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*Just last year, Major Talbot was told – for the third time –  
“Your son has three to six months to live.”*

Dear Friend,

Many people think it must be very difficult to work with children who have cancer. It might surprise you to know that I don't feel that way.

Working with kids affected by cancer is one of the most inspiring things I have ever done. Children have such spirit and resilience when faced with any obstacle that it never fails to amaze me, child after child.

Take Matthew Talbot, for instance. Matthew is a courageous little fighter...just like his Dad, Major Brent Talbot, a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. Only while his Dad's job requires him to risk his life to defend our country, young Matthew spends each day fighting for his right to live.

Matthew has been fighting a deadly form of cancer since he was four years old.

Can you imagine what an ordeal that must be for Matthew and his family? Yet Matthew never complains. He simply continues to fight.

Despite three major surgeries and struggling through six rounds of devastating chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, Matthew's cancer returned.

Matthew and his family found new hope when he was given a new investigational drug, which held the cancer in check for a year. But again new signs of the disease emerged.

Imagine being told – for the third time – that your young child has but 3-6 months to live. This is the news Matthew's parents were given.

But Matthew has tremendous faith and spirit and continues to fight.

And so does the National Childhood Cancer Foundation (NCCF) and the Children's Oncology Group (COG) it supports. Every day our doctors, nurses and other experts awake to a new day hoping to find a cure and save the life of another child...a child like Matthew.

The NCCF and COG cannot save lives or make it possible for new and effective treatments to reach little guys like Matthew without your help.

That's why Matthew and his family turned to us. They knew that our team of over 5,000 doctors, nurses and researchers nationwide are working hard at over 200 hospitals across North America

(over, please)

to find the cures for all childhood cancers.

Forty years ago, childhood cancer was nearly always fatal. Today, about 75% of children diagnosed with cancer can be cured! What an incredible hope that can provide to families.

Your most generous gift today, whatever you can give, will help save the lives of our children through new successful treatments.

There are treatments and cures available but we will not find them in time for so many children if we do not have the funds to continue research.

I know that you are aware of the toll that childhood cancer takes on a family – and I know that it makes your heart cheer each time you hear of a child who has beat the odds.

Your gift today will enable us to help our nation's children survive cancer and to live to their full potential. Only time, hard work and dollars stand in the way of saving lives.

This year, more than ever before, we are struggling to maintain funding for our treatment and research programs. You see, government appropriations are adjusted each year with each new budget. We are at times at the mercy of Capitol Hill. But your gift will help remedy this.

Your support makes it possible for me and other health care professionals to fight childhood cancer with the same vigor that Matthew Talbot has fought all of his life. It would be a dream come true if doctors never again had to tell Matthew's father that his son had only a short time left to live.

With nearly 75% of all childhood cancers curable today, the road ahead is full of hope. Your help for young children like Matthew will help us provide the hope for a cure for all children who are fighting for their lives. What better gift could you possibly give than the gift of life?

Please send your best gift today, so we can continue to fight the good fight against childhood cancer. Please help us continue our mission of providing hope...hope for a cure...hope for the children...hope for their families...right now.

Sincerely,



Gregory H. Reaman, M.D.  
Chairman, Children's Oncology Group  
Board of Trustees, National Childhood Cancer Foundation

P.S. Remember, \$0.94 of every \$1.00 we receive goes to finding cures for childhood cancers. Your support creates miracles and saves lives.

P.P.S. The enclosed free wrapping paper is a reminder of the gift of hope and life that you provide to many children and their families every day. Please accept it as our thanks for the hard work and cures your gift has helped make happen.