

## Meet Kaitlyn: Our December Honored Hero

On Wednesday, August 13, 2007, Kaitlyn Bennett age 6 was diagnosed with T-Cell ALL. Kaitlyn was perfectly healthy but had complained of her chest hurting over the weekend. On Monday she visited her Pediatrician who felt a mass on her neck and chest. After several medical tests on Wednesday, Kaitlyn was diagnosed with T-cell ALL. She underwent 8 months of very intense chemotherapy at Children's Hospital in Omaha, followed by two years of outpatient treatment.

As parents you never think that you will have a child diagnosed with cancer, but our worst fear had come true. This was truly a life changing event for us as a family, parents, and Kaitlyn. We were living our worst nightmare those 8 months and Kaitlyn was so brave and strong during the treatments, sickness from the chemotherapy, and long hospital stays.

Kaitlyn was considered "cured" from cancer in 2012, five years after being diagnosed. It has never been forgotten. There are times when we all wonder what the future will hold but we need to focus on today, now that Kaitlyn is healthy. Kaitlyn is a 13 year girl who attends Beadle Middle School in Millard and has made the Superior or Distinguished Honor Roll every term. Despite the early challenges she had, she has excelled at school.

Kaitlyn enjoys dance and has been on the Competition team at her dance studio for six years. She also enjoys being involved in Chorus and hanging out with her friends. Her future is bright. She hopes to study medicine in college and become a doctor. Since being diagnosed we have learned not to take things for granted. At any time, your life can change.



Kaitlyn: Omaha, NE, Age 13