

Hello Dance Marathon from the Christiansen family!!!

We are a family of 4, dad (Richard) mom (Marci) Cameron and Conner.  
Cameron is our cancer kid.

As a quick overview, Cameron was diagnosed at the age of 2 with a tumor in his right kidney called a Wilm's tumor, a rare type of renal cancer. Surgery and a 6-month course of chemotherapy put him into remission. A year later he relapsed with another tumor located this time in his Ileum, again a Wilm's. Surgery, and 13 months of chemotherapy and radiation put him into remission once again. And then, 18 months later 2 tumors appeared in his liver, calling for yet another course of chemotherapy, surgeries, radiation and a lifesaving stem-cell transplant using his own cells. During those dark days, we joined Dance Marathon.

The financial benefits were very helpful in dealing with the burdens that come along with so many hospital procedures and admissions. But, the relationships with dancers and the personal support from the organization has been some of our most treasured memories. The dancers have been some of the best role models we could have asked for. And, we have acquired so many friends along the way. Friendships that we still keep in contact with even now several years later.

We would like every dancer to know that your participation in this organization does not go unnoticed. You are all role models and leaders of your generation. We thank you all for your efforts and hope that you get as much out of Dance Marathon as the families do. Cameron is now 17 years old and a Junior in High School. He is an enthusiastic member of the band program at school as a percussionist. He also serves as football manager and takes part in the drama productions as a sound technician. His grades are top notch and is planning to apply for several academic scholarships. His future plans after graduation are to attend the University of Iowa and study medicine.

He is looking forward to his 5th year of enduring 24 hours standing with no sleep with all of you during Dance Marathon. And make sure to catch him speaking on the main stage Friday evening. This year is a milestone for the Christiansen family as we will be celebrating Cameron and being 10 years cancer free!!! We invite you all to celebrate with us!!