

Logan Schneider – St Teresa of Avila – Elder High School

When I was nine years old and in the third grade at St Teresa, I started to have pain in my hip. I thought it was getting better but a month later it got worse. My parents took me to the pediatrician and he did some blood work.

This is how I found out I had Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, a blood cancer. I was in Children's Hospital for 30 days in induction treatment. After induction, I was in remission, but still had to go through 11 more months of intensive treatment. Intensive treatment was very hard and I had to spend a lot of time at Children's for admissions and visits to the clinic.

My blood counts were low most of the time so I could not go to school or play any sports. I also lost all of my hair and was nauseous most of the time. I had many procedures, blood draws, shots and oral chemotherapy during this time. After the first year of treatment I went into the maintenance phase which lasted for about another year and a half. This phase allowed me to get back to school and begin playing sports again because my blood counts were much higher and I was feeling strong enough to play.

I was in treatment for a total of 3 ½ years and my last treatment was in April of 2015. I still go to Children's hospital for blood work and will have to do that for the rest of my life, but right now I am doing great and am very excited to begin high school next year.

As a result of my diagnosis, I have become active in 2 groups that I hope makes a difference in the lives of other kids and everyone diagnosed with a blood cancer in my community and others as well.

The first group I am involved in is the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Patient Advisory Council. This council lets kids like me who have spent a lot of time in the hospital give input on how to make patients' visits more enjoyable and less painful. We give input to different departments on how to make their procedures work better for the patients. For example, when doing a blood draw, ask the patient questions like, "Do you want me to count" or "Which arm works best for you?" By providing input from our own experiences, the council can help kids be more relaxed during procedures, big or small.

The group also puts on an event called the Make a Difference Awards. This ceremony celebrates faculty and family who have touched the hearts and changed the lives of many. Last year I was in the top five contestants for the award. That achievement to me was the best award I could possibly receive because it told me how much had changed the lives of the people at Children's Hospital.

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Secondly, the year after I was diagnosed with Leukemia, with help from my parents, I started a team for the Light the Night Walk. This walk was created by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to raise money for research and to find a cure for blood cancers. In 2014 I was the honored hero at the walk and was asked to speak at several events for L.L.S. To date our team alone has raised over \$25,000.00 to fund lifesaving research. I continue to attend events and to share my story. This is very important to me because I am able to be a symbol for what successful treatment looks like.