



Danny's Fund

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DANNY'S STORY

Danny was a happy 6 year-old kid, who enjoyed playing with his younger brother and with his friends. He loved outside activities such as riding his bike and playing soccer, and going to his gymnastics class. We thought he was the healthiest boy ever. He was very athletic, and loved eating healthy and sophisticated food.

At six years-old, he was diagnosed with a pediatric cancer, Neuroblastoma Stage IV. Danny lived six beautiful years of childhood, and almost five years fighting for his life, passing away just six days before his 11th birthday. But cancer did not define who he was. He did not stop living life to the fullest.

For five years Danny endured non-stop treatments and very long stays at hospitals, the attack of AML leukemia caused by the previous treatments, and survived a second bone marrow transplant aided by his brother's stem cells.

Danny was part of many clinical trials and had to travel all over the country to big childhood research hospitals where these experimental treatments were offered. Most of the time, the treatments were extremely difficult, painful, and toxic, with many long-term side-effects. No child should have to suffer that much, but leaving the cancer is not a better choice. It is a very nasty disease.

Cancer treatments are very toxic, and that is why we need more research, to find better treatments for our kids, and to eventually find a cure. But there is not enough funding for childhood cancer research, which is unbelievable, because



Sometimes superheroes reside in the hearts of small children fighting huge battles.

these are our kids, our future. That is why we have to stand up for them, and be their voices and their advocates! Danny's Fund continues Danny's fight by supporting cutting edge research for treatment for other children with cancer. We don't ever want other parents to experience for themselves the pain of such a loss. We want all children with cancer to have more options and to be able to have their cancer cured.

Danny is a hero along with so many other dear ones who have also lost their battle to cancer. With your help, children like Danny will keep smiling...

DannysFund.org

Our mission is to support the research to develop less toxic and more effective treatments for pediatric cancer, the leading disease-related cause of death for children in the U.S., through awareness and fund raising campaigns. The funds raised by dedicated supporters will be granted to the Nation's leading pediatric cancer research centers.

- Visit www.dannysfund.org to leave a donation.
- All proceeds fund pediatric cancer research.
- Like our [Danny's Fund Facebook](#) page!
- Contact info: dannysfundorg@gmail.com





Danny's favorite summertime activity was swimming in the Mediterranean in front of his grandparents' home in Valencia, Spain, and playing futbol to dark. Always gentle and loving, himself, Danny taught us all how to be happy and considerate with each other, even through the most difficult of his treatments.

He is survived by his parents, Richard Nardi and Cristina Toharia, his brothers, Tom and Marco, his grandparents, Manuel Toharia, Ketty Zapata, and Jean Nardi, his great-grandmother, Ketty Ferrer, and his extended family, including his much loved cousins.

Throughout his life, he touched and inspired so many, before and after his disease.

IN LOVING MEMORY

March 13th 2002 – March 7th 2013

Daniel Charles Nardi-Toharia passed away March 7, 2013 in his house in the arms of his parents, Richard and Cristina. Danny was six days shy of his 11th birthday. He had fought a childhood cancer, neuroblastoma, and, later on, therapy-related AML leukemia, beating the odds for five years.

Danny, a fifth-grader at Next Generation School in Champaign, read books intensely, loved playing Harry Potter with his friends during recess, laughed mightily at *Singing in the Rain* and *A Night at the Opera*, was an enthusiastic cook and gourmet, and, a natural athlete, thrilled in outdoor activities and play. He played piano and violin, and sang with his brother in the Central Illinois Children's Chorus. He played baseball in the Champaign Little League, Border district in 2011 and when he was six, soccer in Santa Barbara, California.

Danny was born in Ventura, California, on March 13, 2002, and lived with his family in Santa Barbara until July 2008. From the moment we met him he was our darling. He was a joy and a blessing for us and for anyone who came in contact with him. Danny and his brother, Tommy, younger by 20 months, shared many wonderful moments, playing and getting in trouble together and waking their parents up much too early. His baby brother, Marco, could always bring a smile to Danny's face. Most of all, Danny loved people and having his family and close friends near him.



\$25,000 GRANT

We're happy to announce our second donation of \$25,000, given to Dr. Shakeel Modak of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. This will go toward funding a trial of "bispecific humanized antibody," a newer form of the therapy that prolonged Danny's life considerably. We are excited about what this trial could mean for the future of neuroblastoma treatment. This grant would not be possible without your constant support. Thank you for continue Danny's fight by helping to develop more effective, and less toxic, treatments for pediatric cancer.



March 13

Blood drive at Next Generation School, 1:00-5:00 PM



March 14

3rd Annual Chef Danny for a Cure Benefit Concert, 6:00-7:30 PM
Orpheum Theater, Downtown Champaign,
Donations at the door (Limited seating: 250)
Hors d'oeuvres & cupcakes following the concert



June

Neuroblastoma Awareness Week
5k Run/Walk