



## Kyra E. Smith

September 15, 2014 - August 4, 2024

Kyra Elizabeth Smith, age 9, passed away on Sunday, August 4, 2024 after a 9-month warrior fight against an inoperable brain stem tumor.

Born in Dublin, OH on September 15, 2014, Kyra came into this world bonded forever with her twin sister, Brenna. From the moment they were born we knew they were both fighters, but Kyra had a particularly feisty warrior spirit that remained steady throughout her short life. She busted out of the NICU two weeks before Brenna, started walking at 10 months, learned to ride a bike, first try, at age 5 (our Little Zippy), and after many years in gymnastics and dance, realized she had a skill and passion for soccer.

Kyra was a free-spirited wildflower. She loved swimming, tubing at the lake, cannonballing off our boat with big sister, Audra, rollerblading and scootering up and down our street, singing at the top of her lungs and dancing in the kitchen (like her mom). At the age of 6, she declared that when she grew up she wanted to be “a boss.” We all had no doubt that she would be.

Early on Kyra gravitated to blocks and puzzles (like her dad). While she would happily play Barbies, magic clip dolls, and princess dress up with her sisters, she always ended up at her LEGO table. She also loved coloring, reading spooky books and Archie comics, drawing, and making up/telling jokes. She was mischievous at times (we had to hide the scissors), but was a rule

follower when it mattered and a good student who cared about school.

Adventurous could be Kyra's middle name. She tried anything, from food to crazy roller coasters. She was obsessed with untypical kid food like avocados, tomatoes and cucumbers. She also loved mommy's popcorn, Jimmy John's zippy chips, and rare steak. Kyra wasn't afraid of much, though she despised mosquitos.

These past 9-months Kyra showed us her strength and maturity every single day. She took on each day with positivity, and insisted on going to school as much as she could (which was a lot). She amazed us and so many others with her ability to do things that many adults couldn't do. From her radiation face mask, to multiple long MRIs without sedation and everything in between, Kyra just matter-of-factly did things. She hated IVs, but always took those pokes like a champ (thanks to buzzy bee, the popper and YouTube baking videos).

Kyra loved nothing more than playing with her sisters and friends. She was loyal, protective and fun-loving. You could always count on Kyra to have your back or if you needed a good laugh or a big hug. She loved cuddling with her family, especially her sisters and Otto. She had a sparkle in her eye, the cutest freckles, and the best jokes and comebacks.

She was our little rockstar, and her memory will live on in all of us.

Kyra is survived by her parents, Jason and Cindy, her twin sister, Brenna, her big sister, Audra, and her puppy, Otto Rocket; her grandparents – Joe and Judy Costa and Don and Liz Smith; her aunts and uncles – Lisa and Paul McLafferty, Adele and Phil Green, and Mike and Kendra Smith; her cousins – Amelia Green, Megan and P.J. McLafferty, and Angela, Liam, Faith and Conor Smith; along with many other family members and so many special friends.

She is preceded in death by her Great Grandma, Marta Czerniejewski, Great Uncle Chris Czerniejewski, Great Aunt Jill Costa, Great Aunt Diane Zientek, and her first dogs, Bernie and Lady.

We would like to express our gratitude to Kyra's medical team at Lurie Children's Hospital - Dr. Lenzen, Dr. Shawn, Ellory, Marlee and so many others, along with her home hospice team, Sheila, Lily, and Allison. The love, care and confidence they had in Kyra and the support they gave our family is so appreciated.

And finally, we'd like to thank our amazing friends and community – the kindness and displays of support in so many forms touched our hearts and gave us the lift we needed every day. We are so grateful that Kyra's smile, spirit and bravery touched so many people, both before and during her illness.

A Celebration of Life for friends, family and the community (all are welcome) will be held on Sunday, September 8, 2024 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at The Birchstone, 200 Barclay Blvd., Lincolnshire, IL 60069.

A private family funeral is planned for August 17, 2024.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Kyra's honor to Children's Brain Tumor Foundation: [www.cbtf.org](http://www.cbtf.org); Special Spaces Illinois: [www.specialspaces.org/our-chapters/illinois/](http://www.specialspaces.org/our-chapters/illinois/); or Make-a-Wish Illinois: [www.wish.org/illinois](http://www.wish.org/illinois).

Kyra's Crew Forever.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP 8. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

The Birchstone Venue  
200 Barclay Blvd.  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069  
<http://www.thebirchstonevenue.com>

# Tribute Wall

EJ

“ Elizabeth J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kyra E. Smith.

Elizabeth J. - September 07, 2024 at 10:39 PM

CS

“ Chad S. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kyra E. Smith.

Chad S. - September 05, 2024 at 09:49 AM

LD

“ While I did not know Kyra, it grieves me to see that your beautiful, smart girl has gone from the world. I live in Gurnee and do not know the family but send my compassion, concern and sympathy. To lose a child...I cry for you.  
from Lynne Donoghue

Lynne Donoghue - August 21, 2024 at 02:58 PM

FC

“ From your friends at Messer Construction planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kyra E. Smith.

From your friends at Messer Construction - August 21, 2024 at 11:34 AM

FC

“ From your friends at Messer Construction purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kyra E. Smith.



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**From your friends at Messer Construction** - August 21, 2024 at 11:34 AM

EP

“ Ethel Pickar planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kyra E. Smith.

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**Ethel Pickar** - August 18, 2024 at 10:24 PM



“ Meat & Cheese Wooden Gift Crate was purchased for the family of Kyra E. Smith.



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August 18, 2024 at 10:24 PM

CC

“ Charletha C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kyra E. Smith.

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**Charletha C.** - August 16, 2024 at 12:35 PM

MM

“ Matthew McKenna purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kyra E. Smith.



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**Matthew McKenna** - August 14, 2024 at 12:45 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kyra E. Smith.



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August 12, 2024 at 05:36 PM

ST

“ sympathy, Maria, Sue & your bswift team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kyra E. Smith.

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**sympathy, Maria, Sue & your bswift team** - August 12, 2024 at 05:36 PM

EK

“ Elizabeth K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kyra E. Smith.

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**Elizabeth K.** - August 12, 2024 at 05:03 PM

LY

“ Rest in peace to this sweet girl! She may be gone but not forgotten... May she rest

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**Lyla** - August 12, 2024 at 04:29 PM

RM

“Kyra was a spunky, precious, freckled, beautiful angel. We loved every moment we were able to spend with her. Always smiles, she was a little dare devil. She always protected Brenna and made sure people were aware of Brenna’s allergies at parties. She will forever be in our hearts.

Rachel Munkvold - August 11, 2024 at 09:52 PM



“Cindy, Jason, Audra, and Brenna, please accept our condolences and prayers. We love you all and are sad to hear of Kyra's passing. We know she will be greatly missed. I really hurt for you.

Chris Babcock - August 11, 2024 at 02:52 PM

KV

“Although we never had the pleasure of meeting or knowing Kyra we know she had to be an amazing young lady. Just knowing all her family makes us know how special she is/was. We have been friends of the family for a long time. Please know we love all of you and are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

Kay Vick - August 09, 2024 at 04:48 PM

MR

“What a warrior she must have been. I am so sorry for your loss. Beyond.

Melissa Rieder - August 09, 2024 at 04:30 PM

AM

“Sending thoughts n prayers. Loved reading about your special girl. Know of Kyra’s struggle through our brother/sister in law who are friends of yours. Thinking of you all!☐

Anahis Mattson - August 09, 2024 at 03:29 PM

LD

“ I met Jason once or twice while working at Abbott! You guys are very, very close friends with my nephew Jason and his wife Abigail Szymonik! And Amelia and Luke! I send condolences and prayers for your sweet Kyra! What a sweet girl she was! God bless her and her loving family! May all your sweet memories hold her dear to your hearts.

Sincerely,

Laura A Drinka

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Laura Drinka - August 09, 2024 at 03:28 PM

CS

“ I met Kyra and Brenna when Audra was in my class at Dublin Community Preschool. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Smith family ☐ 🙏

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Chris Scholl - August 09, 2024 at 02:22 PM

RJ

“ What a beautiful tribute to Kyra! We continue to keep you all in our prayers. I have no doubt that she will continue to be a guiding light to her sisters. Love you all! ☐

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Rrgina Joiner - August 09, 2024 at 02:17 PM

CR

“ Even though I don't know the family, I want to extend sincere sympathy! I feel your pain! Cherish the moments!

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Charles Rust - August 09, 2024 at 11:47 AM