



Camper Katie's Journey with Cancer

Katie Doty Shared Her Story with Guests at the Tee It Up For Children's Laughter Gala



On Saturday, October 3rd, our Camper, Katie Doty shared with the guests of the *Tee It Up For Children's Laughter Gala* the story of her cancer journey. Katie did a phenomenal job articulating her experience that we wanted to share it with you. It is because of children like Katie that we are working so hard!

"Hello, my name is Katie. I am 11 years old and I am a cancer survivor. I live in Mesa, Arizona. I have a mom and a dad, 2 brothers and one sister. My story began on November 19, 2007 when I was diagnosed with stage 4 Wilms Tumor. Wilms is a type of kidney cancer. The reason why it was stage 4 is because when they found the cancer it had spread to my lungs. Normally, you would have surgery right away to remove the tumor, but my tumor had grown into my renal vein which is the main vein to the heart. I needed to start chemo right away to shrink my tumor. I received my first dose on Thanksgiving day. How's that for a memory? When I was first diagnosed I was extremely sick. I spent many days in Banner Children's Hospital. When I had to stay in the hospital it was a very difficult time on my family. My mom stayed with me every day and every night. My dad not only visited me every day but had to take care of everyone and everything at home as



well. This is when I started noticing that my faith was growing more and more. I believe that God has helped us through this difficult time. On January 7, 2008 I was able to have my surgery to remove the tumor and my left kidney. I continued with chemotherapy and did 8 days of radiation on my lungs and abdomen. Around this time, I lost the rest of my hair. Losing my hair was a very difficult part of my cancer journey. Cancer can be like an obstacle course, sometimes it is very challenging, but other times it can be very rewarding. For instance, thanks to the generous sponsors like yourselves, this past summer I attended Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang Camp with Camp Soaring Eagle. It was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. Everyone made me feel so comfortable and for the first time in a long time, I didn't feel different and was able to be completely myself.

Thank you for supporting Camp Soaring Eagle and giving me this opportunity I will never forget.

For more information about how you can get involved in helping children like Katie, please contact:
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