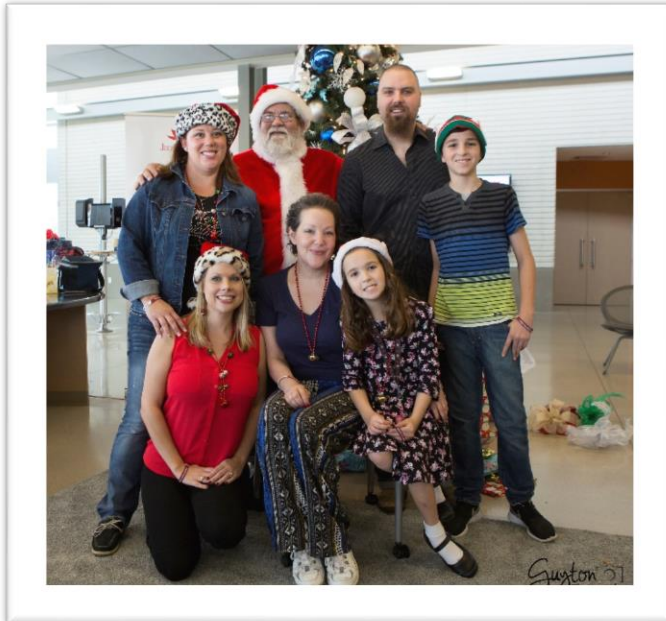




angel TREE MISSION



The White Family

Battling: 44-year-old, Melissa

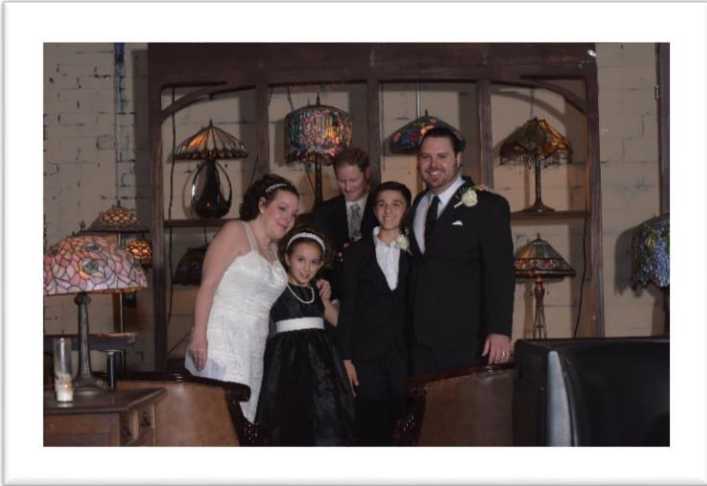
UPDATE: The White family continues to battle Stage 4 Metastatic Breast to Lung Cancer and VACTERL Association.

Melissa White, mother of Jake (age 14) and Violet (age 10), has been fighting for her life since November of 2011 when she was diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer; Violet has been fighting since she was born with

VACTERL, a rare disorder affecting multiple organ systems. The struggles have been many but they're not giving up!

Originally diagnosed with Stage 2 cancer in 2011, Melissa endured 16 rounds of chemotherapy and 30 rounds of radiation and hormone therapy. While they thought the disease was responding very well, in December 2014 she was blindsided with the news that her cancer had metastasized to her lung and advanced to Stage 4. The cancer had moved to the worst possible spot of her lung; a lymph node directly entering her lung where all the "important things are". She tried traditional chemo. It not only didn't shrink her tumor, it caused Melissa to be bed ridden for 4 months due to severe damage and pain from neuropathy in her hands and feet, which is most likely permanent. She has taken over a year of physical therapy to try and repair the damage and has gone from being a very active woman to being wheel chair bound. Although she has been able to make some improvements and now has special braces, she is still only able to walk short distances on her own.

CONTINUED...



Melissa is currently on a targeted therapy pill that has been working to shrink her tumor. “GOD IS SO GOOD; He has kept it from spreading to other areas of my body” she states.

They’re hoping the tumor will shrink enough so the doctors can surgically remove the remaining cancerous cells. However, they won’t be able to do this without removing two-thirds of her lung. For now, she is opting to get radiation, although it is extremely risky

since it’s near the area she had received radiation on before. This option runs a high risk of re-radiating the previously treated area that could result in serious harm causing damage to her chest wall, heart and healthy lung tissue along with sores on her chest that may not heal.

The White family continues to fight for survival physically, emotionally and financially. The fight with their insurance company remains as well. Their request to be approved for a special type of radiation called Proton Therapy, has been denied twice and they are on their final appeal. If Melissa can’t get approved for the treatment, she will be stuck with the traditional, riskier route that will be the cause of the excess mutilation.

This struggling family of four is currently living on Melissa’s disability check. Melissa’s husband and best friend, Charles, is her full-time caregiver who dedicates his life to taking care of their family and household while going to school to better their future. As they are barely able to make ends meet, they believe that it’s “100% by God’s grace” that they have been able to make it thus far.

*This year we join together to help this family
have a wonderful Christmas!*