

Alicia Halley

When I was just the age of sixteen I was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma bone cancer. July 7th was the day I will never forget it changed my life forever and I will never be the same again.

I underwent extensive chemotherapy and a month of radiation. Even though these treatments were helping it seemed as if they weren't doing anything, but hurting me. I was always ill from my chemotherapy and my radiation gave me serious burns that had to be treated also. I also had many setbacks and complications that were caused from the chemo and radiation.

All of this has changed my life for good. I realize now that people take a lot of things in life for granted and I was one of those people, just living blind, now I can see everything for how it is.

I have more respect for everything, everybody, and especially my life because all of this could easily be taken away.

I like my life – loving every minute of it. I am involved in various school activities, I volunteer for Red Cross and do many projects, and I also go to schools and speak to them of how precious life is and how my ordeal with cancer made me aware of that.

My struggles throughout my life have not only made me realize how important the present is, but also the future.

In the future I plan to attend the University of Rio Grande and receive a bachelors degree in elementary education. I enjoy watching children learn and experience life and if I could do anything to touch a child's life and help them to strive to be the best they can that would mean so much to me.