

MEGAN'S STORY

Dear Players, Coaches, Families & Friends,

Welcome to the "Soccer RI Festival to Benefit the Megan Cordeiro Memorial Scholarship Fund". We'd like to take a moment to tell you about our 10 year old daughter, Megan's journey, which began on December 30, 2006, when she was very unexpectedly diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). Like most Saturday mornings, Megan played a competitive game of indoor soccer with her Tiverton teammates. Never had we imagined that later that day Megan would be admitted to Hasbro Children's Hospital with a life threatening disease which would change the course of our lives forever. Megan spent the next 8 months at Hasbro Hospital receiving an intense course of inpatient chemotherapy. The days were long and difficult but we remained hopeful and optimistic as Meg's cancer seemed to be responding to the chemo. We prayed and prayed for a miracle. In July 2007, much to our disappointment, Megan relapsed and in September she was transferred to Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, MA, where she received a bone marrow transplant from her sister Chelsea, who was a perfect match. Following the transplant, once again, we were hopeful. Megan seemed to be on the road to recovery. In October, she was released from the hospital and we were overjoyed. She spent the next 6 months recuperating in the comfort of her own home, albeit in isolation, surrounded by the love of her family & kitties. Megan fought her battle with cancer with the utmost strength and courage. She never gave up hope and never stopped smiling. She became known in our community as "Brave Little Bumblebee." Unfortunately, Megan's AML returned in April, 2008 and she lost her battle with this relentless disease on June 5, 2008 at the age of 11.



Prior to her illness, Megan was an incredible little athlete who had a true passion for soccer. She had been playing for Tiverton Youth Soccer since the age of 4. Megan loved being on the soccer field and it showed. Her big smile, great enthusiasm, immense energy, determination, positive attitude and good sportsmanship will forever be an inspiration to her teammates and coaches.

Megan's biggest wish was to return to playing soccer and she talked about it often during her illness. Since our daughter will never have the opportunity to get back out there on the field, we hope to carry on her memory and love of soccer by awarding a scholarship each year to outstanding Tiverton High School soccer players who are as passionate about the sport as our dear Megan was.

Thanks to your participation in this event, as well as the generosity and support of Soccer RI, Tiverton Youth Soccer, and many family members, friends and local businesses, our daughter, Megan L. Cordeiro, # 39, will continue to touch the lives of other soccer players for many years to come.

With heartfelt appreciation,
John, Teresa, Chelsea & Sarah Cordeiro