

In 2011, when I was only 13 years old, I was diagnosed with leukemia. I was treated at Staten Island University Hospital, at the north site. At the time of my stay in the hospital my dad introduced me to Mark Russo, Chairman of Kids Against Cancer. During a time of shock and confusion he offered my family and I hope and showed us that we still must continue to enjoy, appreciate and fight for life. My father was running back and forth, taking care of things in the house for my brother and sisters. Mark and Kids Against Cancer were able to give aid to my father, financially and emotionally that no one else could give. Mark also visited me numerous times in the hospital which made my days bright like the sun. Kids Against Cancer didn't just stop there, they provided my siblings and I gifts for the holidays and even a year later, gave my family and I the experience to go see a Broadway play of our choice. Kids Against Cancer introduced me to Make A Wish Foundation and I was granted a wish to go to the Bahamas. I am writing this letter, saying I am cancer free and my family and I are going to celebrate my wish together! Mark taught me that life shouldn't be put on hold, to enjoy every experience and live life to its fullest. No words can ever fully express how truly thankful I am for all that he has done for my family.

Sincerely,

*Brianna Bove*