



In the summer of 2011 Ryder was diagnosed with Leukemia and suddenly everything changed.

On June 14th, the first Monday after school let out, Ryder woke up with severe pain in his ankle. His mom brought him to the emergency room where they eventually did a blood test at her request. An hour after they returned home they got a call from the hospital with the shocking and terrifying results: His condition was so fragile that the doctors asked that his family get him back to the emergency room without bumping him—at all. On the way to the hospital seeing the distress in her eyes, Ryder, being the pillar of strength that he is, looked at his mom and said “Mommy, I got this”.

He was immediately taken by ambulance from Kaiser Emergency to UCSF where he had to have a transfusion from a special machine that is only available at UCSF. A few days later he was transferred in an ambulance to Oakland Kaiser where he spent the next 9 days. His diagnosis was High Risk ALL with MLL rearrangement, 3 way translocation- very rare for a 12 year old. His treatment was to include a year of the most intense chemo regimen followed by cranial radiation. That’s how fast Ryder and his family’s life changed.

Leading up to that Ryder was living the life of a normal pre-teen boy, playing catcher for his baseball team, surfing, skateboarding and hanging out with his friends. Treatment began fairly well: He was strong going into it and had a great attitude. But soon weekly chemo appointments started to take their toll and he began to get very sick, sometimes unable to eat for weeks at a time. With a year of intense treatment ahead Ryder was not able to attend his 7th grade year of Jr. High, or much of anything else for that matter. His life went from fun and games to fighting cancer and struggling to stay strong.



In August 2012 after completing a year of chemo and radiation he had finally made it to Maintenance, which consists of daily oral chemo pills and monthly intravenous chemo for 2 more years. Unfortunately the chemo pills he has to take do not make him feel good so he has not been able to get back to the life of a normal teenage boy. Everyone hoped that Ryder would be able to return to his 8th grade year and graduate with his friends but after having to be hospitalized with a very bad infection after his first few days at school and then sick again after his first day back following that it is clear that Ryder cannot attend school at this time. Hopefully he will make it back sometime this year but he needs to be stronger for a longer amount of time before he can attend school on a regular basis.



In the meantime Ryder's parents are also continuing to raise his two brothers, Myles Morford (16) and Ivan Albachten (6), and striving to maintain some sense of normalcy in their everyday life. The family is active in the community through sports and school activities. Parents Erin and Aaron have a combined 25 years coaching local team sports and have always been there to lend a helping hand. Sometimes though, even the strongest need a little help. Please help us show how much we care about Ryder and his .

On Saturday, November 3rd 2012 from 3-11pm we will be "Raising the Roof" for Ryder in the Most Excellent "Fun Raiser" at the Pavilion in Fairfax. We need your help!

To become a sponsor visit: <http://www.bombshellsandrocks.com/ryder> or call Cathey Cotten at 415/419-5338. 100% of the proceeds go directly to Ryder Morford and his Family.