



Girl of the Year: Hailey Plunkett, Leukemia Survivor- On November 29, 2006, Hailey was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). Two weeks prior to that date her parents noticed a change in Hailey. She was limping, excessively tired and she began to bruise easily. Her family knew something was wrong with her, but when she was taken to the pediatrician, cancer never entered their minds. They were sent to the Emergency Room where they were informed something was seriously wrong with Hailey's blood counts. They admitted her to the hospital for tests where the diagnosis was confirmed. The doctors informed said the treatment would be two years of chemotherapy with the first six to eight months being the most intense. The next six months were filled with bone marrow tests, lumbar punctures, blood transfusions, hair loss and numerous oral medications. The diagnosis was difficult for the entire family to say the least, but Hailey's courage and strength along with many prayers helped see her through the rough times. As of February 12, 2009, Hailey has completed her treatment and the bone marrow test showed no evidence of leukemia.

Hailey is almost three years post treatment, and she is a vibrant, happy second grader that loves her dolls and her clothes. She plays basketball at the YMCA and is a member of her school's swim team. Hailey loves her two older brothers, Donald and Sean, who are always there to help her with whatever she needs. Hailey is proud to get up in front of a group of people to happily say, "Hey, I am a cancer survivor!"



Boy of the Year: CJ George, Lymphoma Survivor- At age nine, CJ loved playing sports, being outdoors and spending time with his family which included his mom, dad and three siblings. When CJ began experiencing back and abdominal pain, his parents took him to doctors and several emergency room visits trying to find answers. After many months of intensifying pain, an MRI lead to the discovery of multiple tumors throughout his abdominal cavity with the main tumor wrapped around the base of his spine.

A biopsy lead to the devastating diagnosis of Stage 3 Acute Lymphoblastic Lymphoma. His parents were stunned to discover their 9 year old son had cancer. CJ immediately had a port surgically inserted and began two years of chemotherapy to attack the disease that was attacking him. Those two years were a struggle for the family both physically and emotionally. CJ was immune suppressed and isolated

much of the time while dealing with the side effects of the chemotherapy.

After two years of chemotherapy which included dozens of spinal taps and injections of chemotherapy directly into his spinal cord, CJ is now in remission from cancer. He is monitored closely for relapse and late effects from the chemotherapy which are often a struggle for young children as they continue to develop and mature.

CJ and his family are extremely grateful to LLS for its support during his treatment. CJ's goals are to look forward to a healthy future and remain cancer free while continuing to look back and help all those coming through this battle behind him. CJ and his family are committed to supporting LLS for their continued support during CJ's battle against blood cancer.