

## Though I Lost You, I Could Save Another You

Written by Meilin

Wednesday, 18 September 2013 17:47

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My affinity with Tzu Chi is quite special, because I am a bone marrow donor, and also a family member to a bone marrow receiver. The receiver, is my son Cub. Cub was diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia (AML) when he was four. His doctor encouraged us to receive treatment aggressively for three years that Cub's recovery rate was pretty high. During the treatment, Cub needed to get numerous injections and got side-effects of the chemotherapy. Cub painfully asked, "Why me?"

When his three-year treatment was about to end, Cub's disease recurred, and he needed to take more and stronger medicine for another course of treatment. That was a strong blow to our family, and we could do nothing but to cope with the treatment. At that time, a child in next ward went through the chemo therapy and yet passed away.

We were so worried and decided to take alternative therapy. The alternative therapy lasted for one year, but Cub's cancer cells spread at high speed. Cub was in so much pain that he couldn't help hysterically hit his chest and knocked his head against the wall. We decided to come back to the hospital again and then the hospital became his second home.

One time, Cub's leg was bitten by a mosquito and the wound became cellulitis. In order to cure Cub's damaged bone and abscess, the doctor had to carry on debridement surgery. The surgery took 8 to 9 hours.

Have you ever waited outside the operation room and overwhelmed by fear? I have, several times. Now, I still cried whenever I recalled the memory.

When Cub woke up after the surgery, the pain took over and he said to us, "I don't want my leg. Let the doctor take it." I was so hopelessly depressed, and I kept thinking why my lovely son had to go through all these?

Being through one to two months, Cub's infection index was higher than before. Moreover, Cub was infected with mold in his lungs and antibiotics didn't work for him. Cub's infected lung needed to resect partly. Again and again, I couldn't stand more upcoming bad news. I had to hide in the bathroom to cry out loud.

Decided to Do Bone Marrow Transplant One Day the doctor told us that chemotherapy no longer worked for Cub. The doctor gave us two options, one was hospice care, and the other one was bone marrow transplant. The doctor told us clearly that bone marrow transplant was at low successful rate with many side effects. The doctor asked us to make final decision very carefully. It was hard to make such a decision for my son who's nine years old! My boy, however, decided bravely to take a chance. We were so lucky to have a matched donor via Tzu Chi. We were so much grateful that the donor gave my son another chance to live.

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