

up on him when he had such a desire to live.

When they took Eli from my arms into surgery it left me breathless. I had to gasp to get air. At that point I ask God, "If it is your will to take my baby please take him while he is on the surgery table so he wont have to endure any more pain." After 3 hours the surgeon came out and asked to speak to us in private. I was very calm as he told us that when he opened Eli's abdomen the cancer had spread everywhere and there was nothing else that could be done. I recall looking up at my husband and I had never in 24 years seen that kind of hurt on his face as he told the surgeon we would just keep Eli comfortable and he didn't want him to suffer anymore. As

we stood up to leave the room I begin to feel very disoriented and started screaming My Baby as I collapsed to the floor. It was at that point when everything really hit me and I realized my baby was actually going to die.

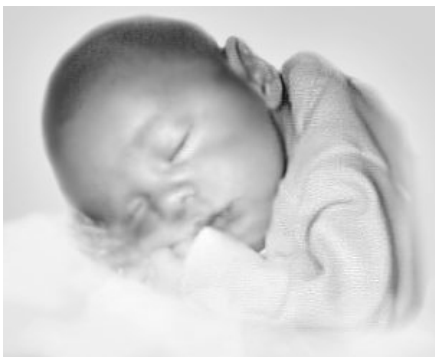
Eli was sent to the PICU where we joined him shortly. I was glad to be back with my baby again. He had been put back on the ventilator to breath for him. I picked up his little hand and held it as I whispered to him "Eli, Mommy is right here and I Love You." He opened his eyes and looked into mine. The thing I will never forget is that he wasn't making any crying sounds at all but little tears rolled from his eyes and went into his ears. I realized then that he was in pain but unable to physically cry. Again I felt so helpless. There was nothing I could do to ease his pain except let him know I was there with him. He came off the ventilator rather quickly and was

moved back on the main floor the very next day. Even after this major surgery Eli still nursed like a champ. That day. Dr. Wagner spoke with us about letting Eli heal a few more days then starting another chemo regimen. We agreed because as long as he was fighting to survive we wouldn't give up on him. The following day Eli was in a lot more pain. His heart rate went up and wouldn't come back down. The staff had prepared us for the worst and they made us a bed in the room where Eli, Brandon, Mommy & Daddy spent the night together snuggled up. At this point we decided not to do anymore chemo. His pain medicine had to be increased during the night several times. The next day Daddy & Brandon

took a sponge with water on it and offered it to Eli. He would stick out his little tongue so far for just one drop of water. It ripped my heart out because he was supposed to be nursing me and no longer had the strength to. I refused

to pump knowing I would have to dispose of the milk that belonged to Eli. I just couldn't do it. The staff said his heart had to be getting tired, but he just kept on clinging to life.

The next two days Eli slept a lot and we all cried a lot. On April 1, six days after his surgery Eli's heart rate started dropping and we lost him within a 10 minute period. It happened so quickly. He entered Heaven while laying in the arms of his Mommy. His Daddy was knelt beside him. His brothers and other family members were by his side. There is no way to explain the emptiness we now feel. A huge part of our hearts went with Eli that evening. Our lives will never be the same until the



Sachi Devi: 8-8-04 - 5-11-05

"My Angel Passed away on May 11/2005, she was only ten months old, she was diagnosed with a malignant cancerous intestinal tumor, and six days later, the same day it was diagnosed as a Rhabdoid tumor, she passed away..."

My Dear Angel: My love for you goes beyond this material existence...You will ALWAYS be in my thoughts and in my prayers...I Love You, Mama..."

Benjamin Bowen: 11-14-02 - 2-25-05

Benjamin Bowen is a brave, 16 month old boy from Huntington, WV that was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor. This new chapter in his life has drawn attention from around the world - not because of his cancer, but because of his life.

Benjamin was able to touch the lives of millions of people with his story of strength and courage. The fight eventually became too much for him and he left for heaven on February 25, 2005.



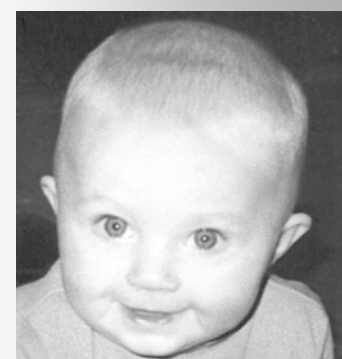
Kharisma Renee': 10-22-04 - 12-16-05

kharisma was 5 months old when she was diagnosed. She was the happiest little girl, very spoiled. she has 2 sisters and 3 brothers. we all miss her very much! We will all do our best to make sure her little brother knows how very special she is and was to us. And no matter what she will always be one of the 6 most important things to her dad and I. We will always love you my punkin head.



Karley Blouin: 10-2-03 - 6-8-04

Monday May 17th, my daughter Karley was diagnosed with a Brain Tumor. After months of common symptoms that could've been anything, her neck started to tilt to one side. I brought her to the doctors and they first diagnosed her with Torticollis, which causes the head to tilt to one side. This of course was because of the brain tumor that was located on her brain stem and



Did You Know?



In the past 20 years only one new cancer drug has been approved for pediatric use.

You can learn about more Angels by visiting the Sweet Mackenzie Foundation website and clicking on the Rhabdoid Stories tab. There are thousands more children with stories similar to the ones you will read here from all over the world. Mackenzie was not alone in her fight and neither are these babies. Don't let their short visits here on earth be in vain! Do something about it today!

www.babymackenzie.org