

"How Dance Marathon helped us on Caleb Lee's journey through AML"

May 16, 2012 just after midnight, Caleb woke up with a fever and a rash and said, "I don't feel good." The doctor ran a blood test and when he called our name we walked back to the room with our heads spinning. We heard the words, "There is something wrong with the bloodwork," and then the room closed in on us and I could no longer think or breathe. Down in Iowa City, we were bombarded with information about our son's leukemia diagnosis. Life as we knew it was gone. Nothing mattered anymore except the health of our little boy. That is where Dance Marathon stepped in and gently took us by the hand and said, "We are here for you, you are not alone. We know other families like you. You can't leave your room? That's ok, because you are invited to play T.V. Bingo in your room, where everyone can pick a prize. We will make it fun to be here. Are you having a bad day? Here is an activity for you to do with us. Would you like to pick a book? Would you like the music therapist to come visit you? Want to make a doormat with us while your parents get away and watch a movie on the 5th floor hosted by us? It's great to get away and there's free pop and popcorn. Would you like a gift card to get a meal? Do you need a parking voucher?" Dance marathon handed me my sanity back as I was faced with an insurmountable task of spending 111 days in the hospital with a 3-year-old little boy. We love dance marathon so much.