

## **17 YEARS OLD**

## Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia T-Cell Ewing's Sarcoma







Last year, we had a short vacation planned for the beginning of June. The day before departure, Sierra had an MRI scheduled. On the way to the hospital, we saw a bird fall, dead, out of the sky. We joked about how that was a bad omen. By that afternoon, we got the call to directly admit to Diamond Children's. Sierra's cancer journey had begun again, for the third time.

How has cancer NOT impacted our family! From changes in school, work and just life balance, what we eat, how we spend our free time. Cancer has impacted pretty much everything in our lives. Sierra has a difficult time getting around due to the tumor she had in her back. Rianna has had to deal with trauma from being a bone marrow donor for Sierra. Corbitt and Lily have had to deal with extended absences from me and Sierra due to hospitalizations. Mike has been my rock and truly been the one to hold it all down at home when I'm not there. I have anxiety whenever things aren't "correct".

You really find what is important and what is frivolous dealing with a diagnosis like childhood cancer. With Sierra's second and third diagnosis, I think it put a lot of things into perspective for the kids. They realized that their bond was so important. You can really see the love between all four of them.

> Sierra loves reading, drawing and playing on VR. She would love to work with Child Life when her cancer is behind her.

We may not have chosen this path, but we are strong enough to weather the storm. And if we aren't, we become strong. It's the only choice we have.

