

## Meet Alex: Our October Honored Hero

Alex's Story (As Told by His Mother, Jamie)

Our journey began in February of 2012. Alex was always just a normal, happy kid. He had been acting a little off for about a week. He was tired, achy, and he had a sore throat. I made an appointment with our family doctor here in Minden thinking perhaps he had strep throat. We tested for influenza and strep throat. They both came back negative. The clinic then took a blood sample, and we found something we never expected in a million years. Alex's white blood cells were 63,000. A normal range is about 5,000-13,000. Based off of that high white blood cell count, our family doctor suspected that Alex had leukemia which is a cancer of the blood. We packed our bags that first fateful night for Children's Hospital in Omaha, not having any idea what we were embarking on. We left our son, Ryan, and 6 month old baby girl, Regan, home with grandma. We had no idea that we wouldn't be returning to our home with Alex for an entire month. The oncologists confirmed by the next morning that Alex did indeed have leukemia. He was diagnosed with ALL- acute lymphoblastic leukemia. We were thrown into a whirlwind overnight and virtually everything changed!!!! We were embarking in the fight of our lives. Never in a million years did I think that my 6 year old son would be diagnosed with cancer. People rarely think of kids getting cancer, but obviously it does happen. Alex then started chemo the next day. The overall treatment plan is just over 3 years. Alex endured 8 months of weekly chemotherapy and 8 days of cranial radiation. This is our story of the 3+ years of treatment that Alex has to endure. We will win this battle over cancer with our FAITH, family, and perseverance.



Alex: Minden, NE, Age 9