



Owen's Story

Jillian: Owen was born with an extremely serious condition. They knew he was a very sick little boy right off the back. Once we knew it wasn't something that was going to get better we thought who could come home with us to give him a quality of life and that's when we thought of Suncoast Hospice.

Jann (RN): They allowed us to come in at very critical time in their life and Owen's life and allow us to come into the home and provide care for him and walk that journey with him.

Dr. Morelli: Owen had significant pain issues. A lot of the kids we see, including Owen, you know they have a fatal disease. And our goal is to make them comfortable.

Jillian: Suncoast Hospice arranged for all of our equipment to be at home.

Dr. Morelli: We can provide the medications and durable medical equipment and so on, and not every hospice will do that.

Jillian: Anything that Owen needed, they provided and what they did was actually they met us at our doorstep, they met us at home.

Amanda (Counselor): I told them upfront when we admitted them that our team wasn't going to go anywhere regardless of how long Owen survived, that we would be there for them no matter what.

Jillian: They were able to stay the night with us, especially the first few nights when we got acquainted with being home and learning how to care for him at home.

Yolanda: When we come into the home we have to walk softly to see where we fit into the family dynamics.

Jillian: You don't feel like there's a whole bunch of medical people in your house. I think that's a big deal. You have the support, they are there. You have the professionalism and the

knowledge, but they have this way about them that is family-centered so that they feel like they are a part of your family. They became a part of our family really.

Dr. Morelli: Suncoast Hospice is really patient-driven you know. The underlying theme over and over again is what's best for the patient, what's best for the patient?

Jann: These families need not only the medical support from us but that emotional support.

Mike: We had a counselor to come to the house just to play with our daughter Olivia.

Amanda: Olivia and I we would talk about Owen as well as talk about things that she hoped for the future for him.

Mike: Owen had a huge effect on our family.

Jillian: People would just gravitate towards him. He was ethereal, angelic.

Yolanda: He gave so much in his little lifetime, his short little lifetime. He left such an impression on my life.

Mike: I think we did right by our son. Without Suncoast Hospice we could not have brought our son home.

Dr. Morelli: I think a lot of families would tell you after their child had died that they wished maybe they would have had us involved a little earlier.

Mike: He showed us what is important and what is not important.

Jillian: With the support of Suncoast Hospice we could focus on our family.

Jann: They knew we would be there and we would be there to help them walk the journey with them, whatever that journey was, no matter how long it was, we would be there for them.

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