

Having undergone two transplants only to endure the reoccurrence of the disease, we were apprehensive but very excited when Dr. Kurtzberg recommended that Clay undergo an umbilical cord blood transplant. Not only would this transplant procedure be different from the first two; first a bone marrow transplant, then a stem cell transplant both from a related donor, our hospital experience would be quite different as well.

Clay's earlier transplants had taken place at the University of Virginia Medical Center. While he received the very best of care, attention, and love, he had little opportunity to interact with other children. Here at Duke he has CellMates, ArtMates, and walks in the hall. This year Clay was even able to celebrate his Birthday with the children on the unit. Manly and I also feel less isolated. We have companions here at Duke who are experiencing the same thoughts, concerns, and hopes. We are grateful to be among such a strong community of support.

I want to say how wonderfully skilled, kind, and caring the nurses, doctors, and the support staff are here at Duke. Everyone is dedicated to making patients and their families as happy as possible.

-- Ann, Duke PBMT Parent