

Meet Asher, TOKC's 2019 James A. Ragan Wingman!



Right before Christmas, Asher had some swelling around his left eye. His parents thought it was allergies, and they treated with Benadryl for about a week & a half. Asher woke up on New Year's Eve with his left eye protruding outward and his left eye gaze was deviated to the right. He was rushed to the clinic, and they directed him to the emergency room. The doctor did a CT scan, and suddenly there was an ophthalmologist, optometrist, and an oncologist involved in Asher's case. He was admitted, and spent New Year's Eve, (Monday, Dec 31, 2018) in a room on the oncology floor.

Asher's tumor presented itself to be aggressive & rapid-growing in nature. He had a biopsy on Friday, Jan 4, 2019 – the pathologist present during the procedure determined it was embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma. On Monday, January 7th, Asher had his port placed, bilateral hip biopsies, and a spinal tap. He began receiving high dose steroids in attempt to reduce the size of the tumor and stop its progression. Asher was started on the chemotherapy regimen of vincristine, dactinomycin, and cyclophosphamide. After 15 weeks of chemotherapy and 2 weeks of proton therapy, Asher's tumor had not responded. He will receive the full dose of radiation for the duration of his treatment. As of May 6th, Asher is on week 17 of a 24 week treatment plan.

Asher is a smart, funny, lovable, and caring 8 year old boy. He has 4 older sisters, and even shares a birthday with one of them. He does well in school, and was selected as a Habit Hero during the first semester this year. Asher misses his classmates and his teacher. He loves being silly, telling jokes, and making people laugh. Asher enjoys playing with Legos, pretending to be a superhero, riding his bike, going to the beach, and being with his family and friends. He is just a normal 8 yr old kid, but he is an 8 yr old kid dealing with cancer.

Meet Emma, TOKC's 2018 James A. Ragan Wingman!



Transferred to TCH at 1 day old with a huge chest mass that deformed her chest. Had a biopsy at 6 days old and it was spindle cell embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma. Started chemo at 4 weeks old. Had a resection at 6 months old then more chemo. Finished her 1st protocol early May, 2018.

Emma like all of James' Wingmen before her reminds us why we are here DoingThatOneThing! bringing Hope by raising money for research and Joy through companionship and activities that help them enjoy this moment.

Meet Andrew, TOKC's 2017 James A. Ragan Wingman!



Andrew Ross is 8 years old, and has pancreatic neuroendocrine cancer that metastasized to his liver. Andrew is imaginative, creative, and used to be a competitive swimmer before he was diagnosed with pediatric cancer. Unfortunately, his stomach pain makes it too difficult for him to swim like he used to. Andrew lives with his family in The Woodlands, and has a very close relationship with his two loving sisters, Abigail (9) and Grace (4).

The story of Andrew and his family is both devastating and remarkable. The Ross Family was already quite familiar with the hospital experience before Andrew's diagnosis because his younger sister, Grace, has Down Syndrome. She is only 4 years old, has already had 4 major heart surgeries, and will need at least one more. Andrew was diagnosed with cancer last summer after several months of increasing stomach pain. His cancer is truly an orphan cancer. The best doctors at a number of institutions have never seen anything like Andrew's tumor before, especially in a child.

There are no treatments for his cancer. He is currently being treated at Texas Children's Hospital with an oral chemotherapy that will hopefully help some, while genomic researchers at M.D. Anderson, (including Dr. Andrew Futreal, one of the two lead researchers on GRASP), are hard at work sequencing his tumor and trying to identify effective treatments for Andrew.

In spite of all of this, they all remain positive and hopeful for their futures. The entire Ross Family is actively looking for ways to become more active in the pediatric cancer world. We are very excited that they have chosen to do so by joining the TOKC Family.

Meet Myles, TOKC's 2016 James A. Ragan Wingman!



Myles A. Anderwald is 8 yrs. old outgoing, creative, excellent at playing the “Just Dance” game and never ceases to smile, more importantly, Myles was TOKC’s 2016 Wingman. Myles was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma with his primary tumor being in his left femur. Myles had chemotherapy, limb salvage surgery and more chemotherapy. His disease is stable. Myles has returned to school and is enjoying it. Unfortunately, when he had to have to have a 2nd limb salvage operation to replace his existing implant. Not only is Myles grateful for your generosity to pediatric cancer research, but Myles is a young fundraiser as well. He hosted his own “Just Dance” party raising over \$1,000 for TOKC whose funds were matched by M.D. Anderson for a total of \$2,000. Today, we celebrate Myles, his brother James and his parents whose efforts to help other cancer kids - #DoThatOneThing! - during Myles’ own battle against cancer.

Meet Robby, TOKC's 2015 James A. Ragan Wingman!



When he was just 15 months old, Robby Lee was diagnosed with pediatric melanoma with lymph node metastasis. His parents had noticed a small bump on his cheek a few months earlier and took him to see a doctor. After a plastic surgeon removed a large portion of his cheek and some of his lymph nodes, Robby began chemotherapy treatments. Robby didn't let his cancer get in the way of having a good time. Robby completed his chemotherapy in December, 2015 and is now in remission. Robby turned 4 in April and these days he attends preschool, enjoys gymnastics class, and is perfecting his ABC's and numbers. Some of you may remember meeting Robby as he was TOKC's 2015 James' Wingman! Today, we think of Robby, his sister Lahna, his Mom & Dad, and other kids just like him whose resilience and strength inspire us all.

Meet Hannah, TOKC's 2014 James A. Ragan Wingman!



In July of 2012, 4-year-old Hannah Meeson was just as lively, curious, and bubbly as any little girl her age, except she was having difficulty balancing and running into things. After lots of scans and several doctor visits she was diagnosed with anaplastic medulloblastoma, a type of brain tumor. For the next 2 years, Hannah underwent surgery and several rounds of chemotherapy and radiation. Fortunately, Hannah has been cancer free since March 2014, but she continues to suffer the side effects of her treatment, such as severe cognitive damage, total hearing loss in her right ear, severe cornea damage, and total loss of balance. But Hannah hasn't let her cancer slow her down. She continues to work hard to make the most of her situation, and to help other little kids and families like hers. Some of you may even remember meeting her in 2014, as she was our first "James' Wingman". Today, our thoughts are with Hannah, her family, and other kids like her who continue to defy the odds and make the world around them a better place.