



# Charles Johnston

## About Charles

I am now 34 years old and the father of two kids; a three-year-old boy and a three-month-old little girl. I am described as a devoted father who reconciles my work as an engineer with all our family activities.

First I would like to give you a bit of my own personal history. In June 2005 – when I was only 31 years of age – I discovered that I had a rare form of cancer, Burkitt's Lymphoma, which primarily targets young adults. Initially I was told that it was a very aggressive cancer but that it could be cured.



October 2005

On that fateful day in June my entire world was turned upside-down. As my wife and I just had our first child, I was hospitalized for more than 100 days while receiving 9 chemotherapy treatments as well as over 20 blood transfusions over a period of 8 months.

During this whole tormenting period, I remained extremely confident. The people around me including my wife Nathalie, my son Phillippe, my parents, and my friends continued to encourage me to fight and beat this disease. They also spoke to me about Saku Koivu who had beaten this form of cancer. My parents – who knew my passion for cycling – gave me the book “*It's Not About the Bike*” by Lance Armstrong. In the book, my parents inscribed the following words – “You too can win the battle”. These words stayed with me throughout my treatment. The start of my battle coincided with The Tour de France where Lance Armstrong was defending his title for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. In my hospital room, I eagerly followed Lance in his quest. His story gave me the courage to overcome the pain and the fatigue. I have attached a photo of my family I had taken during these treatments where I am wearing Lance Armstrong's yellow jersey as he continued to be an important source of inspiration.

As a result of my determination, the support of my loved ones, the care taken by the doctors and nurses as well as recent medical advances, I was able to overcome the illness. Unfortunately, not everyone who is diagnosed with cancer is that lucky. There are still many roads to travel and many discoveries yet to find before this disease, which touches 1 Canadian in 3, is completely curable. This is why I have decided to participate in this fundraising event for Cedars Cancer Institute.

**Your generosity will help make a difference. Thank you!**

*Together, the Best Care for Life*



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