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Fundraiser for leukemia is Saturday

The Allens, whose son is in remission from cancer, are holding a poker run.

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For Patrick and Natasha Allen of Old Town, the birth of their second son in July 2008 was reason to celebrate.

By the time little Austin was 9 months old, however, it had become a nightmare. He was diagnosed at Shands at the University of Florida with acute myeloid leukemia, or AML, a form of blood cell cancer that usually strikes older adults. The prognosis for little Austin was not good.

He went through five rounds of chemotherapy and was hospitalized for six months.

"We were living at Shands," his mother recalled.

The outlook for Austin changed when he qualified for a study of a new drug, Mylotarg, funded by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

"The doctors to this day say that made all the difference for him," Allen said. "We were very



Courtesy photo

Austin Allen poses with big brother Hunter.

A vertical advertisement for "ONE DAY FANTASY GAMES on Gatorsports.com". The background is a green grass field. At the top, the text "ONE DAY FANTASY GAMES" is in large white letters, with "on Gatorsports.com" below it in orange and blue. A football is visible on the right. Below the text, it says "Draft by Sunday, Win cash Monday" in white and green. At the bottom, there is a yellow button with "ENTER NOW" and a right-pointing arrow. In the bottom right corner, there is a small image of a woman in a red and black outfit and stacks of cash.

blessed.”

Austin, now 2, has been in remission for 20 months.

The Allen family wants to give back to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which continues to fund leukemia research.

They are sponsoring a poker run Saturday, kicking off at 9:30 a.m. at BubbaQues restaurant in Chiefland.

“Our goal is to raise \$10,000,” Allen said. “We believe that there will be a cure, but it will only happen if there is further research.”

There will be six stops on the run, including the Gainesville Harley dealership. Registration is \$10 per motorcycle.

Visit <http://www.kickingcancersbutt.info> for more information.

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