

Supporting Mr. Shakir

Helping a member of the DHS family

by Blake Mirman



*Shakir waiting for round two of chemotherapy.
Photo provided by Team Shakir Facebook page.*

As many may have heard, social studies teacher Ata Shakir has recently been diagnosed with stage three colon cancer. After not feeling well for some time, Shakir decided to see a doctor. After a few tests, it was discovered that Shakir had colon cancer

Shakir's GofundMe page update says his colon cancer is in stage three. The cancer has spread into his lymphatic system. However, the cancer has

not spread into any organs.

According to the Team Shakir Facebook page, Shakir started Chemotherapy on February 27th. The update on Shakir's GofundMe says Shakir will be receiving a combination of chemo/radiation treatment. It also says that he will be treated with the chemo constantly for five days a week Monday through Friday. While also receiving a radiation treatment five days a week. This will last for six weeks. They will perform a surgery and remove any remaining cancer after the treatment.

Chemotherapy is a chemical treatment to kill off cancer cells. Radiation therapy is using radiation to kill off any cancer cells inside the body.

Since Shakir's diagnosis, he and his wife have made an effort to tell people to not put off a colonoscopy. Team Shakir posted on March second that "there has been a surge in colorectal cancer cases among young adults, under 50." *Coloncancerfoundation* states that colonoscopies are essential for men and women at the age of 50 and African Americans at age 45.

Team Shakir on Facebook been growing at a rapid rate. As of publication, the

GofundMe page has raised 5,030\$ out of its goal of 6,000\$. All of this money was raised in 11 days and by 89 supporters. However, not everyone can donate.

People have still made an impact by giving flowers or even putting #Team Shakir on a T-shirt.

Mrs. Vest, the area coordinator for social studies, has helped lead fund raising efforts for the Shakir family. Mrs. Vest has also started a food program for people to offer bringing food to Shakir and their family.

Talking about DHS, Vest said, "I am lucky to work in a place that cares so much about the health and welfare of its family."

Mr. Shakir on Team Shakir said, "I love DeKalb, because of the great people that live here. That send cards in the mail, bring dinner to our house, offer to help with the yard, donate hard earned money, add our families to their prayers, and are not afraid to tell you that they love you."

Shakir and his family have been going through very difficult times. However, the support they are receiving lets them know they are not alone and that they are still part of the DHS family. Shakir and his family are not alone in this with everyone helping and supporting them, and we all need to help out if a family member is in trouble.