

# MISSION MOMENT: It Takes A Village



At just 22-months-old, Riley knew how to tell his parents Karrie and Trent Osmon that he was in pain.

"He did baby signs, and he would do [the sign for] hurt," Karrie said. "He wasn't really able to tell me where. He would just get really upset because he was trying to tell me but wasn't able to communicate. When I went to pick him up or move him he would cringe and start crying, so I knew there was something going on."

Other symptoms such as recurring fevers and chronic sinus and lung infections prompted the Osmons to take Riley to the doctor in their hometown of Bedford, IN. After several blood panels and a trip to Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health, the oncologists confirmed what the Osmon's pediatrician had feared—Riley had acute lymphoblastic leukemia.



*Riley, his mother Karrie and his two sisters, Molly and Sophie, strike a pose at the Ronald McDonald House.*

Now six-years-old, Riley has met intensive treatment plans including chemotherapy and radiation treatments with a smile, penchant for breaking into song and his ever-present sense of humor. Throughout Riley's treatments, Karrie has been able to stay by her son's side thanks to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana. Though the school year is difficult, Karrie and Riley look forward to the weekends when Trent and Riley's big sisters, Molly and Sophie, are able to join them at the House. As a close-knit family, the Osmons say that they are grateful for the opportunities the House provides for doing their favorite family activities, such as playing board and card games together, craft nights, birthday parties for our House dog, Mac, or chronicling their family's journey through music videos which Trent makes and shares online.

"The Ronald McDonald House really helped us be able to have family time and be together and help everybody cope a little bit more with a very difficult situation," Karrie said.

Karrie also says that she is grateful for the food provided by volunteers, since it's very expensive to feed a family of five so far from home. She is impressed by the staff's willingness to help with the variety of other challenges that families face.

"They thought not only of the patient but the siblings [too]. They understand that it's difficult on the whole family," Karrie said.

As summer comes to a close, the Osmons are happy to have returned to their home for the time being. Though Riley and Karrie will still have the make monthly trips to Indianapolis for infusion treatments, they know they always have a place to call "home" here at the Ronald McDonald House.

"It takes a whole community of people to be able to get through it. We've gotten a lot of support from family, friends, our church family and people we don't even know," Karrie said. "It's extremely difficult when you have a child that is ill. It affects every part of everyone's life, and the support we've gotten has just been amazing."