



Hi Friends!

My name is Jaclyn Murphy. Before I was diagnosed with a brain tumor, I was considered a natural athlete. Sports were a part of my daily life. Then on March 26, 2004, at the age of nine, my life changed instantly. I was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor, medulloblastoma, and my dreams of playing sports ever again quickly vanished. The journey that I was about to embark on is one that is unimaginable. Surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy replaced my days of practice, games, and time with friends. All my energy was now exerted into becoming a survivor. I was scared, I felt different, and I wanted my old life back. The side effects from treatment are devastating; on top of dealing with that I lost all of my friends.

One day I received a package in the mail from a college lacrosse team. They sent me letters and text messages throughout treatment and even called me their #1 Fan! Having their support helped me through my darkest days and I wanted to bring that joy to other children battling pediatric brain tumors and other childhood cancers. I am happy to say that I graduated from college and have been NED (no evidence of disease) for 13 years!

Today, my foundation, Friends of Jaclyn has helped nearly 750 families throughout the United States and Canada find the love, support and friendship that helped me through my own cancer journey. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for children with pediatric brain tumors and other childhood cancers while spreading awareness about these diseases. We do this by pairing families with teams, clubs and community groups through our Adopt a Child program--the teams provide a unique support system and a welcome distraction from everyday life. We have over 34 different men's and women's sports teams in D1-D3, junior college and high school. My sister Taryn inspired our Safe on the Sidelines program that gives brothers and sisters a team of their own so they can feel loved and special too!

If you are interested in having a team of your own please visit our website: www.friendsofjaclyn.org. There you will find more information about my story as well as information on how to register. I hope that I will get to meet you someday soon!

Live in the Moment...Play in the Moment!

Jaclyn Murphy

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