

Chino Champion (CA)

Joy of victory over cancer leads family to take plunge

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Published: July 12, 2008

For one Chino Hills family, a dip in the "Spirit of Life" was the fitting end to their son's fight against cancer. After being diagnosed in December 2007 with Hodgekins Lymphoma, **Jared Weissman** endured chemotherapy and radiation treatments for several months before being pronounced "cancer free" on July 8.

According to **Jared's** mom, City of Hope hospital in Duarte, where **Jared** was treated, is filled with images of pain, desperation and illness.

"Because so much of the visual stimuli there is harsh, your eyes just naturally search for something beautiful to soothe your spirit and just help heal your soul hence the fountain," Alyson **Weissman** said.

When **Jared** reached the mid-point of his treatment, his mother was inspired.

"I told him I planned to jump in the fountain and dance at the end of his treatment and asked him if he would join me, and he said he would," Mrs. **Weissman** said. "We walked by frequently and dreamed about the day. I believe that is sometimes how a family gets through cancer: imagining what you will do when you are healed."

After **Jared's** doctor told him he was officially in remission, he left the hospital with his mother and father, Alan **Weissman** and proceeded to the fountain, where the trio hit the water just beneath three bronze figures of a mother, father and infant dancing together.

Jared, along with his parents and best friend, Alex Methot, recently returned from a trip to Walt Disney World, courtesy of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Orange County and the Inland Empire. This summer, **Jared** is a volunteer counselor at Chino Hills Day Camp.

Though he took a break from school during his treatment, **Jared** maintained a 4.0 grade average while on home studies. He was promoted and will be a freshman next year at Ayala High School.

To view the slide show of the Weissman family's celebratory dip, visit www.shannonlottphotography.com/fountain

Jared, Alyson and Alan **Weissman** stand in the "Spirit of Life" fountain at City of Hope in

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