

## Jamie dances for Children's Hospital

**I**would definitely recommend Loma Linda University Children's Hospital," says Jamie Brunmier. She would know. Jamie has been a patient so many times, she can't even count all the days she's spent at Children's Hospital.

The energetic 14 year old was diagnosed seven years ago with cancer. Since then, she has had reoccurrences of tumors in her brain and spine. She has survived numerous surgeries, transplants, transfusions, radiation, and chemotherapy. Some people might spend their time feeling sorry for themselves, but not Jamie.

She thinks of herself as a typical teenager. "I like to sleep in and go to the mall—normal stuff," she explains.

Sure, she may be an average teen, but she possesses a special quality. "I want to do whatever I can to help children," she insists. Recently, she raised more money for a children's cause than anyone else at her school.

Her teacher was surprised at her efforts, but Jamie replies with a shrug, "If it's to help sick kids, of course I'm going to raise a lot of money."

Jamie is also a graceful ballet dancer. By age four, she was practicing her moves to the sound of her mother's wind-up music box. For years, she has counted the days by the times when she can dance and when she cannot. Even when she has been too ill to practice, she has never forgotten her early childhood dreams.

When she heard that an area dance studio had advertised it would present the "Cinderella Story" to benefit LLU Children's Hospital, Jamie knew she wanted to participate. She was ecstatic when she learned she would be part of the cast.

Even though Jamie's cancer is in remission, she sees several Children's Hospital doctors on a regular basis. While rehearsing for her performance in Cinderella, Jamie often shuttled between frequent treatments at Loma Linda and the dance studio.

"Raising money for Children's Hospital is important," Jamie comments about the ballet fundraiser. "Children need to get good care when they need it." Both Jamie and her mother, Sherrie Brunmier, agree about the excellent care Jamie has received at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

During one of her numerous stays, Jamie was given a medication that made her nauseated. "She threw up on a blanket she'd brought from home," recalls Sherrie. "I couldn't get to the hospital, but one of the nurses took the blanket home, washed it, and brought it back to


Jamie. As far as I'm concerned that's way beyond the call of duty."

"Whenever I push my call button because I need something, it seems like someone comes in two seconds," Jamie notes.

"Whenever I have questions, the staff are always extremely helpful," Sherrie observes. "They are very good about faxing or sending me information."

Although a little nervous, Jamie performed beautifully in the "Cinderella Story."

She danced as a firefly, and in one scene carried Cinderella's cape. The performance was Jamie's first opportunity to be part of a semi-professional production.

"I'm just glad I had a chance to help Children's Hospital," affirms Jamie with a smile. 



*Jamie Brunmier*