

I am writing in regard to my dear friend Eric Schroeder. Eric is thirty years old, married to his extremely sweet and loving wife, Terri. Eric and Terri met and fell in love at Illinois State University. They began their married lives together 10/11/2002 and they now have three wonderful children, Aidan age 6, Kaleigh age 5, and little Quinn age 2. They reside in Crystal Lake, IL which is where Eric grew up. A few years back Eric decided to start an independent business venture to fulfill his dream of owning his own business. He now owns a mortgage brokerage company also located in Crystal Lake. Starting his own business came with its share of sacrifices and challenges, but as a team Eric and Terri tackled those challenges and Eric's business is doing well! Terri is a very busy stay at home Mom caring for their three children while Eric focuses on his business.

In February of 2008 I was diagnosed with stage III melanoma skin cancer while I was pregnant with my 4th child. I delivered my son in September of 2008 and began chemotherapy treatments while my husband served overseas in Afghanistan. Eric and Terri were there for me the entire time and provided my family with so much love and support to help us get through that difficult time. They repeated over and over that they didn't know how we got through it and how unfair it was that we were faced with those challenges. They felt things were picture perfect and going quite well for their beautiful family, but this past February their world was also turned upside down.

Eric went to the doctor on Monday 2/15/2010 with flu-like symptoms. An enlarged lymphnode on his neck alerted the doctor to send Eric for a CT scan. That Wednesday, 2/16 Eric was informed that he had cancer. After further testing in the following 2 weeks, Eric was diagnosed with Stage III Hodgkins Lymphoma. He was told of his need to begin chemotherapy immediately. By the time they reached the point of diagnosis, the medical bills were already monumental because one of the sacrifices Eric made by starting his own business was foregoing group insurance. He had to obtain an individual health insurance plan that is not only very costly, but carries with it extremely high cost shares.

Besides the monumental medical bills that continue to grow as Eric received his first chemo treatment last Friday, 3/12 there are also the fears of the unknown with what will happen to Eric's business as he needs to take time off to receive his 6 months of chemotherapy treatments and any other time off due to illness as a result of the chemo.

I am requesting your consideration of this family as the recipients for your fundraiser to help alleviate some of the financial burden this family is faced with. They need to focus all their strength and energy on Eric's health and maintaining as much stability as possible for their three young children's lives during this difficult time. I greatly appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,

Michele Fowles