



ERIN'S STORY

Erin Puhl is smart, witty, articulate, and enrolled in all honors classes at Perrysburg High School. Which is impressive; when you consider that she missed more than half of her eighth grade year. She is also a cancer survivor. She has a great attitude to get her thru something that is so insidious and has slim odds. Hello, I'm Erin's mother Debra, and I am going to take you on the "ride" that we are hoping ends with a victory.

Last fall Erin, who never complains, expressed her concern again that her leg "really" hurt her. Initially we thought it was growing pains-everybody gets those. But when the "Oncologist" met us in the waiting room as our family returned for that last of many tests October 13 2004, we found ourselves in a "hurricane Katrina" of our own. Eventually we had a diagnosis of Ewing's sarcoma. November 1, her dad's birthday, was the first day of her first round of chemotherapy. Thanksgiving was round two and the week before Christmas round three. The day after Christmas we headed south to Columbus Children's Hospital for her stem cell "harvest". By Easter we were doing hip radiation twice a day for three weeks, a one week break, a round of chemo, and three more weeks of the same hip radiation regiment. Our family barely had time to catch our breath when we found ourselves in the middle of summer. So we "stole" a long weekend summer vacation when her chemo was delayed.

So what does Erin's future hold? Well, school has started again and she has two more rounds of chemotherapy to go. Then 15 lung radiation treatments; as the cancer had moved before she was diagnosed. A potential bone marrow transplant would mean three months in isolation with one of her parents. If cancer returns to the hip, a hip replacement surgery would be discussed. MRI and CT scans quarterly for five years. Then annual testing for life because sarcoma will not rest. And somewhere in there she would like to go to college for "something science related", but she is so curious about everything, "it will be really hard to narrow it down to just three"!