

Thank you for all you've done for Alex and our family! We really appreciate everything! Our family is truly blessed with all the support, kindness, generosity, love, and prayers!

Alex was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma late August. He had a huge tumor in his pelvic bone and one in his lung. Since then, our lives have been turned upside down! Alex, Mom, and Dad traveled to Rochester to Mayo for appointments, MRI, PET and CT scans, surgery to place a port, and the first round of Chemotherapy. We were there for 12 days. We returned home and went to school for a couple of weeks before the next couple of rounds of Chemotherapy began. Late October, we traveled back to Rochester for more CT and PET scans along with appointments with the Oncology Team and Orthopedic Surgeons. Unfortunately, the Chemo did not work as both tumors grew. We were able to come home and spend one day together as a family before Alex had to head back to Mayo for a major surgery to remove the tumor in his pelvic bone and amputation of his right leg (a hemipelvectomy). Alex was incredibly brave and strong both mentally and physically! He worked hard at his Physical Therapy and did everything the surgeons instructed! He was up and walking with a walker/crutches five days after the surgery! We went home after only 12 days in the hospital! Alex loved being home and enjoyed playing with his brother and sisters. Unfortunately, an infection began in the wound and we had to return for a revision surgery and another nine day stay at Mayo. Alex returned home just in time to spend Thanksgiving with our family! Recent scans have found that Alex now has numerous nodules (tumors) filling both of his lungs. Today, Alex is scheduled to have surgery on one of his Lungs to remove the first tumor detected. They will biopsy it and decide a plan from there. There is a possibility that the surgeon will attempt to remove as many of the nodules as possible in the first lung. Then, after some recovery time, the other lung as well.

Alex has loved spending time at home with his brother and sisters! When he isn't busy working on his school work, he is playing with all the toys in the house, building forts, organizing his sisters toys (yikes...not always perceived as helpful to his sisters), playing with his stuffed animals, playing basketball in the basement, reading, going outside, playing on his iPad or new Nintendo Switch, finding (from our toy bins) and wrapping Christmas gifts for his siblings, helping bake cookies, and playing with all the Christmas decorations!

We are truly blessed to have this time to spend together! We are truly grateful for each moment! We are also truly grateful for all your support, encouragement, and love! "No one fights alone" is a phrase we have heard and use often! We feel your tremendous support surrounding us each and every day! You have helped us more than you will ever know...you have helped give us the strength to walk through this journey with Alex! We know that God has an amazing plan for Alex and He is also with us every step of the way! God bless you!

From the bottom of our hearts....THANK YOU!

Love,
Mike, Nikki, Ben, Alex, Gracie, & Corin Gullingsrud

