

Each year 1,700 new cases of childhood cancer are diagnosed in Canada, of that number approximately 400 are in Ontario. With over 2 million children in Ontario the reality of childhood cancer was just a statistic to my family. But, on January 14, 2020, our world came crashing down as my husband & I sat terrified in a tiny room with an oncologist who explained that our sweet 7-month-old Addison had Acute Megakaryoblastic Leukemia. Her diagnosis was 1 in 5 million. She would immediately begin chemotherapy & the fight of her life began. It was during this extremely difficult time that I bore witness to true Superhero's daily. Addison endured harsh chemotherapies that were not designed for her tiny body, blood infections, a bout of pneumonia, vomiting, surgeries, isolation, blood transfusions and countless pokes and prods. It was also during this time that I was so grateful to be a part of my Catholic school community, who banded together to support us. Unfortunately, the reality is there are tiny Superheroes in our community fighting every day, dedicating February 15th to acknowledging their journey will show them and their families they are not alone, & help to support lifesaving research.

Angela McDowell