

A Bond Between Brother & Sister

By: Liza B.

Sydney is 11 years old and has a 17 year old brother named Tyler. The two of them are really close. Sydney has always had a big heart and knew she wanted to one day help people with cancer.

As Tyler prepared to leave for college at Texas Tech, Sydney became very sick. Her parents knew something was wrong but tried to shield Tyler from it. After visiting several Doctors, she was diagnosed with a rare bone cancer. This news was very hard for the family to understand, but Sydney stayed strong. Even though Sydney stayed positive, as the months went on, her cancer became a lot more serious.

Sydney loved her brother so much, but she knew that her time was coming to an end. She was not ready to leave her big brother. Tyler knew what was happening and would sometimes cry for hours in his dorm room, but he knew his sister would not want that. It was hard for him not to go home to be by her side in Arizona, but his family knew it was best for him to finish out his school year. He called to talk to Sydney everyday, and joke about their childhood.

The cancer grew to Stage 4 and the family knew Sydney was not going to live very much longer. After only a few weeks, Sydney Thomas died at home. All Tyler could think about was dropping out of school because he could not live without his sister! Tyler went to the funeral and of course was sobbing but ended being ok. He knew that Sydney was in a better place now.

Just like that he was alone with his parents and no Sydney. Tyler was so devastated. He knew he had to keep Sydney's memory alive. Tyler decided he should go back to school. One night before Sydney passed, she told Tyler to follow his dreams and always stay motivated. Tyler remembered the promise he made to her, and he knew Sydney was watching down on him. He wanted to make her proud, so he started a program to help others with serious health conditions. Tyler inspired a lot of little kids all along the world with cancer by visiting them in hospitals and supporting them along the way.

Today Tyler and his college sweetheart are married and live back in Texas, close to the home he grew up in. They are expecting a baby girl. She will be named Sydney.