

Josue

A Young Adult in the Forgotten Population

Josue was 16 and had big ambitions when his life was abruptly interrupted by a leukemia diagnosis. His mom Gaby, remembers...



"On Wednesday, Josue complained about a headache. On Thursday, I made his favorite meal but he wouldn't eat. By Friday, Josue had a headache and fever, so I left work to take him to the doctor. They ran tests and found something in his liver; they sent him to Children's Hospital LA and ran more tests. A month later he was officially diagnosed with leukemia *...my whole world was broken.*"

Josue was in the hospital for months and endured every possible side effect of chemotherapy ... "Josue was devastated that he could not continue with his ROTC program at school, but he was too weak," Gaby recalls. She stopped working to be with Josue, and made the incredibly difficult decision to send her 11 year old

son, Ronnie, to El Salvador to stay with family since she was a single mom and could not be home with him. Bills were piling up, and driving to LA was expensive, sometimes up to \$300 for parking during long hospital stays. Their family's entire world had been flipped upside down.

"...TBCF was the first to respond. They said they would help me, and sent \$3,000 without asking questions. TBCF has been a life saver. And not just for the financial help, but because they think of us and send gifts, and things I couldn't find in the store. Also the therapy with other parents...I can't stop being thankful for TBCF.....because I felt so alone, but to see other parents going through what we are going through gave me hope.

They made me feel like we matter."

While Josue's treatment left him with diabetes and significant emotional trauma, he ultimately entered remission and finished high school on time. However, in 2023 Josue relapsed. By then he was 19 and a young adult, working and attending college classes. He stopped working to begin his treatments and began accumulating credit card debt. He was unsure who he could turn to for help as a legal adult.

Fortunately, TBCF had just expanded our programming to include 18-21 year olds treated on a pediatric protocol. TBCF was able to stand with Josue again during this difficult period. TBCF sent financial aid to help him pay down his debt, and remind Josue that

he is not alone.

You can help families like Josue's