



Angela: Spokane, WA

Diagnosis: Osteogenic Sarcoma in the left femur; June 1992, at the age of 15-1/2.

Treatment: June 1992 through February 1997. Many rounds of Chemo; many rounds of radiation, many surgeries, several relapses.

Status: passed away March 22, 1997, at the age of 20-1/2.

Angela was always a very outgoing girl who loved school, music, dancing, sports and her family. From her date of diagnosis she moved forward with a courageous and positive attitude that caused everyone around her to do the same. Even in the excruciating physical pain and the emotional pain of her disease she insisted on being active in volunteering to help others. The very things that she had always loved were the things that kept her going and moving forward during her 5 years with cancer. Although Angela could no longer dance with cancer in both legs before she died, she continued to sing every day until the end. When she had to lie in bed she would watch her favorite basketball teams, Duke and the Chicago Bulls. Angela wrote many beautiful journal pages. At the end she insisted on making the arrangements for her own funeral and wrote beautiful “good by” letters to family and friends. Angela also read everything she could get her hands on, and could carry on a conversation about anything that was going on in the world. She was truly an amazing girl/woman who had to grow up to an adult world way before her time, and had to deal with things in that world that no child should ever have to face.

I have recently read an article where the author said several times how “rare” childhood cancer is. Does that mean that we don’t need to worry as much about cures and treatments? I don’t think so. Did you know that most kids go for many months without diagnosis because even our doctors don’t know enough about childhood cancers to check the signs??? Please consider helping our kids with cancer with as much support as you possibly can. I think even the loss of one child is one too many. What do you think?

Supporting American Childhood Cancer Organization Inland Northwest (ACCOIN) will be supporting kids with cancer and their families. ACCOIN is a very special organization with a very special focus. ACCOIN helps in so many ways, but a couple things really stood out for our family. Angela loved the Teen Group because she could attend the teen meetings and events and be surrounded by other teens with cancer who were going through the same things she was going through. The ACCOIN teens were a tremendous support for each other at a time when other friends went by the wayside. As a single Mother I had a special need to have someone to communicate with about my daughter. The support groups and just one-on-one communication with other ACCOIN members was very much appreciated. Then after Angela passed away, the grief support group was essential. Angela could be remembered there when others around me wanted me to “move on”. Sharing grief is something very special when sharing with someone else who REALLY knows what you are talking about.