

IAN MANZARES

In 2004, Ian Manzares was a healthy 4-year old visiting the dentist for his first teeth cleaning. After receiving a Novocain injection, which was blocked by an already existing tumor growing inside the right side of his face, a small bump appeared on Ian's right temple. Over time, the bump grew into a tumor in his cheek and changed the shape of his face.



After months of consults with multiple doctors, Ian's family met with a pediatric ear-nose-throat surgeon who diagnosed him with rhabdomyosarcoma. Ian was eventually referred to Dr. Julia Glade Bender at Columbia University Medical Center, who would become his oncologist. Ian underwent a 5-hour surgery to remove the tumor. He also endured 12 months of chemotherapy and 1 month of radiation.

Ten years later, a bulge developed in the roof of Ian's mouth. Dr. Bender referred him to an oral surgeon and further tests revealed it was osteosarcoma, a result of the radiation treatment from his first cancer. Once again, Ian had surgery to remove the tumor. But it also meant amputating his palate and top teeth and fitting him for prosthetics. Ian also underwent seven months of chemotherapy.

No longer on treatment and cancer-free, Ian is a strong and healthy 17-year old. He starts his senior year of high school in a few weeks and looks forward to graduating in 2018.

But stories like this remind us that no one walks alone as a cancer diagnosis affects the entire family. Parents often quit their jobs or take an extended absence in order to care for a sick child. It can be a challenging time for everyone – emotionally and financially.



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For companies partnering with **Hope & Heroes** in support of

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Storytelling is a powerful tool you can incorporate in communications with customers and employees during the September campaign. Every cancer patient has a unique perspective on the disease and its impact. Telling the stories of individual children and families impacted by cancer makes our work real and so much more compelling for donors.

** Each of these patients and their families has granted permission for their story and photo to be shared by Hope & Heroes and its partners during the September campaign.*

Ian's mother stopped working both times he was diagnosed. She remained by his side throughout his months-long stay in the hospital and helped manage his care. Although the family incurred considerable debt and faced significant financial hardships, their #1 priority was Ian's health.

Hope & Heroes does everything it can to help ease the burden on patients and their families, including assistance with many non-reimbursable expenses. But our ability to provide such support cannot be sustained without ongoing philanthropy—so please donate today!

For more patient stories, visit us online:

HOPEANDHEROES.ORG/SEPTEMBER/



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