

My name is Adam Boardman. I am a nine year cancer survivor. I had a brain tumor taken out on my 5th birthday. I spent the following year in and out of the hospital. I was in the hospital over Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. The surgery affected my short term memory and balance. The radiation affected my growth. I lost 90% of my hearing from the chemo. I had a feeding tube and C-line during my Kindergarten year. I was 39 pounds and 38 inches tall for a year.

I bring smiles to people in hospitals and schools. One day during my year in the hospital, I saw a little girl sitting on the floor in front of the next room crying. Her family was worrying about her brother, Luke who was very sick. Her Mom and Dad were crying too. I unplugged my IV pole and gathered up my toys. I walked over to her and sat down next to her. I started to play with the little girl. The little girl was crying because her brother was sick. After we started playing together, she stopped crying. I helped bring a smile to her as her Mom and /Dad worried about Luke. I made her life better that night because someone was there for her. The little girl lost her brother the next night.

Also, during the year I was in the hospital, I met an African American boy. His mother was not able to be with him most of the time. He would come over and we would play cards and with my toys because he did not have any family to stay with him. For Christmas, the Marines gave us RC cars. We drove the cars into the nurse's desk and around the pods. I would race my friends car around the pod. We got into trouble for driving the cars into the nurse's at night.

The room I liked most at the hospital us the Child Life room. I could make gifts for my brother and sister. I did this because I loved them. They had a PS2 game. I could play with the other kids. We could forget we were in the hospital for while. I went there after rough nights I could not sleep. This made me feel better.

Another way I make people smile is to give back to Cincinnati Children's Hospital. I donate new and used toys to Children's Hospital because I wanted to say thanks to the hospital. I wanted the children to know someone out there cares about them. I also donate my hearing aids to the Audiology department because there are kids out there who will need them and can't buy them.

I won the national "Oticon Focus on People Award" in 2003. Oticon is a hearing aid company. I donated half the cash award to the hospital's Audiology department. I wanted kids who could not afford hearing aids to be able to get them.

At St. Ann's school, in the Everyone Counts program, I talked to kids about kids with hearing aids and who had radiation. I brought my radiation mask to class to explain what happened to me.

I was the ribbon cutter and Honoree at the Relay for Life event in Fairfield. I had friends in Fairfield who smiled because of the determination, heart and never give up attitude I had shown them.

I made Mr. Doerger and two of his friends smile after the Turkey Bowl this week. One of Mr. Doerger's friends said I was his hero for being the kicker for St. Ignatius 8th grade team. They were proud of the heart and courage I had that night. I have been a part of my brother Nicholas' football teams since the 3rd grade. I went to all the practices and games but could not play. For my last game at St. Ignatius, the coaches gave me equipment and let me kick off. I think this brought a smile to the whole team.

I have made a difference in my family's life because I have witnessed the power of God and survived because of it. I have shown other people they can survive and lead their lives again.