



# Garrison Hayes

Active, energetic and carefree are just a few adjectives that describe Garrison Hayes. From the huge smile on his face, you would never know that Garrison was confronted with a terrifying medical diagnosis of an amputation.

In February 2005, Garrison began to experience tenderness in his left knee. Garrison braved the pain and compensated by favoring his right leg. When his mother noticed him hopping around the house, she inquired about the new development and examined him closely. Although there was no discoloration or swelling, his knee was very tender to the touch. Kori sought medical attention immediately.

With no clear sign of trauma, Garrison's pediatrician ordered an x-ray of his left leg, revealing a large growth on Garrison's knee. Garrison had cancer, specifically, Osteosarcoma, a cancerous bone tumor.

Garrison's pediatrician understood the severity of his condition and immediately contacted The Children's Hospital and Dr. Travis Heare, an orthopedic oncologist who quickly cleared his schedule to see Garrison.

"It was a true miracle that Garrison was sent to The Children's Hospital," says Kori.

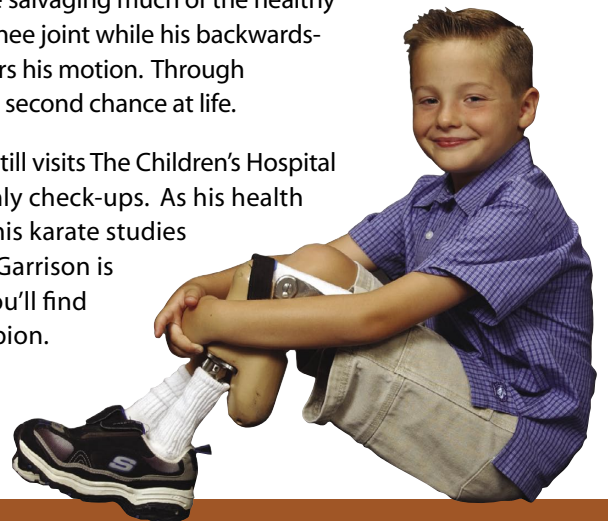
Garrison's daunting path included endless tests and months of chemotherapy. Dr. Tim Garrington, Garrison's attending oncologist, showed extreme patience and understanding, explaining everything directly to Garrison in "kid terms."

Unfortunately, all of the treatment options available for Garrison included a form of amputation. Among the three possible surgeries, one stood out as the right choice for Garrison: the Van Ness Rotationplasty. This was a new alternative to conventional leg amputation, and it promised Garrison the best quality of life.

"We placed our trust in Dr. Heare and the staff at The Children's Hospital, knowing that Garrison would receive the best care available," says Kori.

In May 2005, Garrison underwent the Van Ness procedure. The section of his leg between the upper thigh and just below the knee was removed, leaving the blood vessels and nerves intact. His lower leg was then rotated 180 degrees, his foot now facing backwards, was reattached to his upper leg. This surgery accomplished the task of removing the diseased tissue while salvaging much of the healthy limb. Garrison's ankle joint now acts as a knee joint while his backwards-facing foot fits into a prosthetic and powers his motion. Through innovation and expert care, Garrison has a second chance at life.

Garrison's cancer is now in remission. He still visits The Children's Hospital regularly for physical therapy and monthly check-ups. As his health and strength improve, he is continuing his karate studies and is even learning to ski! At a glance, Garrison is an ordinary kid, but with a closer look you'll find an extraordinary spirit and a true Champion.



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*- Kori Hayes,  
Garrison's mother*