“Children are resilient,” Dr. Greiner assured us. “Whatever you’re thinking about cancer… don’t.” Emily Kemberling thought that the oncologist’s words of hope were just meant to help ease the pain after she found out that her son Chase was being diagnosed with Lymphoma.

Chase Kemberling was four years old when he had a week long episode of frequent vomiting. His big brother was just recovering from a cold, so Emily and Tyler Kemberling didn’t think anything was serious until one day when Chase’s stomach became very large and hard. Although the family lived only ten minutes from another medical center, his mother had a gut feeling that they needed to go straight to Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital.

They arrived in Hershey at 3 pm on October 29th, 2013. By 10 pm, scans revealed that Chase had multiple tumors in his abdomen. The family would be staying overnight and Chase would start treatment the very next day. “We had no idea what to expect,” Emily said. “Ultimately, we were expecting the worst.”

On the day that they were admitted, Greg Baiocchi introduced himself as their Four Diamonds Social Worker. Greg reassured them that they wouldn’t have to worry about paying for anything beyond insurance due to Four Diamonds. He wanted them to know that their focus should be on getting Chase well again.

Although he is only one year older than Chase, Travis Kemberling stepped up as the ultimate big brother. Chase suffered from frequent mouth sores as a result of the treatment, and the only remedy was to leave a tissue in his mouth. Travis was always ready at a moment’s notice to give his brother a fresh tissue. He never wanted to leave Chase’s side, so Travis would stay in the hospital with them every night. Each morning, Emily would wake him up early enough to drive back home in time to catch the school bus.

“Given the situation, our time in the Children’s Hospital was fantastic,” Emily said. The boys would occupy their time playing racing games on Xbox and fighting over things just as they would at home. If Chase would get tired while they were down in the cafeteria or taking a walk, he would say, “OK. I want to go back to my hotel room now.”

“He thought of it as a hotel, so we just ran with that,” his mother joked.

The Kemberling family was at home for only a combined two weeks between the time of the diagnosis and January 6th, 2014. Ten days after their last discharge, a PET scan would confirm that Chase was officially in remission, off treatment. He and Travis would be able to play T-Ball together later that spring.

Emily is so thankful for all of the people that they have met through Four Diamonds as a result of this journey. Between the support they have received, as well as how quickly Chase went into remission, it definitely is not what they had expected. She said, “It is truly amazing what everybody does.”

When asked which of the Four Diamonds best represents him, Chase answered, “Strength! Because they fixed me.”