

Jack Zimmer

Omaha Cycle Team Honored Hero

Jack was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia on November 2, 2007. His treatment was 1,215 days long (about 3 ½ years), ending on February 28, 2011. After a lymph node biopsy and several scans, a bone marrow biopsy determined his diagnosis. After which, he was immediately admitted into the hospital for five days. His

first obstacle was the insertion and reinsertion of IV's. One night it took five attempts and finally a successful insertion in his foot. Another obstacle was the realization that he wouldn't be going back to school to be in the school play they had been practicing and that he wouldn't finish the flag football season with his friends. He had a port surgically implanted under his skin. He achieved remission in the first month of treatment.

Jack gave up participating in the basketball season but continued playing baseball throughout treatment. However, he would sit out games when he wasn't feeling well. One of the drugs he took made him easily irritable. He developed diabetic symptoms, which led to testing his blood and getting insulin injections for about a month. He didn't have a spot on his fingers that hadn't been poked. He had an allergic reaction to one of the drugs that had to be injected into his thigh muscles (three at one time) however since he was now allergic to that drug the alternative treatment was two injections into his thighs every other day for 12 days. He lost his hair several times throughout treatment. He was limited in staying over at friend's houses due to taking drugs at night and in the morning. He had several hospital stays when he experienced a high fever.

Overall, he missed about 300 days of school.

Jack has been off treatment for about one year now and continues to do well. He is currently working on losing the weight he gained due to his treatment. We are very thankful to everyone who is giving their time and resources to support The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Their funding of research, patient care and family support brought hope and comfort to our family while dealing with Jack's diagnosis and treatment. We

felt so close to the cause that we too joined Team in Training and participated in two century bike rides in Tahoe and Salisbury, Maryland. The staff and support were wonderful in helping us cross that finish line with smiles on our faces.



Janine & Terry Zimmer