

# Girl aims high to help fund cancer research

Light the Night raises money to fight leukemia

By Nicole Young  
THE TENNESSEAN

At last year's Light the Night walk, Tanner Page was beginning a two-year battle with leukemia and was so sick she couldn't walk. Illness, though, couldn't stop her.

The now 7-year-old girl insisted upon being carted about the festivities in her own wagon and helped raise more than \$8,000 for cancer research.

This year, Tanner is determined to do more.

With help from family and friends, Tanner has already broken her \$10,000 goal and she's not finished with the fundraising yet.

"I just want a better cure for leukemia or any kind of cancer, because it takes two years to go through treatment, and that's way too long," said Tanner, a second-grader at Moore Elementary School in Franklin.

"It's really hard — it's easy for me to get sick, and I have to miss stuff. I at least want them to cure it in a year or less."

Last year, after her June diagnosis, Tanner missed about seven months of school to undergo chemotherapy treatment, said her mom, Beth Page. She still takes daily chemotherapy medication and goes to the hospital once per month for intravenous chemotherapy and steroid treatments.

"We've actually been fortunate because all her risk factors are low," said Beth

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TANNER PAGE

Page, a full-time mom to Tanner and her 3-year-old brother, Jake. "It's been grueling but we know there are other kids out there that have worse situations than we do."

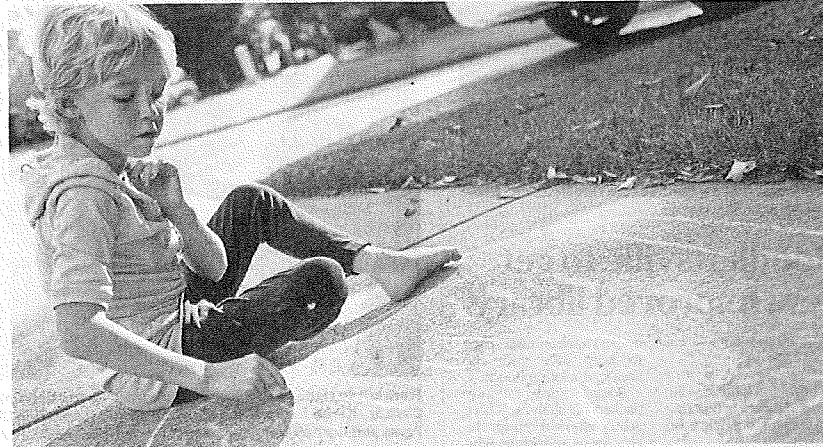
## Event is Thursday

Through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Tanner and company have been able to recruit more than 20 walkers to participate in this year's Light the Night walk, scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday at LP Field downtown. To date, the combined donations are in excess of \$14,000.

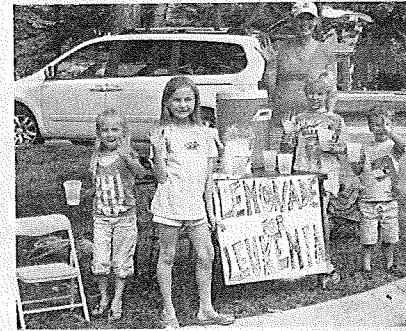
To raise more funds, the little girl came up with the idea to have a lemonade stand. She calls it Lemonade for Leukemia.

"We just knew it was really easy to make and it would be easy to sell," she explained.

Last year, Tanner started off small, opening one lemonade stand in her neighborhood. This year, she's held two lemonade stands and raised \$382, but



Tanner Page, 7, who suffers from leukemia, makes a drawing with sidewalk chalk at her home in Franklin. She has already raised \$382 from two lemonade stands. Overall she has helped raise \$10,000. SANFORD MYERS / THE TENNESSEAN



Tanner Page: Tanner with her lemonade stand. SUBMITTED

she hopes to open more stands in different neighborhoods around Franklin.

"They are a perfect example of why we do what we do," said Melissa Hudson-Gant, the Leukemia and

Lymphoma Society's Light the Night campaign director.

"They are a very strong family that has been through a lot, and they still feel compelled to give back and be involved in the organization," Hudson-Gant said.

## 3,000 are expected

This year about 3,000 are expected to attend Nashville's 11th annual Light the Night walk. Last year, about 2,500 turned out, said Hudson-Gant.

Participants carry illuminated balloons and raise funds for patient services and research for better therapies and cures for leukemia, lymphoma and

myeloma. Nashville's walk is 1.75 miles and features live music, food and children's activities.

This year, Tanner hopes to be able to walk, rather than ride, alongside her 22 teammates.

She's also donated \$40 from her piggy bank to the cause.

"She's a pistol," said Beth Page of her daughter. "She's a handful but has her heart in the right place. She's determined to raise a lot of money."

To learn more about Nashville's Light the Night walk, visit [www.lightthenight.org](http://www.lightthenight.org).

Find more information about Tanner Page at [pages.lightthenight.org/tr/midtn10/teamtanner](http://pages.lightthenight.org/tr/midtn10/teamtanner).