

# MEET GRIFFIN 2019 SLUGGER KID



On June 25th, 2017, our lives were changed forever. Our oldest son, Griffin, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) at the age of three. The innocence of our family was robbed that day and we are forever changed. We can still remember the details like it was yesterday. From the doctors, nurses, look of innocence on Griffins face and feeling like the world was crashing in on us, it is still a fresh wound that sometimes feels will never heal.

Somedays it's easier to say, "everything is going well" or "he is doing great" then to explain what life is really like. Since Griffins diagnosis life has been horrible. The good days are good and we ride high on them. But the bad days can be very, very bad. Worse than any 4-year-old and family should ever have to face. As time "passes the bad days are fewer and farther between but the memories and pain of the beginning will always be with us. It never gets easier to tell someone, "our child has Leukemia" and the sheer look of panic that follows is always heart wrenching.

Griffin has been through more in his four years then most will in lifetime. From bone marrow aspirations, monthly lumbar punctures with anesthesia, at times weekly IV chemotherapies and blood transfusions to hundreds of oral chemotherapies he has shown more strength and bravery then we could ever imagine. He has spent weeks on end at Barbara Bush Children's Hospital and considers the Oncologists, nurses and staff at Maine Children's Cancer Program his friends. His life is consumed with treatment and will be for another two years.

One in five children will die from childhood cancer. This is a statistic no parent should ever have to hear or live in fear of. Unfortunately, this is the life of childhood cancer families. The fear is a daily struggle but the strength, bravery and tenacity of our children keep us going.

A young boy with short brown hair is smiling and looking towards the camera. He is wearing a black t-shirt with the word 'WARRIOR' printed in white, bold, distressed letters. A yellow ribbon is integrated into the letter 'A' of 'WARRIOR'. The background is dark and out of focus.

WARRIOR