



# angel TREE MISSION



## *The Diaz Family*

### **Battling: 10-year-old, Angel**

Angel has four older siblings and since she was just 5-years-old, they've been by her side, helping her fight for her life. After 2 ½ years of treatment, Angel went into remission but after the intense chemotherapy, she developed chronic pain and neuropathy resulting in 20 months of physical therapy.

In Dec. 2016, four year after being originally diagnosed, Angel went back to Texas Children's Hospital due to extreme back pain and the inability to walk. While there, she had a seizure and was admitted. Then the Diaz's worst nightmare became a reality; the Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia was back and in an aggressive

way. They stayed at TCH while they tried a new, strong treatment but ultimately needed a bone marrow transplant - which would take six months to get as they searched for a donor. Due to mom's skull-correction surgery, she was unable to donate. Luckily, Angel's half-sister was a 70% match as there wasn't a single match nation-wide.

Immediately following the transplant, Angel became ill with a virus and Graft vs. Host Disease (an extremely rare condition that occurs when donor bone marrow attack the recipient). Their nightmare only continued to worsen. One full year after being admitted to TCH, Angel began to fight various illnesses as her transplant tried to take. Out of the last 23 months, she has been admitted 19 of them. Due to her fragile state, half the family lives in a hotel near the hospital while the other half lives in The Woodlands. This has been the hardest journey they've ever had to endure.

A few months ago, Angel became very ill with respiratory failure, kidney failure and an ileus; her GI system became paralyzed. She was in ICU for 3 ½ weeks fighting for her life. Her mom thanks God that she took a turn for the better and is still with them today. Angel has a long road to recovery but thanks to TCH and everyone there, she's come a very long, long way. They haven't been admitted for the last two months but have clinic, PT & OT almost daily.

This family of six has suffered tremendously over the last six years. Separated & feeling like the fight never lets up, they're just trying to survive. Down to one car and bills piled up, help at Christmas would be a blessing they'd be very grateful to have. All Angel desires is for her family to be back together and to have a home she can live in.

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