

Honouree Biography - Philip



Photo: of Philip and Mom after finishing the 5k event at the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

Birthday: December 20, 1999

Favourite toys: His police car

Favourite colours: Orange & Purple

Favourite activities: Playing with water toys and his police van and playing “Kick up ballie”

Favourite movie: Buzz Light Year and Land Before Time

Favourite food: Ice Cream

Favourite book: The make up book, the story changes with each person who “reads” it.

Happiest memory: His birthday cake, going to Grandma’s with his cooking stuff and his trip to Uncle Craig’s when Kaitlin was there.

One day wants to be: A foot doctor

With an unusual presentation of the leukemia Philip was initially diagnosed with aplastic anemia in October of 2001. Philip spent a month in hospital fighting for his life. Slowly, his blood counts recovered and eventually he was discharged. After 2 months of close monitoring, Philip was rediagnosed, this time with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia.

On January 26, 2002 Philip began the induction phase of his chemotherapy at The Hospital for Sick Children. In February Philip went into remission, but the maintenance phase of his chemo will continue until July 2004.

In a way the Kennedys consider themselves lucky. They have access to first class facilities and treatment. They also have the support of their community - through the most critical periods of Philip’s illness meals and groceries are often delivered to their door by caring friends and neighbours.

Sadly, Philip’s disease has become a part of his life as he was less than 2 years old when he first became ill. He never questions his medications or treatments and works through everything with the most cheerful, positive attitude. Generally Philip’s energy level is great and his smile and enthusiasm for life are contagious. Philip captured everyone’s hearts as he approached the start line with Mom on one side, and Dad on the other.

* Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia is caused by a change in the cell of the bone marrow, though the reason for the change is still unknown. ALL represents nearly one third of all pediatric cancers. 40 years ago the prognosis for children with ALL was grim less than 10% diagnosed would survive. Today, thanks to research 85% of children with ALL go into remission.