



Tim Roslund's Journey: From hospice, to home, to hospice



Lori Kirk sits at Woodland Hospice with her son Tim Roslund on Wednesday, May 22, 2013. After being released for a couple weeks, Roslund was re-admitted to hospice last Saturday. (Sun photo by LISA YANICK-JONAITIS/@lisaj_msun)

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Editor’s note: Tim Roslund’s Journey is an ongoing multimedia project, in which Morning Sun staffers follow the life of a terminal cancer patient.

With a thick layer of blankets drawn up to his chin, Tim Roslund looks like the very picture of a cancer patient.

He rests on a couch, watching “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire,” while his mother, Lori Kirk, scrolls through old photos of her son on an iPad, reminiscing from across the room.

Kirk said things aren’t looking good for Roslund, 28.

“It’s just so hard,” she said.

Kirk said Roslund’s tumors are swelling.

Roslund, a Mt. Pleasant resident, was born in Peru to a Hepatitis B-positive mother. He was diagnosed with liver cancer three years ago, after spending his life as a carrier of the disease.

Since Roslund first started getting sick in August of 2010, he has undergone multiple chemotherapy treatments and surgery to remove a large tumor and has had the support of his friends and family to help him out along the way.

Roslund was taken back to Woodland Hospice in Isabella County in May 17 after he had been released early May.

During his break back at his Winchester Towers apartment, Roslund had a chance to catch up with friends, neighbors and family, including Roslund’s stepfather Rod Kirk.

Roslund said he loved to be back home, spending time on his iPad and playing Yahtzee with neighbors Kim van Plew and Diane Vida.

Roslund also loved visiting van Plew’s cat, Sasha.

His family made routine stops to his apartment to spend time with him.

“It gives us a comfort knowing they’re here,” Lori Kirk said about Roslund’s neighbors, who have aided Roslund before when his cancer has gotten bad and he has needed help.

Lori Kirk said Roslund went through several misdiagnoses before his cancer was discovered.

At first, his cancer was mistaken for a common cold.

Then, a problem with his gallbladder.

Lori Kirk said until the cancer, Roslund was completely healthy.

“Timmy, he was never sick when he was a baby,” she said.

Roslund had been blood tested as a baby, but wasn’t discovered to be a Hepatitis-B carrier until he was nine months old.

“You’ve been through a hell of a lot,” Rod Kirk said, patting Roslund’s hand.

Roslund flashed a wide smile, one of the things his family loves most about him.

Removed from his apartment once again and now back in hospice, Roslund is still optimistic about his future.

Kirk said the cancer is so back-and-forth, and her son has had close brushes with death before.

“He said ‘Goodbye Mommy,’” she recalled. “He thought he was dying.”

But Roslund is optimistic as ever.

“I’m a miracle child,” he grinned.

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