

Ryan's Newsletter



The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation
198 Route 22, The Atrium Building, Pawling, NY 12564
845-855-0211 www.ryansfoundation.org

Children's Cancer Foundation

CALEB GAYLORD – CANCER SURVIVOR

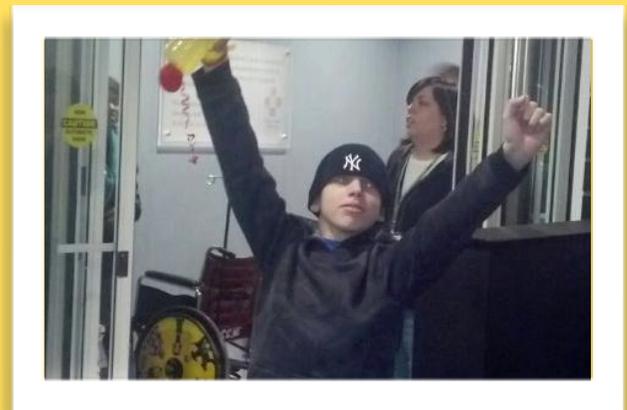
Caleb Gaylord was an active, healthy boy who loved to play baseball and guitar until he was diagnosed with AML Leukemia about a week after his 12th birthday last June. AML is the second-most common form of leukemia in children, after acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). AML is primarily a cancer of the bone marrow and lymph nodes and it can affect both children and adults. The term "acute" refers to the tendency of this disease to progress rapidly. In AML, it is the bone marrow that malfunctions as a result of disease. Normally, the bone marrow regulates production of different kinds of cells vital to proper function. But in AML, the regulatory mechanisms go awry and the bone marrow starts producing too many immature and abnormal cells called blasts. These blasts circulate throughout the blood stream and lymph system where they disrupt normal function of organs.

Because this disease progresses so rapidly, it is imperative that aggressive treatment at a multidisciplinary medical center begin as soon as possible. Untreated, death can occur in a matter of weeks. 18,860 new cases of acute myeloid leukemia are predicted for 2014.

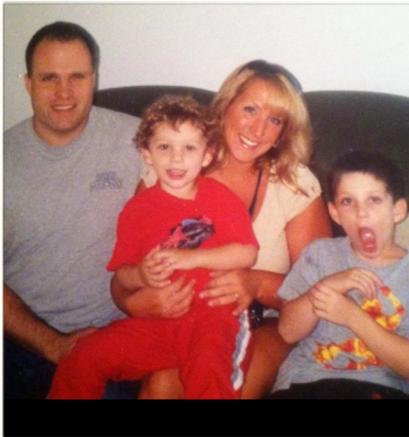
Caleb spent over 6 months living at Children's Medical Center in Hartford, Connecticut while enduring four rounds of chemotherapy. He suffered many complications along the way, including epiglottitis (a flap of tissue that sits at the base of the tongue and keeps food from going into the windpipe during swallowing. When it gets infected and inflamed, it can close off the windpipe which may be fatal unless promptly treated).

This led to him being on a breathing tube for 2 1/2 weeks. He also suffered serious infections, dangerously low blood pressures, and sepsis, all of which landed him in the PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit).

Caleb was in isolation for most of his treatment since his immune system was so compromised; a common cold could kill him. In the end, he overcame and remains in remission.



As difficult as this experience was, there was a lot of love and support which helped to make it easier. The Ryan McElroy Foundation was a huge blessing to our family. They helped us pay some large expenses and they arranged a huge concert in the park in Pawling which raised a lot of money. This was such a blessing because we were without medical insurance at the time of diagnosis. We are eternally grateful and very happy to help raise awareness about this wonderful foundation that truly honors little Ryan and all of the champions fighting this terrible disease.



GOOD NEWS CORNER

A memorial stone was placed in the Children's Memorial Garden on the Inter-coastal Waterway in Palm Coast, Florida by The Olimpio Family honoring Ryan.

The Lourdes High School basketball tournament was held this year on January 18 and proceeds were donated to Ryan's Foundation.

Ryan's House of Hope is moving along nicely. The lights are on! Next up will be insulation, sheetrock/taping, and painting. Your generous donations are helping get this done.

It is with heavy hearts that we say your donations paid for funeral expenses for a five-year old who suffered from brain cancer. Let's continue to #raisehope, #ryansway so we can help any child and family who are suffering.

Your donations provided Visa gas cards to a single mom with a little boy, Joshua, five years old who is suffering from Neuroblastoma cancer; and to the family of a little girl, Ivanna, 6 years old who is battling Leukemia. Now their families do not have to worry about their transportation or food expenses thanks to your generosity.

Ryan's Foundation and the McElroy Family want to thank the many people who help and support us every day. Over the past year, we redesigned our website. We want to give a big THANK YOU to our website design company, **Hudson Fusion** for all the amazing work they have done and for their overwhelming generosity. We worked closely with Executive Director, Cindy Penchina and a very talented Web Developer, Patrick McNamara. Cindy and Patrick are amazingly talented people who created our new website. They went above and beyond to take our webpage to the next level. Located in Ossining, NY, please contact Hudson Fusion for any website design, web marketing, and strategic planning for personal or business use. Check out their website at www.HudsonFusion.com or call 914.762.0900.

Visit Ryan's NEW Website: www.ryansfoundation.org

Help us reach our goal of never having to say NO to a child in need. Consider signing up for our EFT for just \$10 per month - that's 33c per day.

See the DONATE page on our website to join our cause. Thank you!

2014 CALENDAR

May 10 - Millbrook Duathlon & Kid's One Mile Run 9AM Run/bike as a team or individual through the beautiful country roads of Millbrook, NY starting at Lori Decker's Pulse Cycling & Fitness. The Duathlon is a 1 mile walk/run, 12 mile primarily flat course bike ride, and 3 mile walk/run. Drawstring bags to first 100 Duathlon pre-registrants. Kids One Mile begins at 9 AM Duathlon 9:30 AM. Register at active.com or call Barri @ 845-677-4999.

May 31 - Angels of Gold 6PM The Angels of Gold event will be at the Walbridge Farm in Millbrook NY. This year, Angels of Gold will be on a new date, new location, and open to all who can attend. Save the date for May 31st for an amazing time to benefit Ryan's Foundation.

June 7 - Annual Clay Shoot 10AM. TMT Hunting Preserve, Schoolhouse Road, Clinton, NY. \$150 per shooter including breakfast, lunch, and the course for the day. Ammo NOT included. 4-6 members per team. After the shoot there is a raffle and live auction. **Check in 8:30 AM.** Contact Carl Merritt @ 845-489-8725. **SPONSORS NEEDED.**

July 28 - Annual Golf Outing - West Hills Country Club, Middletown, NY.

August - Dutchess County Fair - come see us in Building B.

October 9 - Annual Fall Tasting Event 6-9PM. The Grandview, Poughkeepsie, NY. This is a wonderful night of sampling some of the Hudson Valley's best food and spirits. Plenty of vendors, entertainment, auctions, raffles. Come mingle, eat, drink, and have fun all while raising awareness, funds, and hope for children facing the battle of their lives. (Tickets \$50 in advance).

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT OUR SCHEDULED EVENTS

WWW.RYANSFOUNDATION.ORG

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Ryan's Newsletter is published by The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation, a nonprofit 501 (c)3 organization, dedicated to helping children who battle childhood illnesses and cancer by providing support that improve the quality of life for them and their families.

If you have a story you want us to know about or someone who needs assistance, please contact our newsletter editor:

sghavelka@gmail.com

PEOPLE WHO GIVE BACK



BOBBY & VALERIE GROPPER MY BROTHER BOBBY'S SALSA

"Yes, I was very lucky to have my first job all set before Thanksgiving of my senior year at Alfred University. That was only the beginning of determining what I really wanted. My stint in "Big Eight" public accounting was the most miserable 10 months of my life. At the same time, my dad was about to have open heart surgery and I opted to return home to Poughkeepsie to help. About a year later, my dad, 53, died of a massive heart attack leaving me (age 24) and my younger brother (age 21) to manage his very successful printing company. This challenge forced me to grow personally and professionally."

"Seven years later, with no plans and recently married, I just walked away from the family business much to everyone's surprise. I worked as a "marketing consultant" with several local companies while attempting to find my calling. Finally, on Father's Day June 1993, my sister and her future husband were enjoying my homemade fresh salsa when they said I should sell it. The rest is history."

Bobby, wife Valerie, and son Sam are always available at all charity fundraisers benefiting residents of the Hudson Valley. With their busy schedules of preparing the freshest salsas and bruschettas, making deliveries to local fresh markets, they still find time to help others. For instance, with their crazy schedule during Superbowl weekend, they offered an exclusive private party at the home of the highest bidder to raise funds to help Lauren Kelly Minard and her family. That's the kind of family this is.

When asked why they chose to help Ryan's Foundation, the answer was simple: "Because we are local and so is Ryan's Foundation. It stays local. We both have the same set of values which includes supporting the local community in which we live. As a business, we are individuals too who MUST set an example of how to support worthy organizations, like the Ryan's Children's Cancer Foundation. There's proof we all win in doing so."

I want to help donation form

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone-day: _____ Phone-evening: _____

E-mail: _____

_____ My check is enclosed. (Make checks payable to: The Ryan Foundation)

_____ Charge my donation to: _____ Master Card _____ VISA _____ Discover

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____ cvv _____

Signature _____

MAIL COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

The Ryan McElroy Children's Cancer Foundation, 198 Route 22 Atrium Building, Pawling, NY 12564

****ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE****

Donation made in memory of: _____

Donation made in honor of: _____

Donation made in lieu of: _____

A \$100 contribution will cover transportation to a hospital. A \$250 contribution will pay for food or utilities. A \$500 contribution will pay for lodging or rent. A \$1,000 contribution will pay for a mortgage or medicines.