



January 17, 2003

Health

Baby Gabe battles cancer



[Carole Houser, RN](#)

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Last year I got to do my favorite New Year's story, the first baby born on the new year in Nashville. Who would ever have guessed that on the eve of his first birthday, we'd meet baby Gabriel again, but for an entirely different reason?

Precious baby Gabe has no idea anything's wrong, but Rob and Lu Sipos say their son's first Christmas was painful and scary.

"They sent us in for a CAT scan and then it just spiraled from there everything kind of got out of control," said Lu Sipos.

On Christmas day they found out Gabe has Rhabdomyosarcoma, it's an aggressive childhood cancer. It's in his cheek and is already pressing on his brain and affecting his vision.

"We were both expecting that the tumor would come back benign, and once it was confirmed that it was malignant, I took it a little bit harder," said Rob.

Over the last week, one of the things that they've been thinking about is all the irony. Gabriel was the 7 pound, 20-ounce first baby of the New Year.


"I had mentioned something about wanting Gabe to have a positive influence on the world and it's funny in retrospect to look back at that and realize he is already. I think he's been put here to show everybody humility and adversity to help us through that," said Lu.

They focus on what's most important now. Baby Gabe gets to go home from the hospital on Tuesday so he can spend his first birthday at home.

"We're going to have a Sponge Bob Square Pants party going to try to make it the best birthday party he ever had," said Lu.

One year -- a lifetime to Gabe -- but all too short for Lu and Rob. They hold on to humor, and to each other -- and face the next new year.

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"We want to share our love with him for the rest of his life," said Rob.

The good news, so far is the cancer doesn't seem to have spread too far. If they can shrink it a bit with radiation and remove it, Gabriel's chances of survival are close to 80-percent. We'll let you know how they do.

If you'd like to learn more about Baby Gabe and his family visit [their web site](#).



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