

Journey of a Lifetime

*Diagnosed with Ewing's
Sarcoma, a Fulshear Teen
Sets out to See the World*

Written by Crystal Rawls

Carly walks to a lava tube on the island of
Kauai during a recent trip to Hawaii



Carly and her mom, LeeAnn, visit the crater on Hawaii

Sixteen-year-old Carly Davis is just getting started. With a courageous leap, she embarks on the journey of a lifetime. She is determined to soak in every moment of every day for the rest of her life - a life that doctors expect will not outlast the year. Diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma at age 14, doctors believed the former Foster High School sophomore had overcome the disease after 42 weeks of chemotherapy and radiation.

When the cancer returned in the fall of 2009, the oncology team at Texas Children's Hospital expressed doubts that she would make it through the year. But to Davis, that is just a speed bump.

Around the World in a Year

Rather than succumb to the grim prognosis, she created a list of the things she has always dreamed of doing and wants to experience in the year. Her journeys begin with a trip to Hawaii. "I want to see a live volcano, eat some Hawaiian food, and go to the beaches," says Davis, a foodie who loves to cook. "I've learned not to be so shy, not to be so scared to do things."

After Hawaii, Davis and her family plan to conquer Europe, specifically Belgium, Spain, Paris, the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, and Italy. While at home, she will take advantage of every opportunity available and plans to perfect her musical skills on the cello, take horseback riding lessons, and ski.

A Big Thank You

Davis and her mother, LeeAnn Clement, are ever-mindful of the individuals who turned her dreams into a reality. Her classmate, Elyssa Garza, along with her mother, Evelyn Martin, organized a fundraiser to help Davis set out on her adventure. Dozens of donors contributed more than \$21,000 as well as timeshares and airline tickets, among other items. "Definitely a very big 'thank you' to everyone," Davis says. "Thank you to all my friends and everyone. Thank you for the prayers."

Not knowing what the coming year holds, she will bravely press forward. No matter what unexpected turns she may face, the world is a better place for having her in it. Seize the year, Carly. If you have a story of hope you'd like to share, email editor@sugarlandmagazine.com.
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