



JUAN

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Dear Juan,

Thank you for combining 21st century technology and faith (by mentioning "I *texted* my priest" in your story.)

Thank you for helping others understand that what begins as a medical environment, can eventually become a place of comfort.

Thank you for testifying to the soothing power of community fundraisers, home-cooked meals and a resilience (your own) that holds the strength of Superman.

Surrounding you in hope,
Jenni

Juan's Sand Tray: The Transformation of Juan

During chemo, I did confirmation. I had the priest come to my home or the hospital to give me my lessons. When I felt down, I texted my priest and he came over. That is why I put the faith rock.

The port is there because that is how you get medicine to get through it. You get used to it.

I put the home because the hospital is like a second home. At the beginning, I felt like I was just getting treatment, but then I got attached to people so it became a second home.

The *charity* rock is there because I've had school, community and friends have a fundraiser and bake sale. It made me feel really supported through all this.

I put the Christmas tree because I was diagnosed not even a week after Christmas. We still celebrated Christmas regularly. I had pain and swelling. I thought I tore a ligament. I wasn't thinking Cancer at all. Everything was so quick. There was no time to adjust.

I put the angel because it shows how faithful I am. Have faith in the nurses taking care of you. Have faith in recovery and have faith in you. The friends are there because my friend's mom works at U of M. She was a big help when I was diagnosed.

I put the *believe* rock because I had moral support and fundraisers that helped me believe. The car is there because I spent a lot more time in the car driving here. I can zone out in the car, but I have to sit with my leg out.

I put the *family* rock because they visit at home and at the hospital. They bring me my favorite foods. My taste changed a little during chemo, but it came back. Superman is there because he shows the strength I have to get through this. The strength comes from being physically strong and having family close by.

By: Juan



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