A family story

After a spring break trip to California last year, Grace developed a rash on her leg and got sick on the plane home. These were both minor symptoms, but being her mom I took her to the doctor. They drew blood and did tests. The doctors whispered to me that it was Leukemia.

My husband and I were in shock. Everything you’ve imagined about a parent’s worst nightmare is true. It just didn’t seem possible. Gracie was going to be an actress. She was completely full of giggles, joy and life. We checked into the hospital and the doctors explained the intense treatments that would need to start the next morning. I just wanted to leave, but they told me if I wanted her to live, we had no choice.

Soon after, I was introduced to Paula at There With Care. She and I talked a lot during my family’s first weeks living with Leukemia. There With Care offered services including meals, cleaning, and help with applying for integrative therapies. She anticipated needs we didn’t know we had and offered advice that others wouldn’t even talk about.

I was trying to be strong, but I could hardly remember to breathe. My body physically reacted to the stress and worry, and I developed Bell’s Palsy which caused half my face to become paralyzed. Thanks to There With Care, I received acupuncture and other therapies that helped to relieve my symptoms.

Some phases of treatment wiped out Grace’s immune system. As a parent I was terrified to go home, the fear of her catching something was so big. There With Care provided cleaning services that allowed us to relax in our home. When she was at her most vulnerable, I knew my home was disinfected right down to the light switches. That was one thing taken care of; one worry I could cross off my list.

Over the holidays, delicious Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners were delivered with love by amazing There With Care volunteers. In the spring, Grace celebrated the end of her intensive care as the There With Care princess at their Cinderella’s Ball, using her wand to greet other little princesses as they arrived.

We could not have traveled this journey without the loving support of There With Care’s staff and volunteers. We can’t thank them enough. They put reassurance in our hearts and smiles on our faces.

“They anticipated needs we didn’t know we had and offered advice that others wouldn’t even talk about.”

To become a volunteer contact Beanie at 303.447.2273 or beanie@therewithcare.org.
from our executive director

It has been a privilege to have cared for the more than 550 families facing critical illness since There With Care opened its doors. These are families going through a medical crisis, and yet during knowing them, they have also taught us so much about compassion and strength. During a frightening time, they have allowed us to enter their often fragile lives and be a small part of their daily support. They have changed many of us in a positive way and have all left their footprints on our hearts.

With the help of more than 350 dedicated volunteers, we have delivered care to these special families. It’s never just a ride to treatments or delivering a bag of groceries, volunteers also bring their care for the family and give their time to listen and be there for them. Whether a volunteer is working directly with a family, cooking a meal, helping in the office or supporting an event, each makes a difference in the lives of a family going through the illness of their child.

With the gracious and generous help of our Donors and Corporate Sponsors, we can say “yes” when a family needs our help. We can be there to ease their burdens and enable them to more fully focus on their ill child.

All of these people together care and are the heart and soul of this organization. Even more, they are the inspiration. I am honored and grateful for all the help that has come our way in our nearly five years of service. And, I thank you all for being There With Care.

With gratitude,

Paula DuPre’ Pesmen
Executive Director
the care begins with you

For our families, the care that they receive truly begins with you. When you make a financial contribution, your single act of kindness triggers a series of events that allow our volunteers to provide direct care to There With Care families each day.

I have had the privilege to meet many of the families we serve at There With Care. The families share their gratitude for the services they receive and they also share their appreciation for the one-on-one care that is provided to them. Because of your help, they know they are not alone during a frightening time.

Your generosity enables us to continue to deliver hot meals, groceries, diapers, car seats and so much more. Our deliveries almost always end with a heartfelt hug between the volunteer and the family member. These hugs are also from you, the donor. You make it all happen, and our families thank you so much for your gift of care.

In gratitude for your continued support,

Dana Bacardi
Development Director

“Call it accident or providence, our meeting has been more fortuitous for me than anyone else. I have discovered that giving yields an unanticipated result… the giver simply becomes a better person.”

– Jack Dionigi, There With Care Donor

There With Care programs—the building blocks of support

- Soup Station—5%
- Professional Services—5%
- Baby Care Bags—9%
- Patient/Sibling Support—10%
- Home Maintenance—18%
- Meal Program—22%
- Transportation—31%

10% of our expenses go towards organization operation costs.

Honoring Our First Volunteer

Eric Barber, Paula DuPre’ Pesmen and Penni Pearson-Beuf

There With Care volunteers are the heart of all we do. We honor our first volunteer, Penni Pearson-Beuf whose continued dedication and love for all the families inspires us each day. Penni was there to support Eric, a 16-year old brain cancer patient, throughout his treatments. Determined that he not be alone due to family circumstances, Penni drove Eric to and from the hospital and doctor appointments for several months and sat with him during long hours of treatments. Throughout their many hours together they forged a bond and discovered a mutual interest in the arts. Today Eric is in remission and studying art in college. He and Penni remain close to this day.

Thank you Penni for helping to show us how to be There With Care.
We express our gratitude to the donors who make this work possible for children and families facing critical illness. Every day we are able to be there to answer the needs of our community during a fragile time and this would not be possible without their support. We thank the following donors who gave their help to these special families between January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

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there with care wish list

• Diapers Sizes 0-5
• Baby Wipes
• PJ’s and Onesies: newborn–18 months
• Infant Wash Cloths and Towels
• New Baby Bottles

to donate email donate@therewithcare.org

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we could not provide our services without the generous help of:

$881,496 donated volunteer and professional service hours
$226,925 donated in-kind items
family support by the numbers

87% — families we serve who live below poverty guidelines
98 — average number of days a family receives support
$1,896 — average cost to serve a family through crisis
82 — current number of active cases / 200 — total projected in 2010

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Superior Elementary School
Trinity Lutheran Church

EVENTS

We would like to thank our sponsors, supporters and attendees who made our events a big success. To see sponsor list go to: therewithcare.org

If you have made a contribution and do not see your name listed, please contact us at admin@therewithcare.org so we can make sure you are acknowledged in our next newsletter.
“When so many doors were closing all around us, There With Care opened their door to our family.” —Mom of 2-year old cancer patient

CU Buffalo Bicycle Classic
Sunday, September 12, 2010

Join our team riding in memory of volunteer and friend Jackie Lewis at the 2010 Buffalo Bicycle Classic. Riders fundraising $150.00+ will get a cool There With Care bike jersey by Panache Cyclewear. (Sizes due by Aug 15)

To sign up or support a rider—contact Shanna at shanna@therewithcare.org or 303.886.2673

Thank you to our sponsors for support in printing this newsletter and bringing you There With Care News.