



Paige's Butterfly Run

Carrick's Story

A child scared from illness and painful procedures who has been incredibly brave through it all.

by Colleen Fox, Carrick's Mother



The stomach bug had been going around. My three older children had it, so I thought nothing of it when my 7-year-old joined their ranks. As days turned into weeks, and two trips to our family practice showed no improvement in his symptoms, we found ourselves at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital on May 6th, 2024.

Fully expecting he had a bad stomach bug or gallbladder

issue, we were surprised when the next day, our tired, hungry, sad little boy was in surgery to resect his bowels and remove his appendix. Afterwards we thought the worst was behind us, but that turned out not to be the case.

May 8th was a blur. I have a mental snapshot of the pediatric surgeon standing in the hallway, but I cannot remember her exact words. She said a biopsy from surgery showed Carrick had a form of B-cell lymphoma called Burkitt's lymphoma, which in its sporadic form is fairly rare and very aggressive. We learned a fast and intensive chemotherapy protocol produced relatively high cure rates.

We had no idea what to do, what questions to ask, or how to even get through the day. The medical team at Upstate Golisano went into action immediately. By the end of

the day, we had been moved from the surgery unit to the Hematology/Oncology unit, met with the head of pediatric oncology and a plan for the next day was formed.

Carrick spent nearly 60 nights in the hospital between May 6th and August 3rd. He endured multiple surgeries, injections, CT scans, X-rays, PET scans, IVs, PICC lines, 27 days of multiple IV chemo drugs, mouth sores, painful dressing changes, a reopened surgical incision, IV nutrition, drains, lumbar punctures and blood transfusions. His young body endured more treatment in three months than most people experience in a lifetime. We watched our baby, so scared from illness and painful procedures, remain incredibly brave through it all. I still cry thinking of his tiny, pale, skinny body lying on that hospital bed, quietly accepting his treatment.

Our small community of Cazenovia held us up. Close friends and family cared for our children. My mother-in-law retired early and moved into our home. Those around us, even strangers, showed up to help care for our home, finish projects and tend to our farm animals. Meals were delivered not only for our children but also my elderly parents.



(story continued on next page)

Pediatric cancer changes families forever.



(Carrick's Story—continued from previous page)

After an ultrasound, CT scan, and PET scan in August, Carrick rang the remission bell. He was surrounded by nurses, doctors, friends, co-workers, and family. We all cried out of relief, happiness, exhaustion, and gratitude.

Early on we were provided with a backpack from Paige's Butterfly Run with important goods and toiletries. We were told Paige's would help us financially as well, which we weren't even thinking about as there is no price you can put on your child's life.

Both my husband and I have decent jobs and good health insurance. We are thankful for the support of small business owners with big hearts who continued to pay us even though we were only able to work remotely part-time. To date, our insurance company has reported \$1.5 million in medical claims for Carrick's care. On top of that we vastly underestimated the cost of gas and eating out during his nearly 60 days of inpatient care. Friends and family helped cover expenses, while charities like Paige's stepped in to ease the burden. I don't know how we could have done this without their help.

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Our journey isn't over. Remission still means monthly doctor's visits, medications, and diagnostic tests and we'll always feel a twinge of anxiety that a common stomach bug could mean the cancer has returned or that chemotherapy caused irreversible damage to his small body. We will never be the same.

However, cancer introduced us to an incredible team of oncology nurses, doctors, and staff—people I can never thank enough. It surrounded us with overwhelming love from friends, family, schools, and neighbors who never had to be asked for help; they simply showed up. It also connected us with charitable groups who understand the needs of families like ours, even when we didn't.

Thank you to everyone for holding us in your hearts when we needed you. We will spend the rest of our lives grateful for your love.



Ways your support helps our families!



Holiday Party

You help patients and families enjoy a reprieve for the holidays. This festive gathering includes a meal, crafts, face painting, dancing, photos, handmade cookies and of course a visit with Mr. & Mrs. Claus!



Celebration of Life Ceremony

With your support, you help provide meaningful opportunities for families who share the heartbreaking experience of losing a child to pediatric cancer. The day offers a peaceful Celebration of Life Program, shared meal, mindfulness opportunities and more.



Survivor Month Celebration

Check out this beautiful day for a picnic you help put on with your support where childhood cancer survivors and families gather in community to bond over a meal and festivities.

Support local families now! Scan this QR code to donate.



Enjoy a wonderful holiday season – by helping those in need!

With YOUR help, here is what we provided this year!

“For it is in giving that we receive.”

~ St. Francis of Assisi

Patient Family Support Endowment	\$51,981.00
Burial and Bereavement.....	\$7,500.00
Cancer Research.....	\$20,000.00
Comfort and Fun for Families.....	\$5,800.00
Comfort Kits.....	\$12,000.00
Events and Activities.....	\$15,000.00
Family Assistance.....	\$70,000.00
Transportation.....	\$12,000.00
Helping Oncology Patients and Parents Engage.....	\$6,000.00
Outpatient Clinic.....	\$6,000.00
Survivor Wellness.....	\$5,000.00
In-kind Books.....	\$11,219.00
Educational Support.....	\$25,000.00

\$247,500.00



Additional Ways to Give:

- Donor Advised Funds
- Charitable Trusts and Foundations
- Qualified Charitable Distributions
- Employer Matching Programs
- Life Insurance Benefits
- Legacy Giving

Contact:

Jennifer Huntley
Director of Development
jennifer@pbrun.org or 315.217.1724



Each family, newly diagnosed at Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital, receives our Comfort Kit.

A sturdy backpack, warm fleece blanket, reusable water bottle, toiletry kit, t-shirts and \$200 gift card supply caregivers with immediate support for their journey.

“My daughter is two years in remission and I’m happy to say it’s now our softball bag. Thank you for all you do!”

~ Christina Riggall