

# Making a Comeback



## *Sean McFarland*

"It's cancer" – Sean McFarland listened to the prognosis in disbelief. A seemingly unlikely candidate for cancer, Sean worked as a Corpus Christi police officer, spending the last three years riding a mountain bike at work for 10-hour shifts. He was the picture of youth and perfect health.

"I was on a Christmas trip to California in 2003 when I noticed a lump under my left armpit. When I came home, I went through a series of tests." A biopsy told the story; it was an aggressive form of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. "I couldn't believe it. I didn't smoke; I exercised; I took care of myself." Yet he had discovered a tumor the size of a mango.

"I was so fortunate to have a tremendous

support network – a great wife and two-year-old daughter, and family and friends who came by often during the hospital stays." Those extensive stays included six chemotherapy treatments each followed by a full week in the hospital. After the chemotherapy was six weeks of radiation treatment. Sean found himself turning to yet another support group – volunteer blood donors in the Coastal Bend. "I had so many blood transfusions I lost count of the number. The transfusions were critical during the chemotherapy treatments."

Today Sean is in remission. He has returned to full duty as a police officer, joining his wife Crystal, who is also an officer on the force. Together they are moving forward as a family, forever grateful to the many blood donors in the community who helped make Sean's recovery a reality.



Sean and Crystal Cooper-McFarland and their daughter Laurna.



**Coastal Bend Blood Center**

*Giving so that others may live*