

spreading

December 2018

JOY



How do you explain to a seven-year-old what is happening when he gets a cancer diagnosis? It all started when Cohen had a toothache before a family vacation. We weren't overly worried; he'd recently had dental work, so we gave him medicine and headed to the beach. After vacation, we took him to the dentist who referred us back to our pediatric dental surgeon. The surgeon gave us antibiotics for an abscess and the surgeon decided to pull the tooth. By the weekend, the pain increased in the "tooth" that was no longer there. Cohen was screaming in pain. He literally was clawing at the skin on the left side of his face.

The next day he wasn't any better. Then, later in the day I noticed his left eye was turned in. We took him to an eye doctor who quickly assessed that Cohen had no vision in his left eye. He sent us straight to LeBonheur Children's Hospital. After several tests they told us Cohen had a mass behind his nasal cavity. They sent us to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital where our worst fears were confirmed: our son had cancer. The tumor was inoperable.

Cohen immediately began chemotherapy. Then, three weeks later he began radiation. We were away from home for weeks undergoing treatment that included 33 proton radiation treatments, 33 days of being put to sleep, and weekly chemo. Treatment has been hard on Cohen and our family. He's gotten mouth sores, lost significant weight, and is nearly unable to eat or drink. He has a few more weeks of treatment left.

Through it all, we have been thankful for our Spreading Sunshine family. It wasn't until I became the mother of one of those special children that I realized the impact Spreading Sunshine made in the lives of families. Abby first reached out to our family when we were inpatient at St. Jude. When we were finally discharged and able to come home, a bright yellow Sunshine Box was waiting for Cohen. His face lit up as he opened that box full of happiness. We have always enjoyed hearing how Spreading Sunshine has helped other families through difficult times. Now it warms our hearts to know that our Cohen is a Sunshine kiddo who is constantly being prayed for by such a wonderful organization.

Written by Michelle, Cohen's mom

2 Corinthians 5:14

For Christ's love compels us...

I could tell you many stories similar to Cohen's: story after story of medical struggles and heartaches families face daily. Our experience with our son David placed us among those stories and gave birth to Spreading Sunshine.

Because others showed us the kindness of Christ, our family was compelled to love and show that same kindness to others. God multiplied our efforts as many others joined to show love to other families. Today, Spreading Sunshine continues to serve with some of the most basic gestures of kindness: a meal, a note of encouragement, a visit, or a Sunshine Box. Our hope and prayer is that through these acts families experience the love of Christ.

As we come to the end of 2018, we are so thankful for your generosity and love that has allowed us to serve and minister. We ask that you consider a year-end gift to help Spreading Sunshine show Christ's kindness to hurting children and their families.

Compelled to serve others,

Abigail

Founder, Spreading Sunshine





served
1,600
meals



sent
300
sunshine boxes



mailed
600+
encouraging cards



prayed
1000s
of prayers



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I'd like to partner with Spreading Sunshine

GIVE

I'd like to donate:

- \$_____ per month
- \$_____ per year
- \$_____ as a one-time gift

Please make checks payable to:
Spreading Sunshine
P.O. Box 906,
Ripley MS 38663

SERVE

- Volunteer with group
- Volunteer
- Special events
- Pro bono (specify skills)

PRAY

- Join our prayer team

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____