

Video Artist Statement

Christian Beck and Dawson Barr

Christian Beck, Age 16, 11th Grade, Saint Xavier High School

Dawson Barr, Age 12, 7th Grade, Spencer County Middle School

https://youtu.be/7uDWY_-v5Z8

I first met Dawson when I was shooting another video for the Spencer County High school's dance marathon. After filming some interviews with their teen board members, I asked if any of them knew a patient who could potentially speak on behalf of their dance marathon. No more than five minutes later, Dawson came through the doors and I had the pleasure of meeting him. When being interviewed, he was incredibly outspoken and eloquent for such a young kid: I knew I had to make a video dedicated to him. I talked with Dawson about collaborating on a video to share his story with the world, and he loved it. Listening to his words, I learned about his incredible story and the journey him and his family had been through. Dawson has the special gift of connecting to people's emotions through his language, and I was deeply motivated to share his story with the world. He talked of his long hours in the clinic, his experience with treatment, and how his cancer has changed over time. But when his mother shared their story of when Dawson sent home to die, I was almost moved to tears. Seeing the incredibly outspoken and spectacular young man Dawson is today, I am forever grateful he kept on fighting. Dawson hasn't let his cancer slow him down, and is a role model for philanthropy in the community: a surprisingly common trait I have seen in many youth patients. The cancer community is very tight knit, and Gilda's club plays a major role in that. I have had the incredible opportunity to

connect with kids like Dawson, and relate to an issue that affects us all. Having a creative outlet like Gilda's club has changed the trajectory of my life and given me the opportunity to tell these kids stories.

I am co-submitting this with Dawson Barr because it is his story to tell.