

## **ELLA TRIMBLE FAMILY**

## **FOUR DIAMONDS FAMILY**

## **PENN STATE IFC/PANHELLENIC DANCE MARATHON**

Ella Trimble was only two years old when she was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia on July 29, 2009. Within twenty-four hours of Ella's diagnosis, a Four Diamonds Fund social worker had contacted the Trimble family to let them know about The Four Diamonds Fund. They explained that The Fund picks up all medical bills when insurances no longer covers the expenses, meaning that the family would never see a bill, even for medication. As they became involved in THON, they joined the Adopt-A-Family program where a student organization "adopts" a family, providing emotional support and a close-knit relationship within the THON community. The Women's Club Basketball team adopted the Trimble family. The first time they all met was at a THON carnival. Reflecting on this experience, Ella's mother says, "The excitement level, the dedication, and the love of this group of college kids who didn't even know us was amazing! Soon they became like family."

Doctors and nurses at Hershey Medical Center encouraged the family to attend THON and they were excited for their first THON Weekend experience. Although Ella was unfortunately still in the hospital with pneumonia, her parents, Pete and Laura, decided the trip to State College was necessary for the sake of Ella's four-year-old brother, Jacob. The family figured out a schedule so that Ella would have someone with her at all times, and they drove the three hours to their first THON Weekend. Describing their experience, Laura says, "I cried, I laughed and I cheered. I was so moved by the dedication, energy, and love that filled every inch of that arena. Every second of that weekend was magical."

Both Ella and Jacob love spending time with THON students and are excited for THON 2012. Jacob is in his element when hanging out with the students. He also loved being a Captain-in-Training last year. He was paired with a member of the Entertainment Committee and was able to go behind-the-scenes and help by participating in the various jobs of the Entertainment Committee. Ella is a little more shy, but always warms up to the students and was in the fashion show last year, during her first THON Weekend.

Ella is now in remission and the Trimble family is thankful to be a part of The Four Diamonds Fund. They look forward to seeing the Girls Basketball Club again soon, participating in the many events throughout the year and attending THON 2012. As Laura once explained it, "I know it sounds cheesy, but it always cheers me up to think about THON."

If you would like to speak with the Trimble family about their experience, please contact Kirsten Quisenberry, THON 2012 Overall Public Relations Chairperson at [public.relations@thon.org](mailto:public.relations@thon.org) or Maggie Neese, THON 2012 Public Relations Captain at [maggieneese@gmail.com](mailto:maggieneese@gmail.com) for more information.