

ECFvoice

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE EMMANUEL CANCER FOUNDATION



Vivian: Adorable and Inspiring

VIVIAN'S BIG BLUE EYES AND ADORABLE SMILE WON OVER THE HEARTS OF THE NURSES AND DOCTORS THAT CARED FOR HER WHILE BEING TREATED FOR HEPATOBLASTOMA, A PEDIATRIC VERSION OF LIVER CANCER.

Now two and a half, Vivian was five months old when she was diagnosed. She went through eight rounds of chemo and a surgery that removed three quarters of her liver. The chemo caused hearing loss which continues to be monitored during quarterly checkups.

"Vivian was nothing short of inspiring throughout her journey and still to this day,"

said her mom, who added that family, friends, coworkers and even strangers surrounded the family with prayers, positivity, love and support. *"ECF helped our family tremendously,"* she said. Their ECF Caseworker Khadija checked in with them regularly to provide emotional



support and invited them to ECF events and activities. ECF volunteers



delivered monthly groceries that mom said helped offset stress as well as financial strain.

"We are forever grateful to ECF. We love attending the holiday parties; our girls have the best time!"

“ We could not be more thankful every day for her health. ”

VIVIAN'S MOM

Vivian is currently healthy and thriving. She loves princesses, jumping on the trampoline, riding in her electric jeep, and playing with her beloved four year old sister Fallon.

"There is nothing she thinks she can't do if she puts her mind to it," says her mom.

We can help these beautiful families because of YOU! Thank You!!!!

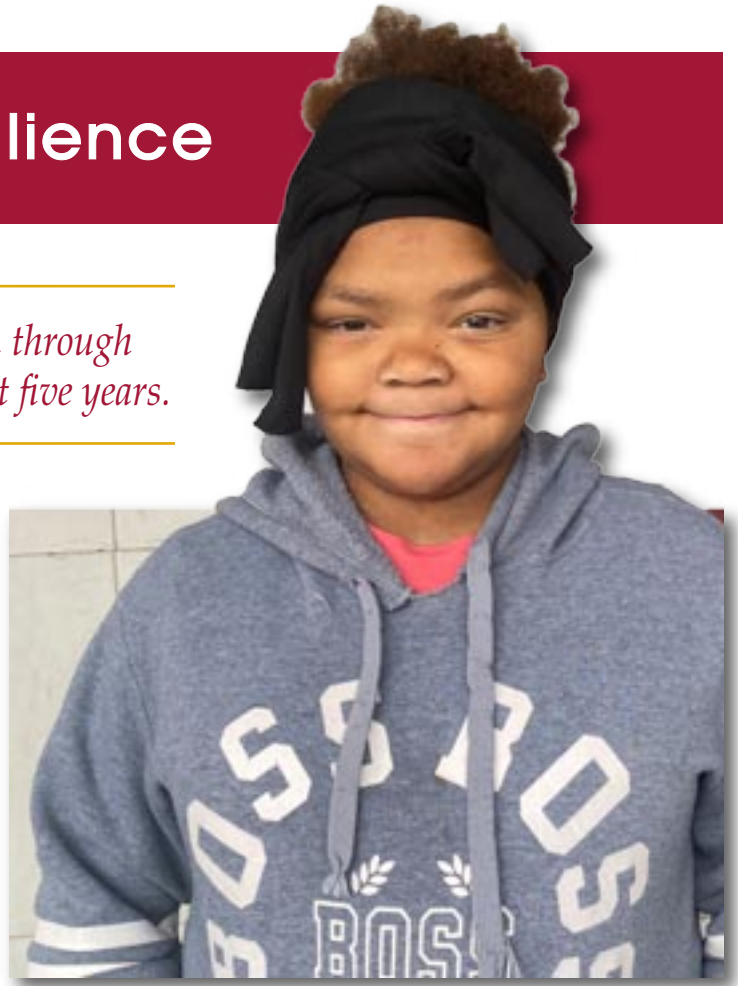
SANIYA: A Family's Resilience

In a nutshell, Saniya and her family have been through several lives worth of terrible ordeals over the past five years.

SANIYA, 9, WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A BRAIN TUMOR IN 2019.

Since then, she has endured several surgeries that have left her with lasting issues, including stunted growth, progressive vision loss, cognitive delays, and emotional issues. Her younger sister Layla is autistic and has a rare genetic disorder that causes aggression and significant cognitive and developmental issues. Her oldest brother took his own life in 2021 after a long mental health struggle. Her single mom Nakinya struggles to care for three children with no support and a brain injury caused by a car accident that left her with cognitive impairments. Because of this, and all the medical appointments for Saniya and Layla, mom is not able to work full time. Her 17 year old son Deyron helps his mom care for Layla when he can, but also has to juggle school and a job he took to help the family's precarious financial situation.

ECF has been supporting the family by providing emergency financial assistance for their many unpaid bills and travel and parking expenses due to Saniya's many trips to the hospital. Their ECF Caseworker Darlene also helped Saniya and her mom work through anxiety about her brain surgeries and feelings of isolation.



The Caseworker also guided Nakinya in processing the loss of her eldest son and encouraged her to participate in ECF's bereavement support group. Nakinya said that connecting with other parents who have lost children has been a great source of comfort and support.

Additionally, thanks to amazing ECF donors, we were able to secure a security deposit for a new apartment and a working vehicle to enable the family to more easily get to their numerous medical appointments.

Nakinya and her family express gratitude and thank their Caseworker Darlene after every visit. An ECF team member recently donated a mattress to the family. Mom was so grateful, and to say thank you she presented the staff member with a sunflower from her garden.

LIAM: Getting Through on Positivity and Faith



DURING LIAM'S CANCER TREATMENT, his mom Lisette shaved her head alongside her son to make the hair loss easier for him.

Liam's cancer journey started with a pea-sized red spot on his torso. In five months time it grew to the size of a quarter and was determined to be Ewings Sarcoma, an aggressive bone cancer. Fortunately it was caught early and hadn't yet spread to his bones, but Liam had to undergo 14 rounds of chemo over 28 weeks.

The chemo made Liam feel ill and lethargic. Because of his compromised immune system, he could only attend school virtually and couldn't see friends or family. Liam and his mom had to travel into NYC every day for the treatment. *"The cost of tolls and gas was astronomical,"* said Lisette. She had to take a leave of absence from her job.

“ECF was amazing, and our Case-worker ViAnna is fabulous and linked us to great resources” LISETTE, LIAM'S MOM

ECF also provided grocery delivery and gift cards, and the family enjoyed the holiday party and other events where they met several families with the same diagnosis. *"ECF puts the kids first and brings hope."*

Lisette says she managed the ordeal by focusing on being in the moment with her son. She said Liam's innate positivity and strong faith helped him get through, though she added that he was probably more scared than he showed.

Liam is now in remission and was so excited to go back to school this September, entering 6th grade. His only complaint is he doesn't want to do homework!



Your kindness changes these families' lives.

upcoming

EVENTS

TRICKY TRAY
May 17, 2025

14TH ANNUAL CHARITY BASH
June 11, 2025

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
June 14, 2025

CENTRAL REGION GOLF OUTING
June 16, 2025

SILTON SWIM FUNDRAISER
August 2, 2025

BOCCE BALL-A-PALOOZA
September 21, 2025

SOUTHERN REGION GOLF OUTING
September 29, 2025

ECF IS GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS THAT PROVIDED RECENT GRANT SUPPORT:

- Abundant Life Reformed Church*
- Arnold A. Schwartz Foundation*
- Builders' General Supply Co.*
- Catholic Human Services Foundation*
- Chick-Fil-A*
- Ellis Family Charitable Foundation*
- First Energy Foundation*
- First National Bank of Elmer*
- Greater Bergen Realtors Care Foundation*
- Hyde & Watson Foundation*
- I.O.O.F. Lawrence Lodge #62*
- International Paper Foundation*
- Jefferson Hospital*
- Mariner Foundation*
- Plymouth Rock Management Company of New Jersey*
- Preakness Reformed Church*
- Rite Aid Foundation*
- Robert and Joan Dircks Foundation*
- Select Equity Group Foundation*
- Silton Swim School*
- St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church*
- Stad's Crabfest Inc.*
- TD Charitable Foundation*
- Thomas H. Hamilton Foundation*
- United Way of Gloucester County*
- Wall Wrestling Club*

Thank You!

Donate Crypto to ECF

Thanks to the Giving Block link on our website, donating cryptocurrency to ECF is quick and easy, and it's another great way to help us grow.



ECF CASEWORKERS help children cope with the emotional impact of illness, treatment, and hospitalization, while also assisting families with navigating healthcare systems, accessing resources, and making decisions about care. They also get to have moments like these that make what they do so rewarding.



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