

Veronica Bonds

Veronica Bonds is a mother from Bedford County, Virginia.

In the Fall of 2007, her son, Ashton, woke up feeling sick and stayed home from school. Veronica knew that something was wrong when Ashton did not feel like going to school. He had previously never been sick a day in his life except for a minor cold. Ashton's symptoms included severe pain and vomiting, so Veronica took him to the emergency room, where he was examined and told to go home because he had a virus. Veronica did just what she was told – fed him soup, ginger ale, and suggested he rest – but he didn't get any better.

In fact, the next day he seemed worse and was in more pain than she had ever seen him in. Veronica took Ashton back to the doctor and was told it was a bad virus and “it may take awhile for it to get out of his system.”

On the morning of October 7, Ashton woke up, hallucinating and had very labored breathing. He even needed help getting out of bed. Veronica was extremely worried and drove Ashton back to the emergency room, where he was transferred from the hospital in their hometown to larger one.

This is where Ashton was diagnosed with MRSA and where he spent his last days. The chain of events was devastating. Veronica says, “My life has changed forever. Thanksgiving, Christmas, his graduation, his 18th birthday – all the milestones that Ashton looked forward to were spent in heaven.”

Now, when Veronica looks up to heaven, Ashton speaks to her. He says, “Mom, do this for me, and do this for others. You may save some other child's life.”

Veronica is trying to carry out Ashton's wish by sharing the word about MRSA and hopes to educate the public on how to prevent its spread.