On April 9, 2010, Austin was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma. It took me a while to figure out how to spell it. We didn’t do anything about it that first night, because we were in denial.

Austin had been watching his something grow, since it was very tiny, right in his pelvis and he had just turned 14. Austin and his brother Chance’s dad died five months before, so he was still trying to grieve the loss of his dad while watching this thing grow as a brand new 14-year old.

My whole life having children, I thought, “What would I do if something happened to my kids? I don’t know how I would go on living. I just thought I would have to die with them if anything happened.” Chance is 19 now and he’s pretty much grown up the last three years by himself. I quit teaching to be with Austin at the hospital all the time.

That day in April, we drove out of the hospital and I said, “Austin are you nervous?” He said, “No, why would I be?” I said, “Because this could be big. You’re not afraid?” Austin said, “here” and he pulled out his iPod and said, “Listen and do it!” He turned up the volume as loud as he could and he played “Don’t Worry, Be Happy.”

Eventually, Austin needed 35 rounds of chemo. He did 30 rounds, some were a week apart, some a day. Thirty Rounds of chemo, very invasive, aimed at the tumors that were in his pelvis. He also did 28 days of radiation into his pelvis, which is the main area of your bone marrow production. Of course, you sign your life away with every treatment, and you wonder if your baby is going to make it through the next one. After 30 rounds of chemo they told us his bone marrow couldn’t take it any more.

We kind of prepared…and I spent every morning, waking up and going into his room, wondering if I was going to wake him up or if he was going to be gone already. And I have to admit that nearly three years later, I still did that.

Austin went into remission for about nine months. We had scans every three months. We were told we were done. Nothing more we could do, it turned out great. Then, in February they told us “Great news, no tumors. But, there’s something wrong and we don’t know what it is.” It took them a couple of weeks to learn that he was in bone marrow failure, he had Myelodysplastic Syndrome. His only option was a bone marrow transplant. Thank God we found two perfect matches, both 22-year old boys. On June 27th, six months after Austin’s 16th birthday, we gave him another birthday and he got his bone marrow transplant.

There With Care cleaned our house, brought us groceries, gave us gas cards so that I could take Austin to the hospital...things we just didn’t feel like we could do at the time.

There With Care News  •  Summer 2013  •  therewithcare.org
A Community Like No Other

“Hey, how you doin’? You shopping for your family or for the other family?”

Normally, it feels a bit strange when someone checks out your shopping cart, but lately this has become my Friday morning routine. “For the family,” I say. Each week, I have the privilege to shop for one of our families with There With Care, as so many others volunteers do every day. This family in particular has special food needs, and our friends at the local Lucky’s Market generously help us make it happen.

I head to the produce department, where two men who are busy stocking the shelves, point out the day’s “good deals,” knowing that I am always eager to gather healthy food for the family. I push my cart over to the meat department where the butcher greets me with a smile and a “Morning!” He helps decide what might be good this week for the family based on what we ordered up last week and what’s on sale this week. This particular week, he asks for a business card, so he can nominate our non-profit for an employee grant. Just a little extra care – more than being a butcher serving a customer today – he’s also being a compassionate person, who cares about the families.

After visiting the bulk items, it’s time to head to the check out. The food is rung up and boxed. The shop ends with, “I hope we see you next week. I’ll be so sad if I don’t see you getting food for this family. I hope everything’s okay.”

I pack up, close the tailgate, and start my drive to There With Care. My heart is full, thinking about the people who just filled the back of the There-With-Care-Mobile with nutrition and kindness. So many people are keeping them in their thoughts. So many in their community who care.

Warmly,

Paula DuPre’ Pesmen
Executive Director
Some of my most cherished moments with donors this past year have been those spent driving with them to visit some of our There With Care families. In a meeting I can tell them where the support is coming from, where it's going and how it impacts the 120 active families we are serving. Or, when possible, I can meet them at There With Care and do a grocery shop for a family at our food pantry. So one day, that is what Phil and I did.

As we got close to the family's home, I looked over and said, “You know, it’s not just groceries we are delivering.” “What do you mean?” Phil asked.

“Well, this family is going through one of the scariest times in their life—and we are a warm a smile at their front door letting them know we care.”

When we arrived at this family's apartment, the father opened the door while he was on the phone with his baby's surgeon, and he let us in. He was getting the news that they were going to have to put a tracheotomy in, to help her eat and breathe. She was only three months old. And very sick.

We set the groceries on the counter as dad got off the phone. He told us how grateful he was that we were there. Their cupboards were empty, their two-bedroom apartment was humble, and the gently used toy that we had brought his three-year toddler was already being played with happily.

Dad told us that he had made $30 the previous day doing some handy work for someone, and since he knew we were coming with food that day, he was able to buy his five-year-old son a new pair of shoes for his first day of kindergarten. The Dad was glad not to have had to choose between shoes and food. He told us about how difficult it was to keep their toddler and son busy while the parents were spending so many hours at the hospital, trying to figure out what to do with their baby. His wife and son came home (with his brand new shoes on) and Mom immediately hugged us and said that she wouldn't have known what they would have done - without our help.

What a privilege it had been for us to have met this family, hear their story, and lend a listening ear. We were thankful to have brought them more than just groceries that day.

Warmly,

Dana Bacardi
Development Director

There With Care of the Bay Area

The second Chapter of There With Care continues to blossom each day under the leadership of Executive Director, Michelle Chang. It has served 140 families since beginning in February, 2012, through referrals from The Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. Recently, the Social Workers at the hospital honored There With Care of the Bay Area with their “2013 Community Partner Award.” We are very proud of their organization and the support they are providing.

bayarea.therewithcare.org
Honoring Our Volunteers

Welcome Jodee!
Meet Jodee Spalding (at left), the new Volunteer Director for There With Care. Jodee comes to her role as a prior volunteer for several years with the organization. We are so proud to welcome Jodee as we say thank you (not goodbye) to Beanie Brady for her many years of dedication, passion and service, as she transitions back to being a Volunteer.

Volunteers are the Heart
Sending sincere appreciation to all of the volunteers who are – There With Care. Every aspect of the organization operates and grows with the help of people who give their time and talents – to ease some of the stresses for families facing critical illness.

Top: Jodee, Paula and Beanie, Second row: Fairview HS Parade of Lights; Third row: Volunteers of the Chop Shop, Volunteers at Red Carpet Adventure; Bottom: Assembling Parent Care Bags, Volunteer Ford with his Volunteer Coach, Marsha
It is not something that any of us ever wants to imagine, but sadly, some children lose their battle with a long-term illness. A family facing long-term childhood illness oftentimes experiences financial hardship, and when the unimaginable happens, that family may be unable to provide a memorial for their child and are unable to find help or resources within the community.

This is where ERIC CARES began, a new program within There With Care established by Eric’s parents, Mike and Melody Jamali, to assist families with funeral arrangements and expenses following the loss of their child.

In just the Denver Metro Area, more than 420 children lose their battle with a long-term illness every year. Many times, even a financially stable family can incur hardship after the prolonged illness and/or hospitalization of their child.

Since joining There With Care in August of 2012, ERIC CARES has helped families within the Colorado and San Francisco communities. If you would like to donate to the program, please visit therewithcare.org/eric-cares/.

Austin’s bold journey
(continued from page 1)

They told us we’d be in the hospital for months. That not many kids with Rhabdo beat it and it wasn’t probable, but Austin knew that he would beat it. He told me, “What did I tell you that day? Don’t Worry, Be Happy.” So we spent five weeks in the hospital. It was a miracle and we got to go home. The next day he had scans and two days later they came back and told us the Rhabdo was back in his pelvis.

Austin had brand new successful bone marrow and the Rhabdo was back. They let us out of the hospital. At 100 days they did a bone marrow biopsy and we knew he was doing fantastic. We were getting back with life, he had friends over, spent the night over at a friend’s house, he had been to movies (he got movie passes from There With Care and they also fixed his dad’s watch for him).

In October, the doctor called and said, “The Rhabdo is in the bone marrow. We’re in a difficult point now.”

Austin posted on his Facebook account:
- Myelodysplastic Syndrome, check.
- Stage IV Rhabdomyosarcoma, check.
- Leukemia Blast, check.
- Pneumonia, check.
- Large Staph Infection, check.
- Appendicitis, check.
- New Tumors, check.
- Gallbladder falling apart with gallstones, check.
- (I’m adding…Cancer in Bone Marrow, check.)
- Graph vs. Host Disease, didn’t get it yet.

He wrote, “Eight things that should have killed me in the past two and a half years, but couldn’t. Just one more thing to go. Bring it on. GVHD (Graph vs. Host Disease).

“My favorite number is nine, so I shall be fine. After I beat it.” – Austin

I really appreciate all There With Care has done to help families like ours. I was a first grade teacher and I haven’t taught in three years. There With Care cleaned our house, brought us groceries when we needed them, gave us gas cards so that I could take Austin to the hospital, brought us Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. I could go on and on. Things that we just didn’t feel like we could do at the time. Thank you for that.

Austin’s fight with cancer ended on March 12th. We hold his beautiful smile, and his “be happy” approach to life, in our hearts forever. – All of us at There With Care
We express our sincere appreciation to the donors who make this work possible for children and families facing critical illness. Because of our generous donors, we are able to answer the needs of our community during a difficult time. We thank the following donors who gave their help through financial and in-kind gifts between April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

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there with care wish list
• Diapers (newborn to size 6)
• Baby wipes
• Gas cards (to get to hospital appointments)
• Toilet paper
• Laundry soap
• Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothpaste)
• Infant & toddler board books
• Infant onesies
• Bouncy seats
• Pack N Play

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Amy Michelle Company donating diaper bags for NICU moms

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Miksa McCarthy Stanford
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Bobby Medall
Joyce Meister
Jeli Meko
Ray Melvin
Lawrence Merritt
Patti Ann Merritt
Constance Merritt and Gregory Fitzgerald

Thank you to the volunteers and donors who have provided the incredible gift of:

- $2,398,173 donated in kind items
- $2,101,224 donated in volunteer and professional service hours
Lake is top fundraiser at Give Hair With Care Event

Kim and Troy deliver a gift from Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Julie Reinders
Danielle Rentfrew Behrens
Nancy Renken
Kay Rennels
Ashley Rheingold
Jennifer Rhode
John Riccolo
Megan Riccolo
Matt and Julie Rich
Robert Rich
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Mimi and Ed Roberson
Eric Robertson

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Jennifer Roos
Peter Rosato IV and Curry Hyde Rosato
Ben Rosenfeld and Rebecca Roepe
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Joseph Russo
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Dee Sachs
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Rick Sageser
Helen Saia
John Sales
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Wendy Salfazeli
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Leann Sander and Charles Sander, Jr.
Kipling and Bailey Sandvoal
Lisa Sarmiento
Ravinder Saron
Judy Satterlee and Lloyd Franklin Satterlee
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Mark Sawyer
Melissa Schenker
Patricia and Randy Sengers
Timothy Shackelford
Bradford Schmonsees
Phil Schwerdt
Megan Schoenberg
Bruce and Julie Schoenfeld
Michael Schodron
Christy Schoon
Kurt and Peggy Schrammel
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Schrammel
Bill and Phyllis Schramm
Charles Schramm
Randy and Jodi Smith
Shirley Smith
Susan and Elliott Smith
Olive Siemski
Marshall Snider
Gordon Snowcroft and Carol Blair Snowcroft
Stephanie and Corinne Snyder
Ashley Sharp
Noah Sodano
Madeleine Solano
Martha Solis-Turner

Larry Miller Toyota with a truck of donations

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Rich delivering gas cards for families to Programs Team

Matt Somers
Paul Sorceke
Gary Southern
Martha Spaulding
Daniel Spiegler
Peggy Spirs
Stuart and Muriel Spitz
Robin Spitz and Dan Mitchell
Clay Stafford
Elizabeth Stands

Lisa Votapek
Gary Wagnostics
Burt, Jean and Zoe Wagnen
James Walden
Kelli Walden
Laura Waldrop
Mark Walker
Matthew and Anne Walker
Robert and Denise Walker
Elizabeth Walla
Stephanie Wallraff
Timothy Walsh
Lee Wankentin
Gareth Ward
Lisa Ward
Richard Watkins
David Waugh
Jesse Waxman
Mark Wehrle
Elizabeth Weinstein
Taylor Weinstein
Penny and Ernie Weiss
Raizel Weiss Heitzer
Wade Welch
Dick and Marilyn Wellemieck
Peter Weller
Eileen Wells
Stephen and Deborah West
Candice Westphal
David and Melissa Wetherell, Jr.
Michael Whisman
Jeffrey and Renee White
Michel and Irene White
Adam and Carolyn Whitehead
Jon and Gin Whitney
Kara Wiegand
Lisa and Christian Wieland
Deborah Wiesman
Troy Wild
Teryn Wilkes
Jill Williams
Dick Williams
Heather Williams
Kevin Williams
Marie Wilson
Jennifer Wittmerne
Kristen Wolf
Ben Wolin
Todd and Eliza Wolson
Edward Alain Wood-Prince
Kerry Wool
Edward Alain Wood-Prince
Troy Wild
Teryn Wilkes
Jill Williams
Dick Williams
Heather Williams
Kevin Williams
Marie Wilson
Jennifer Wittmerne
Kristen Wolf
Ben Wolin
Todd and Eliza Wolson
Edward Alain Wood-Prince
Rachel Woul
John Wray
Paul Wurthing
Kelly and John Wyatt
Randa Wyatt
Cindi Yaklich
Sarah Yanowitz
Angela Yost
Maria Zellar Maxim
Kathryn Ziesman
Deanne Zwart
Katie Zwick

Organic Dish provides meals for families

Doug Verkamp
Todd Vernon
Karim Viggo
Carrie Vinson
Cynthia Vissers
Kathy Voight
Jessica Vom Steeg
Joel Vongakson
Christine Voss

BUSINESSES

206, Inc.
303 Vodka
36 Computing Solutions
3rd & Vine Design
A & H Finishing Products
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Adobe Systems Incorporated
Adrenalin Design
Advanced Energy
Affordable PC Medics
AK Studio
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Art & Soul
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Becoming Mothers
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Benshana
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Best Buy
Blahk Chai
BIFF
Big Red F Restaurant Group
Bij’s
Black Cat
Bliss
Blitz Paintball
Bloom Jewelry
Blackstone Marketing
Body Balance/Vida Yoga
Bolder Staffing, Inc.
Botsford Associates, LLC
Boulder Ballet
Boulder Beer Company
Boulder Body Wear
Boulder Bookstore
Boulder Chamber of Commerce
Boulder Creek Events

Boulder Creek Events & Starlite Diner
Boulder Dinner Theatre
Boulder FastFrame
Boulder Home
Boulder Indoor Soccer
Boulder Running Company
Boulder Weekly
 Bramble & Hare
Brasserie Ten Ten
Breadworks
Brewing Market
Brighton Smiles
Buffalo Lock and Key
Bull Publishing Company
Bumsies
Bundle Baby Shop
Bumbershoot Oral Surgery
California Pizza Kitchen
Cantar Alpine Auto Body
Casa Alvarez
Case Logic
Catering by Pietra
Celtic Seasonings
Checkers Industrial
Cherry Creek Grill
Childish Things
Children’s Hospital Colorado
Chipotle
Christina’s

Patty donating home made quilts for patients

Paul and Christie Stanford
Jennifer Stanley
Molly and Matthew Staufier
Ted Stauffer
Thomas Staufier
Joan Steckman
Teresa and Randy Stein
Michael Steinberg
Ellen Steiner
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William Teller
Alex Teller and Rick Frankel
Rosalee Templeton
David Tenzer and Ana Lazo Tenzer
Kamuran Tepedelen
The Arras Family

Organic Dish provides meals for families
Shandelle passing on a super cool truck for a patient

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Thank you Splickit for a great day of volunteering!

Unity Colorworks, LLC
University College - DU
University of Colorado Treasurer, The Regents of CU
University of Denver
Unver Racing
Upslope Brewing Company
Urban Mattress
Vectra Bank
Violette
Visit Saint Paul
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Walnut Cafe
Wash Park Grille
Western Collegiate Hockey Association
Whole Foods
Wildflower School of Voice, LLC
Williamson & Co.

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Girl Scout Troop 73073
Glue Projects
Harmony Preschool
Hope for Lily
Memorial United Methodist Church
Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children at PSL UNCC/Colorado 811
Wilderness Early Learning Center

FOUNDATIONS
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Wolfs Foreign Car Care Inc.
Woods & Sons Piano Company
Wow!
YMCA
Yoga Pod
Your Marketing Voice

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
Americas Association for the Care of Children
Bread for Life
Bethany Lutheran Church
Boulder JCC
Brent’s Place
Cancer League of Colorado, Inc.
Carson Elementary School Student Council
Chase Community Giving Program
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Community Food Share
Community Shares of Colorado
Crayons to Calculators
Dawson School
Girl Scout Troop 4176
Girl Scout Troop 71831

Sweet Blake’s daddy DJ donates his hair for Give Hair With Care Event

Volunteers Dave, Bryce and Andy delivering Holiday Trees and stands

Rose Community Foundation
Russell Maguire Foundation
Shannon Family Foundation
Smith Family Giving Fund
Special Ties Foundation
The Anonymous Fund, Longmont Community Foundation
The Boedecker Foundation
The Charles E. and Carol J. Miller Fund, Longmont Community Foundation
The Eggert Family Charitable Fund
The James and Alvina Bartos Balog Foundation
The Longmont Community Foundation
The Moscowitz Family Foundation
The Oak Foundation
The Paul E. Singer Charitable Fund
The Oak Foundation
The Longmont Community Foundation
The James and Alvina Bartos Balog Foundation
The Longmont Community Foundation
The Moscowitz Family Foundation
The Oak Foundation
The Paul E. Singer Charitable Fund
The Schram Foundation
The Sprout Foundation, Inc.
Theodore Cross Family Charitable Foundation
Toney Family Foundation

10% of our expenses go towards organization operation costs.

family support by the numbers

85%
Of families we serve live below poverty guidelines

121
Average number of days a family receives support

$3,727
Average cost to serve a family through crisis

335
Total number of families served in 2012

1,253
Total number of families served

*As of June 30, 2013
when it matters most

Nathanael
6-year old cancer patient, as told by his mom

We had another son Elijah who had a neurological disease that was progressive and he passed away at two and a half years old. After the loss of one child, here we are going through this.

January 15, we took Nathanael to a kidney specialist and they found a tumor in his right kidney. The next day, he had his kidney removed and we found out he had Wilms Tumor, which is a pediatric kidney cancer and at that point it was Stage 2. Following six months of chemotherapy, the last set of scans showed he had Stage 4 tumor growth in both lungs... we are now deep in it.

With all of this to deal with, There With Care is with us, this time. They provide us with gas cards that are a lifesaver since we’ve been going non-stop to the hospital. They also brought us a booster seat without straps so Nathanael’s port and broviac line no longer hurt while riding in the car. These things have helped us to be able to go to the hospital without stressing out about “how.”

They also deliver groceries and pre-made meals to us. It’s helpful to not have to go to the store when you have a child who is not feeling well and two other kids. Little things like that make such a difference. It’s a blessing to have help from There With Care, with their hearts and arms open to us.

Astin
6-year old oncology patient, as told by his mom

We were referred to There With Care when Astin was just 4-years old in May of 2011. He had been diagnosed with ALL (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia). His treatment would be long and intense and he was already having a difficult time with the medicines.

I was worried about my other son and daughter while Astin was hospitalized. I worried about finances, and I especially worried about the limited treatment options for Astin.

At that time, There With Care started doing grocery and pre-made food deliveries. Because of them, I knew that my other children and husband were getting food and some homemade meals. They also sent gas cards, which helped with getting Astin to and from the hospital.

Unfortunately, Astin’s ALL recurred earlier this year. Our family is devastated and he has to have many more treatments. As we go through this, we think of all the nice people at There With Care whenever we go back and forth to the hospital, knowing they are here for us and the gas card we received has filled up our tank to get us there.
kids care too!

Alex and Lauren at Fashion for a Cause Fashion Show

Boulder Country Day Students Volunteering

Bonnie and Jack with their Youth Volunteer Awards

Kids working together to make a difference!

Charlotte delivering her donation

Dana with Girl Scouts Troop #4376

Theo dropping off toys for patients

Julia volunteering

Cole and Seth from TWC Team at St. Baldrick’s

shop with care

Please visit our online store at therewithcare.org and browse our thoughtful shop filled with many caring and helpful items for loved ones facing medical issues. While supporting those in your life – you are also supporting families served by There With Care. New items are popping up regularly, so be sure to check out the shop. shop.therewithcare.org
Boulder Country Day Students in the Pantry

Dobbie brings Daughters of the British Empire’s gifts from “Princess Kate’s Babyshower” for TWC families

Girl Scouts Troop #4376 at the Pantry

Lake donating products for babies in NICU

Loading up Mom’s car for a family

Brownies delivering cookies

Ceri Mitchell-Brown and her daughter Tessa smile as they share their care for families

Molly delivers Art Bags for patients made by her two sweet children

Laura and Erin deliver homemade blankets for patients

“Families with sick children need all the help and support they can get. There With Care eases the stress, so the parents can focus on the whole family.” – Parent of NICU Baby
“There With Care has made such a huge impact on our family and we could not have gotten through our struggle without the love and support of this organization. It gives hope to total strangers. Thank you so much!” – Parent of Oncology Patient

Events

You Are Invited To

A Red Carpet Adventure

Starring Cheech Marin
Performam, Director, Actor:
Cars 1 & 2, Spy Kids 1, 2 & 3,
Beverly Hills Chihuahua

With performances by Justin Kauflin,
Natasha Marin, Heather Maloney,
Zach Heckendorf and
Kenny Passarelli with an appearance by In-Tune Ensemble

Saturday, September 28, 2013 – Denver
Sunday, September 29, 2013 – Boulder

Tickets on sale now – therewithcare.org/redcarpet

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