



angel TREE MISSION



The Ornelas Family

Battling: 11-year-old, Janessa

Janessa is the middle child out of her brother and sister. She is 11 years old, her little sister, Juliana, is 7 years old and her big brother, Jovanni, is 15 years old. Janessa was diagnosed with high-risk Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in 2016.

Her mom, Vanessa, clearly remembers the first dose of chemo Janessa ever received. It was on her birthday, 11/09/2016. Due to fevers and a virus, they remained in the hospital for four weeks. After about six months of receiving chemo and multiple planned (and unplanned) trips to the hospital, they learned that although the chemo decreased the leukemia in her body, it did not put her into remission as expected and they wanted to move forward with a bone marrow transplant.

Neither her mom nor sister were matches for Janessa, however, they quickly found a donor and she received transplant on August 4, 2017. Although she had some complications, four weeks later they were discharged and attend follow-up visits three times per week. Janessa was consistently showing no signs of leukemia in her body so in March her clinic visits dwindled down to one per month. Life started to feel normal again for the Ornelas family!

Janessa was able to attend her 5th grade graduation ceremony and was excited for the upcoming school year as she had been unable to attend since Nov. 2016. Mom was also able to go back to work after having to resign to care for Janessa. *"Honestly it's only by the grace of God that we made it through financially, that is the only way I think we got through those hardest times."* Vanessa says.

But "normal" quickly diminished. This past July, Janessa's cancer returned. On the same day they celebrated her 11th birthday, she had a procedure done that showed the amount of Leukemia cells had increased. She was able to attend school for almost two weeks before she was admitted to the hospital to begin chemo. The plan was to have another bone marrow transplant, but once again, before that could happen, she would have to receive chemo to bring her into remission. Aug. 23rd she was admitted, receiving a 28-day round of chemo. Unfortunately, after completion, the leukemia was still showing, and Janessa would have to be re-admitted in two weeks to start a different type of chemo.

On Oct. 16th they were admitted and are currently there now. This month consists of her getting five different types of chemo; in which one of them has already been pulled due to her developing pancreatitis. Things have not been as smooth as last month's round of chemo. Janessa has been having fevers off and on as well as high and then low blood pressure. Mom can see that the chemo is taking a toll on her little girl's body and mind.

It's been hard on their entire family, but regardless they're trying their best to make it through. They're praying that this round of chemo puts her in remission with as little damage as possible to her body so that ultimately, they can get the transplant she needs.

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