

# Angelica

6 years old  
Illinois/Puerto Rico  
acute myeloid leukemia

## Angelica's story:

When Angelica first began to experience persistent fevers, soreness and weight loss, doctors couldn't pinpoint why. A series of tests uncovered the cause, and her family was devastated. Angelica had acute myeloid leukemia, an aggressive form of blood cancer.

"My world crashed to a halt," said her mother, Jaryssel.

Angelica was referred to St. Jude for treatment, where "we were finally able to breathe easier," said Jaryssel. Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to more than 80 percent since it opened more than 50 years ago.

At St. Jude, Angelica underwent intensive chemotherapy and then, two days after Christmas 2013, she received the bone marrow transplant that saved her life.

Angelica is now finished with treatment and comes to St. Jude regularly for checkups. This spunky girl has loads of personality. She loves playing dress-up and pretending she's a movie star.

"Everything about Angelica is special," her mom said. "Her smile, her playfulness, her whole life. Because she's happy, I'm happy."



# Christopher

12 years old

Puerto Rico

acute lymphoblastic leukemia

## Christopher's story:

In 2010, Christopher started to experience unexplained fevers and bruising on his body. His parents took him to a local hospital in their native country of Puerto Rico, where tests revealed the heartbreaking news that Christopher suffered from acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most common form of childhood cancer. Christopher started treatment in Puerto Rico, and his cancer went into remission. Unfortunately, though, the cancer soon returned. Christopher's family turned to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital® for his continuing care.

“St. Jude is more than a hospital,” said Christopher's mother, Jessica. “Here, the attention and care comes from angels. Everything is built to make the children comfortable, and it puts you at ease knowing that everything is going to be fine. You have no doubts. No questions. They explain everything to you.” Christopher's treatment at St. Jude includes chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. Christopher is responding well to treatment. He's a huge fan of basketball and recently got to see his favorite team, the Dallas Mavericks, play in person.



# Ashley

2 years old

Tennessee

acute lymphoblastic leukemia

## **Ashley's story:**

Ashley is a smiling and energetic little girl who enjoys life to the fullest. She loves to play with her sister and the rest of her family.

Right around Ashley's second birthday, her parents, Patricia and Fernando, started noticing changes in their daughter's behavior. They took her to the doctor several times, but each time they were told nothing was wrong. When a lab test showed Ashley had anemia, the doctor assured her family she would be fine.

But something didn't sit right with Ashley's dad. "I looked at my little girl. She's always been smiling, but she stopped eating and didn't want to walk," Fernando said. During a return trip to the hospital, blood work revealed Ashley suffered from acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Her parents were devastated. "Your whole world comes crashing down," said Fernando.

Ashley was immediately referred to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, where she started on a chemotherapy treatment plan that will last for two-and-a-half years. Ashley's family found comfort in the support provided by St. Jude. Because the majority of St. Jude funding comes from everyday people, St. Jude has the freedom to focus on what matters most — saving kids regardless of their financial situation. "We're so thankful for St. Jude," said Patricia. Ashley is responding well to treatment and her cancer is in remission. She's an outgoing toddler who loves music and dancing.



# Sebastián

7 years old  
Florida  
medulloblastoma

## **Sebastián's story:**

In June 2014, Sebastián's family learned he suffered from a rare brain tumor called medulloblastoma. They traveled to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for his treatment, which includes chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

"There are no words to describe St. Jude," said Sebastián's mother, Maria. "Everything is designed so the family only worries about loving their child. We're so grateful that St. Jude takes care of every detail."

Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing, or food — because all a family should worry about is helping their child live.

Sebastián is in first grade and loves math. "He learned to add numbers when he was 4 years old," said Maria. "Now he's learning how to multiply." Sebastián likes to play soccer and video games. He's a happy, active boy. "Sebastián has a noble heart and he's generous," Maria said. "He loves to share what he has with others."

