

# Saving lives one blood donation at a time



## Peyton Ogle

November 29, 2007 was a day that we will never forget. That was the day we were told that our small son had cancer. Our hearts were shattered with those words and our lives changed forever in an instant. Peyton was 3 years old when he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, an aggressive blood cancer.

He is six years old now, and still fighting. Peyton takes chemotherapy every day, and he will for nearly three and one-half years. He has endured more painful tests, scary procedures, awful medications, treatments, doctor visits

and hospitalizations than most of us will in an entire lifetime. He is a warrior. He is our hero.

We became aware of the critical need for blood and blood products within days after Peyton was diagnosed, when he required his first transfusion. Since then, he has needed blood and platelets many times. It is always an amazing and humbling thing to watch another person's cells dripping into our little boy's body. Despite all the treatment and chemotherapy that Peyton has been through, we know that without that gift our son would not survive.

We really can't urge people enough to donate blood and platelets, nor stress enough how critical the need is for blood products. We see it every day. What I would want people to know about donating blood and platelets is this. It isn't just a few minutes of your time and a small amount of your cells that you are giving when you donate. You are giving the gift of time, the gift of another "I love you, Mommy," another chance for us to watch our child grow, another day to make memories. There isn't a greater gift than that – the gift of life. And there simply aren't words for our gratitude. So please go donate as often as you can; it may be Peyton's life, or the life of another one of the young heroes that we know battling pediatric cancer that you save...

Chris & Stephanie Ogle  
Chattanooga, TN

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-Stephanie Ogle*



Do you have a question about donating blood? Get the answers online:



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