



angel TREE MISSION



The Walk Family

Battling: 7-year-old, Eli

Eli has three brothers, 15-years-old Dylan, 11-years-old Benjamin (Ben), and 2-years-old Oliver. Eli's twin sisters would be 4-years-old but became angels after a premature birth in 2015. Dylan and Benjamin are on the Autism spectrum. Eli was born with polycystic kidney disease and had one kidney removed when he was only one. He recovered well from that surgery. When he turned four, a week before Christmas 2016, he was diagnosed with leukemia.

Bree and Casey have had many experiences with difficulties regarding the health of their family over the years. Considering the two oldest having Autism, losing the twins after premature birth, and at the time of the news, in a High-Risk pregnancy with Oliver, Bree and Casey felt they could handle the leukemia diagnosis but realized nothing could prepare them for having a child fighting cancer.

Instead, it was a terrifying whirlwind that they weren't prepared for. Eli needed four blood transfusions on top of starting cancer treatment immediately after his bone marrow biopsy. He was sick very quickly. Eli has had a hard time with treatments, and his many stays in the hospital. He's had several severe allergic reactions during his journey, one of which was anaphylactic, the scariest moment of all. Only having one kidney since birth, it has been even more difficult with chemo treatments. He now has Stage 1 kidney disease and Neuropathy in his legs.

Things got even more complicated when Brianne went into labor with Oliver. At the time, Eli was hospitalized. Brianne had to bring Oliver to the hospital with her to stay by Eli's side, while he was just an infant. The experience of a brand-new baby while in the hospital with a son battling cancer was more than challenging. Simultaneously, they learned that their insurance doesn't cover all of the chemo, treatments, and medications Eli will need through the full three-year plan.

Walk Family Story Continued...

Eli needs labs every two weeks, office visits at least every four weeks, and lumbar and IV chemo every month. Due to his most recent allergic reaction, they are considering a change in his treatment. He's frequently going to the hospital and they are struggling to afford all the hospital visit costs.

In addition to a newborn and a young boy fighting cancer, Brianne has become handicapped due to significant surgeries she needed on her own in the past years, adding more stress to the situation. Brianne suffered a broken knee at nine years old which has been a battle all her life. Regardless of all of the attempts to fix her knee, replacements and surgeries, she's never fully healed and she is limited to walking very short distances until she is in severe pain. The family depends solely on Casey's income. The family of six shares one vehicle which doubles as Casey's work truck. Since there is only one vehicle, they use rideshare programs often, which can become very costly and more challenging due to Bree's handicap and the number of things she has to bring with her to get around and care for her children.

With the exception of Brianne's sister, Shay who moved to Texas from California, to be with the family and help, the Walks do not have family in Texas. They've depleted all of the savings and are drained not just financially but also emotionally and spiritually. Through it all, Eli has been fearless and fights with strength. He's been through so much but remains to be such a sweet brother to his three siblings. Bree and Casey are thankful to have some stress taken off their shoulders during these tough times and the upcoming Holiday Season.

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