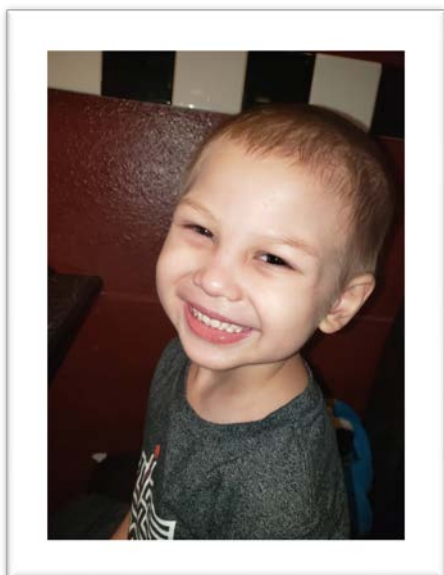




angel TREE MISSION



The Collier Family

Battling: 4-year-old, Melody

Kaleo is an only child whose mom, Tiara is from Hawaii, and his dad, Drew is from Houston. Kaleo's siblings are the family's fur babies, Rafi & Taco who have also had to make many adjustments during Kaleo's cancer journey.

On October 26th 2018, Kaleo was sent home from school with a fever and was complaining about his tummy and leg. For 4 weeks, he was taken back and forth to the doctor with an ongoing fever. His pediatrician originally determined that he just had an ear infection and treated him accordingly, but his fever was not going away. On the 9th of November, he was taken to the Emergency Room where they drew blood, completed tests and determined that he had a slight case of anemia and sent him home. Just four days later, he was back in the Emergency Room with a fever. The Doctors took chest X-rays and did not find Pneumonia. He was sent home once again with Ibuprofen. That night he woke up crying about stomach and leg pain which continued through November 22nd, Thanksgiving Day. Again, Tiara and Drew were off to the emergency room where the doctors then had X-rays done of his abdomen. Nearly a month after the initial fever, the doctor ordered an ultrasound to check for Appendicitis and discovered a mass. The tumor was 11.5x7cm and wrapped around his Arotia.

Over the last year, Kaleo has undergone 6 Rounds of frontline Chemo, a nephrostomy tube and bag for 3.5 months, stem cell collection, a 17 hour resection surgery, multiple biopsies, scans, pokes, power port, femoral CVC line, chest CVC line, 2 rounds of high dose chemo, 2 rounds of stem cell rescue/transplant, 12 rounds of proton radiation under anesthesia, and is currently doing his immunotherapy which is

Collier Family Story Continued...

scheduled through February. This treatment requires 6 days inpatient paired with pain medication because the treatment causes extreme nerve pain. He will go home for three weeks, then back inpatient for another 6 days. Once the series of treatment is over, they are hoping that Kaleo will be accepted on a trial with hopes to prevent his cells from mutating, because his cancer is high risk for relapsing. Kaleo has been given a 5-year survival with 40%-60% survival rate, even with the treatments he's gone through the last year. The trial they are hoping to take part in has been showing an 85% survival rate.

Tiara and Drew are grateful for the support that has come their way during their journey. Their lives have changed as Tiara is the only one who works, and Drew must care for Kaleo. Even Rafi & Taco have had to adjust with retraining them on what they can and can't do while Kaleo is sick. They have also presented signs of separation anxiety at times because of the hospital stays despite having neighbors who help when needed. Tiara has been able to juggle keeping her job because her boss has been very understanding. Sometimes she has to work while at the hospital with Kaleo because Kaleo wanted his mom to do things instead of the nurses, like taking his vitals.

It has been a very overwhelming year for the Collier family. While grateful for friends and family and the support along the way, the struggle continues, and they are still facing many unknowns.

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