the family noticed that Martez's vision seemed to be deteriorating. Doctors discovered that he had lost vision in one eye and would not be able to regain it.

Martez has adjusted admirably, however, and as of summer 2012, was about to finish his treatment. He loves to dance and to imitate Michael Jackson. Now eight years old, Martez recently finished second grade and will begin third grade in the fall.



Creating a World Without Cancer