

COMMUNITY AT ITS BEST

“Where there is great love there are always great miracles.”

- Willa Cather

In December 2006, two little boys from Floyd County, Virginia – Chance Harman, age 4, and Joshua Cantrell, age 3 – were diagnosed two weeks apart with aggressive brain tumors. Three months later, another Floyd County family learned their 12-year-old daughter, Cassidy Foster, had bone cancer.

The good folks of this small county – 383 square miles straddling the highlands of the Blue Ridge Mountains – rallied in ways that were beyond belief with financial, emotional and prayer support.

If they could have had their choice of miracles, the Cantrells, Fosters and Harmans would have chosen the obvious. But instead, a hundred little miracles happened all around them, and the communities of Floyd County will never be the same because of it.

Community connections

The families of Laura Cantrell, Tammy Foster and Brian Harman have called Floyd County *home* for several generations. Travis Cantrell is a second generation Floydian and Brian’s wife, Desirae, moved from nearby Bedford as a new bride.

The families are not only linked by community ties, but the game of basketball is also a common bond. Joshua’s grandfather, Alan Cantrell, coaches the girl’s basketball team at Floyd County High School. Cassidy’s mom, Tammy, played on his team back in 1984. Joshua and Chance’s dads, Travis Cantrell and Brian Harman, have been friends since they played basketball together under Coach Alan Cantrell in the mid-90s. Travis now assists his father in coaching the girls’ team and Brian is coach of the boys’ program at Floyd County High. Cassidy’s father, Danny Foster, has officiated at several of their games.

Organization for hope

When 4-year-old Chance and 3-year-old Joshua were diagnosed, members of the community took action and launched SameFight.org – a program managed through the non-profit Medical Charities of ...