



Happy Holidays DECEMBER 2015



We would like to pause a moment and reflect on what really makes holidays special - family, friends and supporters like you. You make the holidays warmer and brighter for others! This is the season to be grateful, to be thankful, and to spread joy throughout the world.

The Human Connexus Staff sends warm wishes your way this holiday season. Thank you for being there for us throughout the year.

Happy Holidays

MEET CARTER

Carter is a full-time student at University of California, Santa Cruz. This past summer, Carter's mother took him to urgent care with a horrible headache. After a month in the hospital, getting multiple brain biopsies, the doctor found germ cell tumors in the pineal region of his brain. These types of cells are very rare (3-5% of cancer patients) for someone at such a young age. While he was in the hospital, he had a stroke that had some lasting impact on his body. Carter has gone through 3 surgeries to remove the germ cell tumors and is showing positive signs to recovery.

Carter moved back home with his mother because he needed full-time medical care. His mother is very familiar with the daily appointments of chemotherapy and radiation because she too has cancer and has been dealing with the similar medical treatments. In fact Carter's mother, Cherie, was a recipient at Human Connexus Foundation in 2013-14. Now, the two of them are balancing their schedules to make sure they are getting the needed medical care. Both Carter and Cherie are not



working due to the multiple appointments throughout the week. Both receive monthly disability but that is not enough to cover their basic living needs. Carter is also fighting the hospital and his insurance company regarding a medical bill that is over \$600K that is in dispute. An area where he does not want to spend his energy.

Carter is hoping to return to UCSC to finish his bachelor's degree by next year. He wants to get his college life back and help his family get back on the path to financial stability.

MEET XAVIER

In October of 2014, Xavier was diagnosed with a rare genetic immune deficiency. At that time, Xavier's family were considered a moderate income family with both parents employed in jobs they loved and were busy raising three children; Mya 11, Higinio 8, and Xavier 2.

Xavier was born early and after months of struggling with small reactions to immunizations, he had a very rare reaction to the chicken pox vaccine. At that time, he was 13 months old. He fought the virus for 2 months and at his 15 month check up, his parents decided to give him one more shot but again he had a reaction. It was then that his parents knew something was wrong. After some blood work, Xavier was sent to California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco to be seen by an oncologist. That day Xavier's family lives changed. 3 weeks later, an Immunology team at UCSF saw Xavier and by December, Xavier was undergoing a bone marrow biopsy.



On December 1, Xavier went into the hospital for a stem cell transplant in which his brother is his donor. His brother, Higinio, was hooked up to a stem cell harvest machine that separates the stem cells from the blood; a very painful process. The stem cells were then placed into Xavier. Xavier needs to remain in isolation for 4 months to determine if his little body will accept the cells.

Within the last year, the family has gone through many changes. Xavier's mom left her job to care for Xavier full-time since he is now unable to be around other children, play at playgrounds or be in enclosed rooms where he is exposed to other children and adults that may be ill. His family moved out of their house and into a shared rental with Grandma to assist with taking care of Xavier. For the next 4 months, Xavier and his mother will live at UCSF to ensure Xavier is not exposed to any viruses. Due to this isolation, the family will be separated during the holidays. The family as exhausted all of their resources for assistance and pray that in 4 months, Xavier will be home with the family and life will move forward.

Holiday Donation at Peet's Coffee

We are so thrilled that Peet's Coffee at **2265 Camden Ave, San Jose (Camden and Union)** chose Human Connexus Foundation as their non-profit to support during the holiday season. During the week from **Dec 17 - Dec 24**, Peet's coffee will gather donations for Human Connexus and will match those funds collected up to \$750. Grab your favorite coffee, pastry or specialty drink and make a small contribution to Human Connexus. Take a picture and send it to us, we will post it to show your support.

'Tis the Season to Give!

Do you have everything you already want or need? Tell your friends and family to give the gift of Giving. They can make a donation on your behalf. Both of you and the donor can feel the joy of helping a family or individual in need.

[DONATE NOW](#)

Love and Peace,

Cindy Campbell
Founder & Executive Director

