

Jeremy
17 years old
Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia

Have you ever met a teenager that makes you feel at ease in his presence? One that speaks with the grace and kindness of someone far beyond his years? Before the season passes you by, make sure you spend some time getting to know Jeremy McConnell. Jeremy is a 17-year-old who is wise beyond his years and has the ability to make those around him feel special.

Diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) in April of 1997, Jeremy immediately began three years of chemotherapy. "My leukemia was considered aggressive, and I needed a bone marrow transplant," said Jeremy. It is obvious when you talk to Jeremy that he is fond of his two brothers and two sisters, but he has a unique relationship to his older sister, Ashley. In November 1997 Ashley, who was nine at the time, became Jeremy's bone marrow donor.

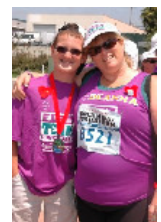
Good news came to the family in June of 1998, when a successful check-up showed Jeremy's immune system to be intact -- he was leukemia free! For Jeremy, it meant he could finally get a haircut, go back to school, and go to the movies - all of the things he couldn't do for more than a year.

Jeremy has passed all of his check-ups with flying colors, and will continue to have regular doctor visits for the rest of his life. Doctors say his chances of relapse are less than one percent! An important milestone for the McConnell family came when Jeremy was declared **five years cancer free!** That means he's **CURED!**



Now Jeremy fills his time with all the things of an average teenager, with some stellar accomplishments added to the list. He is a 10th grader who, like many high school students, finds P.E. to be one of his favorite subjects and has been on running with the cross country team. But one word that some may use to describe him might be "responsible" as evidenced by his 4.25 GPA. Additionally, Jeremy is a leader who others look up to and trust. He recently passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review and was recognized by the military, the city of Elk Grove, and his Troop Leadership for his exemplary mentorship, service and accomplishments while in the Boy Scouts of America. He is a solid role model for all of the younger scouts, including younger brothers, Casey & Riley and sister, Shelby.

When asked about Jeremy, his father, Keith said, "He's someone that appreciates people and the things that he has. He's happy and doesn't take things for granted." Keith went on to say how much Jeremy enjoys meeting TNT runners, walker, triathletes & hikers. His mother, Deanna completed her first half marathon with the 2007 San Diego Rock'n'Roll Team (with Jeremy walking across the finish line with her!). "He realizes what you do makes a difference and he is living proof," finished a grateful father.



When asked what advice Jeremy would give, after a moment's thought he said, "Never give up. There isn't anything you can't do."