

## Meet Kavan, a “Christmas Miracle” Who Beat the Odds

Erin and Bobby Bradford knew something was very wrong with their little boy Kavan. The otherwise happy 19-month-old was just not himself and was experiencing fevers on and off for weeks and repeated visits to the pediatrician yielded no firm diagnosis. Kavan's physical exams and his blood work were unremarkable.

Ultimately, the pediatrician sent Kavan to Hasbro Children's Hospital for an echocardiogram, hoping to rule out an infection in his heart as the cause of the fevers. During the scan, the technician noticed something in his abdomen. Instead of scanning just his heart, she did the imaging on his entire abdomen. Shortly thereafter, a cardiologist came in and told Erin and Bobby they detected a mass in Kavan's abdomen and he needed an ultrasound. “We were scared out of our minds,” says Erin.

It was then that they got the shock of their life. The ultrasound showed a grapefruit-sized tumor on Kavan's adrenal gland in his abdomen. “It was hard to believe. I was truly in shock. They brought us to the cancer clinic at Hasbro Children's Hospital and I remember thinking we didn't belong there—we just had to leave,” Erin emotionally recalls.

Kavan was admitted to the hospital, undergoing a biopsy the next day, which immediately confirmed the family's worst fear: stage IV neuroblastoma. For the next 30 days, Kavan lived at Hasbro Children's Hospital where he received the aggressive chemotherapy needed to fight the cancer that had spread throughout 80 percent of his body.

After six rounds of chemotherapy, Kavan had surgery to remove his tumor. But he was not yet out of the woods. His protocol called for a stem cell transplant to rid his bone marrow of any remaining cancer cells. As with all cancer treatment, stem cell transplants come with risks and potential complications. Just two weeks after returning home from Boston where the transplant took place, Kavan was admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Hasbro Children's Hospital with a severe lung infection called cytomegalovirus (CMV) pneumonia. This complication is known to occur in people with

suppressed immune systems post transplant.

Erin and Bobby thought cancer was the hardest fight their little boy would have to battle, but in fact, it was his



## Meet Kavan, a “Christmas Miracle” Who Beat the Odds *continued from cover*



fight against CMV that would prove to be his biggest. His lungs were under attack and his fragile body wasn't strong enough to fight it off. He was in critical condition, not breathing on his own, connected to dozens of intravenous lines. He had right ventricle heart failure, kidney failure, liver failure and was in a coma.

“It was Thanksgiving Eve and we all feared Kavan wasn't going to make it,” Erin recalls, choking back tears, “I went to the chapel and just prayed.” Four hours later, his oxygen level began to rise. “We didn't believe he had made it through,” Erin continued. “Thanksgiving took on a new meaning that year. Not only were we grateful that Kavan was still alive, we were so grateful for the PICU staff and all their support. They truly are heroes.”

After more than 30 days in the PICU, Kavan was moved to a regular floor before being discharged in time for Christmas. “He was our little Christmas miracle,” says Erin.

For the next eight months, Kavan continued treatment for CMV. Today, he continues to be cancer-free and returns to Hasbro Children's Hospital every six months for scans. The now five-year-old is in kindergarten and is full of life. “He loves cars and Legos and loves to run and play soccer with his big sister Kailyn,” says Erin.

*“Hasbro Children's Hospital held our hand every step of the way in this journey. Because of them, we still have our son.”*

— Erin Bradford, Kavan's mother

As a result of the aggressive chemotherapy Kavan received to fight the specific cancer he had, he experienced hearing loss and now wears bilateral hearing aids and goes to speech therapy. But his mom says neither of those things slow him down.

“Hasbro Children's Hospital held our hand every step of the way in this journey,” says Erin. “We want to share our story so people in Rhode Island know how lucky we are to have a hospital of this caliber right here. Because of them, we still have our son.”



Kavan and Kailyn Bradford





## Hasbro, Inc.'s Global Day of Joy Puts Smiles on the Faces of Young Patients

Pushing carts that looked like toy stores on wheels, teams of Hasbro, Inc. employees brought the North Pole to Hasbro Children's Hospital on December 15, spreading holiday cheer to young patients as part of the company's third annual Global Day of Joy.

Embracing the chance to become elves for a day, Hasbro, Inc. employees visited patient rooms, giving each child an opportunity to pick out a special game or toy. For hours, ear to ear smiles and the sounds of laughter overshadowed the beeps of medical equipment as intense battles of Jenga, Scrabble and Pie Face Game became the norm.

"Hasbro, Inc. and all of its employees are integral members of the Hasbro Children's Hospital family," says Margaret M. Van Bree, MPH, DrPH, president of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital. "A hospitalization is difficult

for children and families at any time, but during the holidays, it can be particularly hard. The difference that Global Day of Joy makes in the lives it touches is truly awe-inspiring."

Patients at Hasbro Children's Hospital were not the

only ones to feel the magic of the Global Day of Joy. Across the globe, Hasbro, Inc. empowered all 5,000 of its employees to engage in more than 200 service projects in 40 different countries.

"A culture of giving is embraced at every level of Hasbro, Inc., especially during the holiday season," said Karen Davis, Senior Vice President of Global Philanthropy & Social Impact,

Hasbro, Inc. "We love seeing how the Global Day of Joy brightens the season for others as well as for all of us who are able to participate on this day."



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**April 6 & 7**





# Give the Gift of Health and be a Hero

Nothing is more fulfilling than healing a sick or injured child. At Hasbro Children's Hospital, we are All for One; a team of dedicated physicians, caretakers and donors who make it possible to provide each and every patient with the very best medical care in an environment which nurtures and supports not just the child but the entire family. Everyone involved is a hero in our eyes.

That is why we call our giving society that recognizes donors who make an annual gift of \$250 or more, Heroes for Hasbro. Through Heroes for Hasbro, you can direct your support to one of our top four funding needs:

- **Child Life Services:** helping children understand and cope with their illness or injury;
- **The Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr. Child Protection Program:** committed to the health and safety of children beyond the doors of our hospital;
- **The Adolescent Leadership Council (TALC):** a forum for assisting children with chronic illnesses deal with the issues associated with growing up;
- **Area of Greatest Need:** allowing us to respond quickly to the changing needs of healthcare and provide the highest quality, cutting-edge family- and patient-centered services.

When you support Hasbro Children's Hospital, you make an important difference for children. Thank you for being a hero!

To learn more about Heroes for Hasbro, including giving levels and benefits, please visit [giving.lifespan.org/Heroes-for-Hasbro](http://giving.lifespan.org/Heroes-for-Hasbro) or contact Karli Blossom at 401-444-0390 or [kblossom@lifespan.org](mailto:kblossom@lifespan.org).



# Be a Hero

All of our knowledge, our experience and our passion for healing are devoted to each child in our care. You too can help us fulfill our "all for one" promise to the community through your generosity. For more information, please contact Michele Brannigan at 401-444-4639. [giving.lifespan.org/Hasbro](http://giving.lifespan.org/Hasbro)  
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