

## **Lachlan's Story**

Lachlan and Calhoun, his identical twin, were Jason and my first children. Lachlan was 20 months old when diagnosed with Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukemia (JMML). JMML is a very rare disease that accounts for approximately 1% of childhood leukemias each year in the United States. Which is an estimated 25 new cases per year.

Lachlan was first hospitalized in May of 2014 for a respiratory concern following multiple ear infections. I was ten days from delivering our third child, Owen, when Lachlan was hospitalized in Greenville Hospital System (GHS) in June 2014. Following blood work, it was suspected that he had leukemia. He had a bone marrow biopsy and it did not show the normal signs of leukemia. We were told it was bone marrow suppression due to an infection. We then went to weekly appointments in Greenville for labs and blood transfusions. His blood work continued to comeback irregular and more testing continued each week. The end of July 2014 another bone marrow biopsy was performed. On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 we were given Lachlan's diagnosis of JMML and told a bone marrow transplant (BMT) was his only hope of survival. Research showed a 50% survival rate for children with JMML. Even with this information, we chose to believe Lachlan would be in the 50% that would grow up to be happy and healthy. The only hospital in our home state that performed bone marrow transplants was The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston, South Carolina. Lachlan was admitted November 9, 2014 to begin his chemotherapy regimen for his BMT. Lachlan had his bone marrow transplant at MUSC November 20, 2014. Our family celebrated Lachlan and Calhoun's second birthday on November 21, 2014, Christmas and New Years in Lachlan's hospital room that year. Lachlan was discharged on January 7, 2015. Due to complications, he was in and out of MUSC until we were released and able to move home on March 24, 2015. Our home coming was short lived. On March 26, 2015 we were told Lachlan's leukemia had relapsed. We were readmitted to MUSC April 9, 2015 in preparations for a second bone marrow transplant. We were told on April 26, 2015 that Lachlan's body could not endure any further chemotherapy. This meant no second transplant. Our family made every moment count from the day our twins were born. Our friends, family, community and complete strangers surrounded our family with love, support and prayers. We found beauty and hope in each day. Lachlan passed away at home with our family on May 7, 2015. Our lives were forever changed by Lachlan and our journey. Help us to honor him by continuing this journey through his foundation. We hope to continue bringing the same LOVE & HOPE we were given to others.

Love & Hope

Mary Tannery