

EMILIO'S LIFE

"If ever there is tomorrow when we're not together, there is something you must always remember. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think. But the most important thing is, even if we're apart, I'll always be with you."

- Winnie the Pooh (A.A. Milne)

Emilio was only three years old when he was diagnosed with leukemia. His parents, Richard and Diane Nares, fully expected him to survive and had determined from the onset that someday they would do volunteer work within the cancer community.

But Emilio didn't quite make it to his sixth birthday. And while his life on earth was too short, he truly lives on through the Emilio Nares Foundation (ENF).

Because of what they saw and experienced firsthand, Richard and Diane – through the ENF – provide a variety of compassionate services and support to low-income families whose smallest members have been touched by cancer.

"We are now seeing the blessings from Emilio's life – his courage, his strength and how he's touched other people," says Diane. "He inspires us. His life inspires us all the time."

Love story

Richard Nares and Diane Cappetta met as they were both turning forty. It was a first marriage for both and they weren't sure if Diane would be able to get pregnant at that late age.

Gratefully, Diane found herself pregnant. With twins. Emilio survived and the other twin did not. "Finding each other and being able to have a child – that made it something extra special," says Diane.

Richard and Diane had three amazing years with Emilio. And then the unthinkable happened. This much-wanted and much-loved child was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. "There aren't words to describe how devastating it was," recalls Diane.

The cure rate for this type of leukemia is 75 percent. When the shock and anger and fear began to diminish and routine took over,