



## Kimmett Cup Ambassador 2020

### Meet Luca

This adventurous 10-year-old can be found outside dirt biking, scootering, playing hockey, rollerblading or doing anything energetic. If he has to stay inside, you'll find him in his basement playing roller hockey with his two younger brothers or watching either the Calgary Flames or the Pittsburgh Penguins play.

Last year, Luca's life took a major turn when a simple stomach ache turned into a ruptured spleen. An MRI scan meant for the spleen uncovered internal bleeding and the presence of leukemia. He was quickly diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia, which meant the leukemia was progressing quickly and put him at high risk. He had to have surgery to remove his spleen and had a bone marrow aspiration. Luca was then put on eight months of aggressive chemotherapy, which was only the beginning of his three-and-a-half-year treatment plan.

He's currently in the maintenance stage of his chemotherapy and is beginning to shift back to life before cancer. Luca's regaining his energy, and uses it to do anything and everything outdoors and active. He's planning on rejoining his hockey team in September and has been able to attend school again regularly. A social butterfly, he loves going to class and taking advantage of his outgoing personality. He's said his dream career is to help others as an oncologist after everything he's seen from the other side.

When Luca learned he would be granted a Wish, he was skeptical that it was real. The more he learned and the more he dreamed, however, he was overwhelmed with excitement. Never riding a plane before, he decided he needed to explore and experience a flight. He's decided to visit Disney World and to experience a ship-ride as well on a Disney cruise. Luca and his family are shocked and in awe of the opportunity to adventure as a family and are currently planning his Wish.

This Wish is acting as a light at the end of the tunnel in the midst of Luca's cancer, and although he's put on a brave face throughout the journey, he's excited for the change in scenery. He's amazed his family with his courage and strength throughout the process, with his mother describing Luca as their own personal superhero.

Luca has graciously and enthusiastically accepted the role of Kimmett Cup 12 Ambassador! This means he will be able to play his favorite game in the entire world, HOCKEY! So watch for him as he and his family spread the message of joy and hope throughout the tournament. Many Wish Children dream and plan their Wish while they are consistently in the hospital going through treatments. It's a great distraction from the uncertainty of their discomfort and creates something to look forward to beyond hospital walls.

