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Local Child's Battle with Cancer

Orchard Park, NY — John Millen, the son of Chad and Dawn Millen and big brother of Charlotte of Orchard Park was diagnosed last month with a brain stem tumor called DIPG - Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma. The tumor is located in a part of the brain that controls vital functions and is inoperable. John began presenting symptoms the first week of October 2013. He was admitted and diagnosed at Women and Children's Hospital in Buffalo and has begun a 6 week radiation treatment at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. The radiation will likely shrink the tumor for a period of time; however, this disease progresses rapidly with very few options beyond a single course of radiation that have proven effective.

John will be turning 3 years old on November 19, 2013 and sadly over the last month or so he has been in the Hospital more often than a little boy should. The steroids and radiation are taking a toll on John; the once happy and active boy has become weary and despondent. Family, friends and the Orchard Park community have rallied together to assist the Millen's during this difficult time. Chad and Dawn are doing the very best they can for John to ensure he receives the appropriate medical treatment and extra love and care that he needs.

Family and Friends of the Millen Family are holding a benefit on Friday, January 24, 2014 at Michael's Banquet Facility in Hamburg. Many great sponsors have stepped up to donate services and items for the benefit. The benefit will begin at 6pm with live entertainment, Chinese auction, silent auction and a 50/50 raffle. Donations through the website and from the fundraiser are used in support of John and the Millen family while he is undergoing treatment, including medical and other extraneous expenses the family incurs. Donations are a personal gift to the family and are not tax deductible. The Millen's have set up a separate account for these donations only. If the Millen's find any residual funds remain, they will be donated to Make a Wish Foundation & Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Additional information about John and his family is available at www.johns-journey.org.