

Matt's Update

As of today, June 22nd, 2009, Matt is home and doing GREAT!! Since the last update, here's what's been happening:

On April 25th, we all went to "Relay for Life". As we mentioned on the last update, Matt was the guest speaker. He did a great job and we were so proud of him. Matt's Grandma showed up to support Matt, it was a great day.

On April 30th, Matt went to Stanford and started his last round of chemo. Everything seemed to be going OK and Irene and Matt came home on May 2nd. It turned out, Matt's counts were too low, and he couldn't receive any of his oral chemo.

On May 9th, Matt's condition took a turn for the worse. All of his counts dropped very low, he had a high fever, his blood pressure was very low and he got another infection with his feeding tube. Irene rushed him over to Sonora Regional and they Airlifted Matt back to Stanford. This was a long stay for Matt and Irene; they stayed there until May 17th. During this visit, Matt underwent (8) blood transfusions (3 Platelets and 5 Red Blood). His feeding tube also came out and had to be placed back in. Matt has had a total of (17) transfusions.

On June 8th, Matt went in for his scheduled hearing test. He has lost a little more of his hearing in his left ear. He also still has ringing in both ears. The doctors think the ringing should get better over time.

On June 10th, Matt and Irene headed back to Stanford for his scheduled MRI and GI visit. The MRI was clear!!! We needed that Great News!!!

Matt was selected, as one of four kids from Stanford, to go on a trip sponsored by the Sunshine Kid's Foundation.

On June 17th, Matt flew to Long Beach with 21 kids, one doctor, 3 nurses and 3 volunteers. This was a trip for kids only, no parents. Irene was a wreck, until Matt got home. Matt had a fun packed four nights, five days, to include the following:

Day 1: Flew to Long Beach from the SJ Airport, with the other kids from Stanford and the Doctor. They met up with the other 17 kids, nurses and volunteers. After checking into the hotel, they headed to the Queen Mary for a tour. After the tour, they went to PF Chang's for dinner and headed back to the hotel.

Day 2: The group headed out early, on a boat ride to Catalina Island. Matt spent all day on the Island hanging out on the beach and then took a ride on the Sheriff's Boat. They also had dinner on the Island and then took the boat back to the Hotel.

Day 3: They all heading to Hollywood for the day. They started with a Tour of the Set for "The Closer". They all got to meet the cast, go on the set and get signed

pictures. They ate lunch in Hollywood and went to “Ripley’s Believe It or Not” and then did some shopping. They then headed back to the Hotel.

Day 4: Up again early, headed to the Aquarium of the Pacific, in Long Beach. After the Aquarium, they headed to Knott’s Berry Farm, for a fun day on the rides. This was Matt’s favorite day. They all went to dinner, at the sponsor’s house, where they had a Guitar Hero party and lots of fun.

Day 5: Up at 8:00 A.M. and headed back to the airport. Arrived in SJ and was back in Arnold that night.

This was a great trip for Matt, we’re glad he felt good enough to go.

Today, first day back, Matt’s home relaxing and recovering. Matt will be recovering all summer and getting ready to return to school. We have been able to reduce two medications Matt has been taking and hope to eliminate them all very soon. Matt is still on his feeding tube, but is starting to eat regular food more often.

Matt was only able to play a few baseball games this season, it really wore him out. We’re hoping to do some fishing, camping and boating this year and possibly take a family vacation.

We want to thank everyone, for all that you’ve done to support Matt and all of us, we really appreciated it and we will never forget it.

Love,
The McCullough’s