



angel TREE MISSION



The Ybarra Family

Battling: 8-year-old, Tayden

Tayden's wounds go even deeper that her battle against brain cancer. Abandoned by her mother at birth, Tayden was born prematurely and has had to endure a life of illness.

Now a smiling 8-year-old, Tayden Ybarra has been loved and raised by her grandparents. At age four, Tayden's preschool teacher suggested that she have her eyes checked. After testing, they conducted an MRI and found three tumors. She was diagnosed with Optic Nerve Glioma, a form of brain cancer. Their hearts sank.

Tayden was admitted to Texas Children's Hospital and to this day their fight continues. During her first round of chemo, Tayden had a negative reaction causing them to stop treatment followed by an MRI. The tumors had grown and they needed to act quickly. Although they moved forward on a second round of treatment, the cancer continued to spread and has grown to the back of her head. TCH is unable to do a biopsy due to the risk of additional damage but inevitably, the disease will leave Tayden completely blind. The bullying she has endured at school doesn't help her feel any better about it either. The family lives day by day in hopes that the disease will stay at bay long enough for her to receive Proton Treatment at MD Anderson.

Due to family tension, Tayden's grandparents receive no financial help with expenses associated with treatments and they struggle to meet simple needs such as food and gas. However, by the "grace of God" they get by. Although they've suffered through many uphill battles and may not have a lot monetarily, they thrive on their faith, hope and love.

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