

Brady Jorgensen

Brady Jorgensen is a very active 3 year old who likes to learn new things everyday. He's just like any other kid that watches cartoons, plays chase, and builds things. He loves to go to the park to feed the ducks and play on the slide and swing. Just looking at Brady no one has any idea what he has gone through in his short life.

Brady's grandma, Teresa, watches him during the day, one night in April of 2007, Brady's mom, Brandy, picked him up after work and noticed his eye was twitching. Brandy immediately called her mom, they called Dr Fisher and made an appointment for Brady the next day. After Dr. Fisher and a Pediatric eye doctor evaluated him, Brady was ordered to have an MRI immediately. Brandi was told the results would be back in 3-5 business days, but within 45 minutes the radiologist called the nurses into Brady's room, and said to leave the IV's in because they needed to do more tests right away. Within 10 to 20 minutes, Brady was having a cat scan. It revealed a golf ball size tumor located in his brain in the area of the pituitary and hypothalamus. The doctors scheduled surgery for one week later.

Dr. Pucciani performed the surgery and was able to remove 70% of the tumor. At 9 months old, Brady's brain was very hard and very similar to an adult brain. They were told he would only have had a week to live without the surgery. Brady woke up from surgery very fast. While in the ICU,

Brady had a stroke and was paralyzed. Shortly after, they found him trying to crawl out of the crib. He was moved from ICU to a regular room where he had two more seizures. Then he received a procedure that placed a port in his chest for chemotherapy to be administered.

The same month Brady started chemo the doctors found that 60% of the tumor had grown back. The tumor is a Pilocyxoid Astrocytoma (PMA), which is very rare. It is an aggressive growing tumor with no known cure or treatment. The average life expectancy is 63 months.

During chemo Brady stayed strong. He did not slow down and did not lose his hair. Brady finished chemo in August of 2008 and the tumor is stable. He is known as the "miracle baby" at Children's Hospital.

In October of 2008, Brady received eye surgery to correct a lazy eye. When he woke he was blind. Most kids with Pilocyxoid Astrocytoma go blind and never get their vision back. Brandy took him home and remembers the moment he his sight returned. Brady said, "You have a beautiful kitchen." The tumor is now causing Brady to lose his left eyesight completely and there is nothing that can be done.

In February of 2009, Brady caught pneumonia and was put on antibiotics. In March, his personality changed and he

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Little does he know,
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began to vomit. They discovered Brady was missing three hormones, two of which are growth hormones. Brady cannot receive the hormones he is missing because the doctors fear it will also grow the tumor. The third hormone Brady is missing is Coritsol and is necessary to maintain life.

Brady tells his mom that he wants a yellow house with a dog. She is doing all that she can to make that possible for him. She has come to terms with the fact that his life is limited but wants to make sure he sees everything while he can. They visited Disney World and the beach last year.

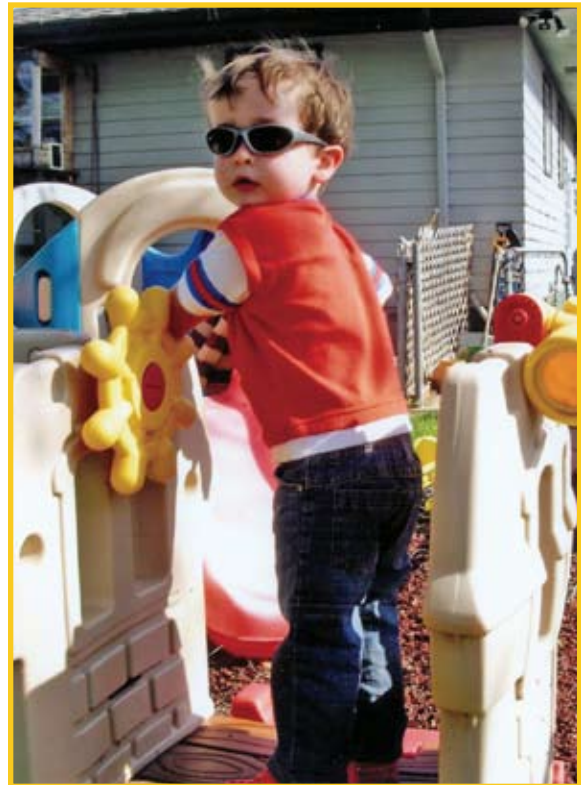
Brandy continues to research anything that could make Brady live a little bit longer, from prayer to organic foods and juices- anything as long as he is happy. They now have a garden for Brady where he likes to pick onions and eat the tops off. He proudly shows his garden to everyone.

Brady's Support system includes family, friends, and even strangers who have heard his story. Brandy says, "He tells me I'm his best friend and Grandma is his hero. Little does he know, He's our hero."

Brady has three prayer blankets from around the U.S. and a local Baptist Church adopted Brady and made him a quilt, he enjoys stopping by the church to say hello. Many people have heard about him from the Internet have showed their support by sending cards and letters.

Their favorite memories with Brady so far are the simplest ones. Such as the day he found a caterpillar. He was so excited, he picked it up and talked to it all day. They set aside time every night to read books and then he reads a book back to Brandy. Brandy also cherishes the times they play peek-a-boo because of his failing vision in one eye. Grandma cherishes Brady's love for people and nature.

Brandy would like others to know that it's ok to talk about it and cry. ■



*Brandy also cherishes
the times they play
peek a boo,
because he is losing vision in one eye.*



Brady & his Mom, Brandy

*Brady taught them that
no matter what life hands you, run with it.*

SPECIAL THANKS:

- Dr. Fisher
- Dr. Pucciani
- Family
- Friends and strangers
- PEO Chapter IQ
- Walnut Grove Baptist Church
- Tang/Gao Families
- All the staff at Children's Hospital