

# Hospice

*He has a warm, flirty smile that spreads across his face when you tease him...*

At a glance, Davier is a typical ten year-old who lives at home with his family and goes to school with his friends. He has a warm, flirty smile that spreads across his face when you tease him, something he takes well; family is noticeably important to him. He enjoys watching sports - he is a Hawkeye fan- and spending time with the neighborhood kids. If you look a little closer, you'll notice he's also a ten year-old fighting to keep his independence. He was diagnosed with brain cancer when he was five years-old.

After years of battling the disease and receiving treatments that took him as far as Cincinnati, Davier made a decision that proved his maturity was far beyond his age. He woke up one morning, due for another trip to Cincinnati, and told his mom he didn't want to go. He was simply tired of receiving the treatments and didn't want to endure them anymore. While treatment prolonged his life, it also decreased his quality of life; it was a trade-off that he wasn't willing to make.

Davier's tumor continues to grow. He has lost some functionality, although he is a determined, prideful, young man. His family turned to Iowa Health Hospice for support. Davier and his family now have in-home support from our team of professionals.

Each member of the team plays a critical role in providing holistic care for Davier. The nurse checks his vitals and tracks any changes, keeping him comfortable and enjoying life. The physical therapist has worked with incorporating use of a wheel chair and walker, exercises to keep his coordination as sharp as possible. The occupational therapist has educated Davier's family on ways to make the home conducive for him to remain independent. The chaplain has served as a spiritual guide and continues to play a larger role in the event that Davier won't be able to make it to church some Sundays. The social worker has led Davier and his family through the emotions they will experience in the coming months.

While the hospice team can offer Davier and his family many services and endless support, they cannot cure Davier's brain tumor. What they can provide is quality of life. After all, it's not about the amount of time you have left, but the way you spend that time. As a ten year-old boy, how better to spend your time than home with your family, going to school with your peers and playing Xbox with your brother?



Iowa Health Hospice coordinated the donation of an X Box system with games for Davier from Best Buy. Davier and his family have creating lasting memories while enjoying the fun together.