



# 30 Years & 30 Heroes

Hero #22 of 30

Sometimes the lessons you learn at camp don't take full effect until way down the road. Such was the case with **Greg**, who was diagnosed with ALL in 1989 and has only fond memories of his days at camp starting in 1990. He recalls it being great "just to be a kid and experience it all surrounded by other kids facing the same hurdles, rather than being a kid with cancer that always felt a little separated from the joys of childhood at home." Camp was six years of whirlwind fun for a boy at the peak of his growing years.

Greg's life took a challenging turn during his first year at college, when a car hit his vehicle head-on, causing severe nerve and soft tissue damage that led to years of surgery and therapy. He persevered and graduated in 2005 with a degree in Applied Information Technology, crossing the stage with pneumonia to accept his degree. He met his bride-to-be, Lauren, the following year and in May 2011 was set to celebrate both the completion of her business degree and the impending birth of their first child when Lauren went into premature labor and lost the baby at 20 weeks. Greg reflects on that difficult time:

**"Despite seeing pain and losing many friends at a young age, I never knew such grief and suffering as when I lost my own child. My wife says she learned how to be strong and never lose faith or give up hope from me. Life is a constant battle, but you look back and cherish the moments you have with friends and family, particularly those made at Camp Fantastic with the people you were unaware would become your dearest friends and extended family. Being at camp taught me even more unconditional love than I already knew, and that keeps me strong and courageous even to this day."**

Greg now works as a network engineer and he and Lauren live in Bel Air, MD, with all his camp photographs and scrapbooks!



*The many faces of Greg (from top): his first camp photo in 1990; his portrait in '95; hanging (front) with his buds Chip, Neil, and Ross in '93; looking dashing with his beautiful bride, Lauren, in 2009.*

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