

Our Reasons to Run: Valentina

Valentina's story, as told by her Mom Ingrid:



At the age of thirty-nine I found myself wanting a child. It seemed God had chosen a perfect candidate for me. I was falling in love with the most amazing man I had ever met. We agreed that we would try and have a baby but after a year and a half of trying we came to the conclusion that it might not happen. We talked about adopting and we were both fine with that. On Thanksgiving day of 2013 that wonderful man asked me to marry him...on September 10th of 2014 and at the age of 42 I found out I was pregnant.

Valentina Rose Miranda was born on May 5, 2015. Three months later she was diagnosed with Leukemia, I remember clearly Dr. De Angulo's words saying "our goal is that this is the worst day for you". Thankfully it was....

A few days later we were introduced to Dr. Abdella who would be Valentina's main doctor. She explained what Valentina's treatment would be, the drugs she would be taking and how long this would all last. I specially remember that she told us that we would not know the extent of the damage chemo drugs might do until she was a grown up. She said "for example she might not be able to have kids".

I remember just crying with my head down uncontrollably. Thinking My God what if my daughter dies....?

I'm not exactly sure when it happened but I know one day I spoke to God and I told him that if she was going to suffer too much to please take her right away. That we could not watch her suffer...I thanked him for allowing me to have a child and knowing how it feels to be a mom. All I remember is that when I finished for some reason I was no longer afraid. I knew it would be a difficult road but that she was going to be ok.

The next two years were incredibly hard but we had the support of the foundations, Leslie's Hope and Sofia's Hope, my best friend, Vero, our absolutely amazing family, especially my sister, Sandra, and my brother-in-law who were with us every single day offering us not only moral support but also financial. And of course God and the Virgin Mary who never left our side.

On August 14, 2017 Valentina took her last chemo drug. She is now the most energetic and happiest little girl we have ever seen. Whatever lies ahead, I know we can overcome together with our love and faith because well...**Valentina is a Survivor!**

