



...Your donation as a member of the Set Sail for Hope Family truly has a meaningful impact on the quality of life for others.

We asked one family to share their personal story of the impact that cancer and Camp Trillium had on their lives.

Our thanks to Eric's family for writing and sharing their experience with us...

Please help us again in 2011...

I would like to start by introducing our boys to all of you. Eric, the eldest is eleven. His brother, Aiden is eight.

Eric was diagnosed with T-Cell ALL January 2009. That day began a whole new world and way of life for the whole family.

Since then, Eric has undergone countless treatments which in turn introduced further health complications to his young life:

- Chemo therapy compromised his sugar levels to the point where he required diabetic screening.
- He was diagnosed with H1N1 August 2009,
- He had to overcome Meningitis just this past August 2010.

As you can see, the Chemo therapy also contributed to considerable weight gain and quite a noticeable skin irritation. Sadly, if all of this wasn't enough for Eric to bear, he had the added humiliating ordeal of being laughed at and picked on, or stared at and isolated by his fellow students.

As we approach the second anniversary of Eric's diagnosis, our hearts bleed for our son and we wish we could protect him from all he has had to adjust to at such a young age. Many tears and a consuming stress has taken over our lives as we try to get through something that at times we find unbearable to accept.

But, Camp Trillium gave us hope for a family respite from all of this anguish. Even the weeks leading up to Fall Camp were rough on all of us. Eric was admitted to Sick Kids for two separate weeks (one due to a liver biopsy). He remained there with my wife while I looked after Aiden; who was most upset with the separation. One thing we kept telling them both "don't forget about Camp Trillium". Those words offered them some comfort knowing camp was just around the corner. They finally had something so enjoyable to look forward to.

Words will never suffice in describing what Camp Trillium has given us.... we have been taken away from our everyday Chemotherapy world and have almost had an out of body experience full of fun, laughter and absolute enjoyment!

We thank you humbly and are ever grateful for such kindness and generosity from all.

Camp Trillium Staff, volunteers and supporters you touch us deeply in our hearts and forever will remain there, THANK YOU.

Gratefully and thankfully submitted
Eric, Aiden, Christina, Alistair