



Nick Flowers

1992 - 2016

Nick Flowers was born April 20, 1992. Like everyone, he had hopes, dreams and plans. He was all about sports. He loved all of them, but football was his favorite. He played on Stevenson University's inaugural team.

Nick had experienced at least two blistering sunburns when he was young. He had a small mole above his ear on the right side of his head. Being an athlete, he kept his hair short, and his dad and barber noticed that the mole had changed. It had gotten larger and changed color. On July 30, 2012 the mole was removed, and he was diagnosed with melanoma. It would change Nick's and our lives completely. He was starting his sophomore year at Stevenson University, but because of the surgery, he could no longer wear a helmet, ending his college football career.

Nick graduated from Stevenson in 2014 with plans to secure a job in the field of marketing and website design. He was given a clean bill of health and was ready to start his post-college career. In summer 2015 he noticed a small black spot on his forehead which quickly turned to two spots. After a visit to the surgical oncologist in August 2015, it was revealed that the melanoma had returned. Unfortunately, this time it was much different. He was told he had 19 tumors in his liver and several tiny tumors in his lung, rib cage, pelvis and right femur.

Since melanoma does not respond to typical chemotherapy. Nick's only option was immunotherapy. He endured 10 months of treatment with side effects so intense that it would send him to the hospital. During this time and fight, he continued to work as if nothing had changed. While the tumors in the lung and rib cage responded to treatment, it was discovered in June 2016 that the melanoma had spread to his brain. He endured 20 rounds of whole brain radiation along with a new combo of immunotherapy in attempt to combat and dissolve the tumors. His time here with us ended November 29, 2016 at the age of 24.

We promised Nick that we would not let his story end here. His journey will be used to educate others about the dangers of UV rays. Please use sunscreen year- round. Pay attention to any changes to your skin and visit your dermatologist annually.

If you think, "It won't happen to me.", so did Nick.