

## Aaron's Story

In August 2012, when Elizabeth emailed her husband, Scott, she needed him to respond quickly. Their young son, Aaron, had just been found to suffer from a brain tumor and he needed to undergo brain surgery immediately. Elizabeth's email to Scott was simple: Call me.

When Scott received Elizabeth's email, he was stationed on the USS Enterprise in the middle of the Persian Gulf. A lieutenant commander 04 in the US Navy, Scott has been in the military for 23 years. Being separated from family was routine. But this situation was not.

Scott contacted his commanding officer immediately, and things happened quickly after that. Within 41 hours of learning Aaron had a brain tumor, Scott was at his bedside in a Virginia hospital. He hadn't seen Aaron for six months. "He was hooked up to tubes and his face was swollen," Scott recalled. "He couldn't walk, he couldn't talk."



But the moment Scott said his name, Aaron opened his eyes.

A biopsy of the tumor revealed it to be a medulloblastoma, a rare brain tumor that arises in the posterior fossa region of the brain. Elizabeth searched the Internet for the best place for Aaron's continuing treatment and care.

Everything Elizabeth found pointed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®. St. Jude has the largest pediatric brain tumor research program in the country and the world's best survival rates. Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to 80 percent since it opened more than 50 years ago.

Aaron and his family arrived at St. Jude in September 2012. Aaron's treatment has included a second brain surgery and 31 rounds of radiation therapy. He will also receive four rounds of chemotherapy. While Aaron is undergoing treatment, Scott has been assigned to temporary duty at the Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Millington, Tennessee.

Scott and Elizabeth are grateful for everything St. Jude has done for their son. "Our doctors and nurses are amazing. There is so much love and care here," Scott said. "You can't put the amount of thanks we have for St. Jude into words. It's the very best of the best."

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## About St. Jude

- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is the global leader in finding cures and saving children from cancer and other deadly diseases.
- Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall survival rate for childhood cancer from 20 percent – when the hospital opened in 1962 – to 80 percent today. And St. Jude is working to drive that overall survival rate to 90 percent by 2020.
- St. Jude is where doctors send their toughest cases because St. Jude has the world's best survival rates for the most aggressive forms of childhood cancer.
- St. Jude invents more clinical trials for cancer than any other children's hospital, turning laboratory discoveries into lifesaving treatments that benefit patients – every day.
- St. Jude freely shares the breakthroughs it makes so every child saved at St. Jude means doctors and scientists can use that knowledge to save thousands more children around the world.
- Unlike any other hospital, the majority of funding for St. Jude comes from everyday people. Through the support of generous donors, families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food—because all a family should worry about is helping their child live.

**"It's the very best of the best."**

— Aaron's dad, Scott



## About Community Health Charities of America (CHCA)

ALSAC, the fundraising organization of St. Jude, is a member of Community Health Charities (CHC). Improving the health of Americans is the goal of the member charities that make up the Community Health Charities family—the most trusted names in health information, research and services. For more than half a century, CHCA has partnered with its member health charities in the workplace to provide a cost effective partnership that enhances the ability to deliver more of every dollar donated into the hands of those who desperately need it.

## About Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 300 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (September 1 to December 15) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

*Finding cures. Saving children.*

CFC # 10560



*Illustration by St. Jude patient, Amanda*

**Thank you for your generous support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.**



501 St. Jude Place | Memphis, Tennessee

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**Proud member of the Combined Federal Campaign #10560.**

Local Campaign # \_\_\_\_\_



**St. Jude patient, Aaron, with his father Lieutenant Commander, Scott**



800-822-6344 | [stjude.org/cfc](http://stjude.org/cfc)