

When Sam was 22 months old he was put into foster care. He stayed in foster care until January 2010, when his grandfather and grandmother were granted custody and he has lived with his grandparents ever since. He was diagnosed with ALL Leukemia on June 10, 2017. We were really lucky that we caught it early, but he had some really rare and brutal side effects from chemo therapy. The first set caused his kidneys to shut down and high blood pressure extending his stay in the hospital from 7 days to 10. They spent a day and a 1/2 in the PICU ( pediatric ICU) and came real close to having dialysis. On day 10, they left the hospital and went home. They were only home around an hour when he started acting strange, so his grandmother called the doctor and they said to take him to the Mahoning Valley Akron hospital, while they were packing everything back in the car, he started having trouble walking, while his grandmother was driving an astronomical speed to the hospital he became unresponsive, he had to be life flighted back to Akron. The chemo had caused his brain to swell and have a seizure. They stayed in the PICU for 3 1/2 days before they could be put back on the chemotherapy floor. They stayed another 10 days, so really they spent 20 days in the hospital after his initial diagnosis. He had chemo every week, including at home chemo where a nurse comes to the home to administer. Sam had teachers come to the house 2 times a week until April 2018, when he was able to go to school, he always kept his grades up, all A's and B's and this year he was placed in the gifted reading program. Sam is in remission, but the treatment plan is long and will not end until October 2020. He goes to Akron every 4 weeks for chemo and takes chemo meds at home every day.