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Barrier I have faced

When I was eight, I was diagnosed with Lymphoma, a form of cancer. This was the most devastating thing that ever happened to my family and me. I was admitted into Children's Hospital, and began treatment. After a month, I returned home again for the first time. I continued treatment for two years and finally became cancer free. The cancer was finally gone for good. To get where I am today, I used three of Jackie Robinson's nine values: Courage, Determination, and Teamwork.

Courage- While I was in the hospital, I was very worried at the time. I was only eight, and like most kids my age, had no idea what cancer even was. I had to have a lot of courage to face everything that was needed for my treatment. The needles, liquids, and IV's were all things I was scared of, and needed a lot of courage to get through. I also needed courage to brave some of the things to come, that I did not know about. That is why courage is my first value.

Determination- Courage is not all I needed to get through this illness. The illness weakened me, and my hopes of getting through it. I needed determination to be able to keep myself going. There were many times while I was sick where I would ask God, "Why me?" I would doubt myself and think I couldn't get through this. I would constantly think I was hopeless. Determination kept me going. It gave me strength to not give up, but I didn't always have enough of it. My friends and family helped me get through it, which leads me to my third value.

Teamwork- My third value is teamwork. Teamwork is the biggest reason why I am here today. Without this value, I probably could not have made it. Teamwork from my family provided me with the determination, courage, and strength that I needed. They gave me much of the support and inspiration that I needed. For example, my cousin who is now married with kids, ran the Boston Marathon in the name of me, and raised seven thousand dollars. I also used teamwork with my friends. My friends would often visit the hospital and see how I was doing. My friends were always there for me and they always will be. They gave me a lot of support and really kept me moving during this hard time of my life.

These are the three values of Jackie Robinson that I used to break through the biggest barrier my life has ever faced. In a way, the illness taught me about these three important values in a very special way. The experience of the illness strengthened me spiritually, and gave me a lot more courage to do things I was afraid of than I had before. If I had never ended up having the illness, I would have never learned the true meaning of the three values I chose. Jackie Robinson, needed these values to break through his barrier, and I needed them too.