



*On December 13, 2016, when Eva was exactly five months old, something seemed wrong: she was spacing out. After a visit with her pediatrician and a rush to the Emergency Room at CHOP, where the cause for her behavior was identified as seizures, Eva was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor called a Grade III glioma in her left frontal lobe. By 8 a.m. the next morning she was whisked away for brain surgery. The surgery was only partially successful. From the original single mass, two pieces remained that could not be safely removed.*

*Eva spent New Year's Eve in the hospital while she received her first round of chemotherapy. That week, Eva started using a feeding tube because she lost interest in nursing. Eva also started having regular audiograms because the chemotherapy causes hearing loss, and she started regular physical therapy and occupational therapy sessions.*

*The hope was that chemotherapy would keep the cancer from spreading until Eva was old enough to be a candidate for proton radiation, an advanced form of radiation that is highly targeted and often leads to fewer side effects. During her treatment, she received countless life-saving blood transfusions and platelets, and she lost what little hair she had.*

*Eva's family developed a close relationship with her care team, which included doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, child life specialists, social workers, rehab therapists, nutritionists, music and art therapists, and others. As Eva was fighting for her life, the CHOP staff treated her not only with the best medical care in the world, but also with love, ensuring that her many days and nights at the hospital were as comfortable as possible.*

*Shortly after Eva's second birthday, the chemotherapy stopped working and the tumor began to grow, but she was still too young to receive proton radiation without it causing devastating neurological damage. Her family thought they were out of options until CHOP's renowned neuro-surgeon announced he believed he could safely remove the tumor. And he did. After a second craniotomy, Eva began a different course of chemotherapy until she was three years old, at which point she received proton radiation five days a week for seven weeks, each day with general anesthesia to keep her completely still.*

*For three years, Eva relied on a feeding tube for all of her nutrition and hydration. She wears hearing aids. She continues to receive PT and OT at CHOP's state-of-the-art therapy facilities to help her overcome the motor skills deficits left from the brain damage.*

*Eva still gets routine MRIs, and she is at high risk for developing other cancers and other serious late effects of her treatment. And if she does, she will have CHOP.*