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## My Championship Baseball Win....and More

I am thankful for many things in my life this year. I would like to talk about winning the baseball championship at Snug Harbor Little League this fall season, and why I feel so lucky to be a part of it. On the day of our game, Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton threw out the first pitch of the game. Our team name was the AV24 Braves and we worked hard for that win, and we had great coaches to help us get there. AV stands for Anthony Varvaro who was the president of the league who died on Sept 11th a few years ago in a car accident. His sons were on my team. I was not only thankful for winning but I was thankful that I was healthy enough to play because many kids are not.

Back on January 1st, 2018, I was diagnosed with Leukemia when I was four. I had to leave Prek-4 and miss all of kindergarten. I was so sick that I wasn't able to do anything fun. I couldn't play baseball, go swimming, go to parties or school. In March of 2019, I had recovered from my transplant but I still had a medi- port in my chest that my medicine went through which could not get hit because it connected to my heart, so I still couldn't play sports. My mom bought a padded shirt. I was then 5 years old and able to play over at Westerleigh Little League. It was so awesome because I felt like a normal kid again.

Another thing I am so thankful for is celebrating 6 years cancer-free on June 1st of this year. Because my brother was able to give me his bone marrow to save my life, I am here to celebrate it. My brother Ben is in the 7th grade here at St. Joseph Hill and he was really brave back then. They tested my whole family but he was the only match. He went to the hospital where I was for a long time and he had surgery to help me. I didn't understand what a big deal it was when I was little, but now that I'm a little older, I'm so thankful to be here.

I have so much to be happy about and thankful for, but these are the big things in my life that I wanted to tell you about. I wish no kids had to get cancer, and I hope they all get better and can do fun things soon. I wish for them all to be able to celebrate their birthdays, have fun with their friends and family, and maybe even win a baseball championship someday!

