Little Star Foundation “Your Example”

Issue 26 July/Aug 2021

2021 marks 36th Year Helping Children with Cancer, Families & Communities

"To these wonderful people I’m blessed to know:" From a Mom.

"Words cannot begin to describe how I feel today knowing that such a massive weight was lifted off of my family and I. For the last several years, I would be lying if I said life has been a picnic. A few years ago, our oldest son, Landon, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia."

For the past 5 months I, Andrea Jaeger, have been working on the road. It has challenges but blessings are evident. Every time I have a shower with good water pressure, no dive bombing bugs at night, a working outlet for my laptop and cell I am grateful. The news is full of hardships and extreme weather reports where people have none of those basic items. This summer often working in 110 temps I appreciate in my pro tennis days I never got hot, tired or nervous in a match ever. Those qualities are very useful today. Which brings me to the theme of this story. For many families basic daily items like electricity, a refreshing shower, etc are never taken for granted because they have gone without.

This is one story of thousands we are helping this summer. We often think that could never happen to me. I am too responsible, too capable, too efficient, too healthy.

But what is happening is doctors across America are sharing in pediatric medical conferences, one I recently participated in, "I haven't seen anything like it..." with somber words following. Even with suffering gratitude exists. Gratitude for the simple daily wonderful items we are blessed with to experience and gratitude for everyone helping so children with cancer, like Landon and other suffering families are being supported. Thank you! You are part of that help. Grateful for you!

"I can't even go into details of the whirlwind of what my husband and I have gone through as well as our boys. We've had our great moments and blessings just to be alive and provide what we can but, it's consisted of many tears, going without, and losing things we need."

"We had a 5 month old baby at the time of Landon's diagnosis."

"I couldn't work, because as a mother I had to help Landon battle cancer and take care of a baby. But, we both couldn't afford to take off or we would lose what we have. Our lives consisted of appointments, harsh drugs, throwing up, multiple rounds of hair loss, juggling an infant, asking for extended periods of time to pay our bills, skipping bills, low on food, you name it."

Donate Today!

Your donation matters! Donate today to improve the lives of children.

Donate to Little Star at www.littlestar.org
"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else,"
~Booker T. Washington

There is something magical that happens when we help someone else in need. We might feel it also helped us. We feel a sense of purpose, joy and happiness. And although the feeling might not last forever, each day we get a chance to help and be helped all over again. It can truly be magic.

When I first met Andrea Jaeger, founder of Little Star Foundation, Andrea was beginning her training for her Wimbledon Legends. One evening when I was finishing up another long, busy day at the tennis courts and everyone was leaving for their dinner plans, I saw Andrea walking by to practice against the wall. I said, “Would you like to practice with me instead?” After a few more fun and also serious tennis practice sessions learning of the former #2 in the world tennis champion incredible tennis abilities and Andrea's sharings of the amazing and inspiring journey of her foundation and helping many children and families in need, I said: “I'd be happy and honored to help. Whatever it endeavors. Nothing is too small or too big.” I was already loving helping kids and hoped my talents, education and experiences could be recognized, utilized and further help improve and perhaps change lives.

Fortunately, the tenacity, drive and determination I learned as a child with big goals helped me learn English while attending college in the U.S., obtain my Masters's Degree and work in prestigious continued learning centers. As we all grow up in an ever changing world however our individual expertise and success bring joy and fulfillment, teaming up to lift up others continues to elevate the heart, spirit and mind. For some asking for help is foreign and difficult, for others helping someone is unusual and ignored.

Here are a few ways that have helped me and the families Little Star Foundation proudly serves to receive help and give help:

1. I set myself to do my absolute best in everything I choose to do. All work is honorable and someone is always watching.
2. I view most of my greatest pains and struggles as my greatest strengths. Changing perspective has always helped me shift my thoughts process from being a victim to assuming full responsibility for everything that has happened to me. I choose determination to improve over the sense of failure.
3. I ask: “Who can I encourage or lift up today?” What if we all made that a goal this week?

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Right: Memory Lane: Team Work Matters!
"A team with something to play for can be dangerous, but a team with someone to PRAY for is unstoppable."  
(Landon's t-shirt)

Landon- we are on your praying and helping Team!

Landon's Mom continues sharing. "In the process, my car got repossessed and we were devastated, ashamed, and at our breaking point. Two people who went from college degrees making large salaries, a nice home and healthy children to losing it all all while worrying if our son was going to survive cancer. Fast forward and life began to look up for us. I was able to start working full-time again, the boys in school, getting a new vehicle, and finally enjoying our lives as a family of four. Then, Covid hit. I lost my job, no unemployment, taxes and stimulus delayed, waiting like everyone else. My husband working in Agriculture for years had to face days of not working due to heavy amounts of rain or any inclement weather.

We began struggling all over again. Struggling to pay vehicle note, behind on utilities, and fortunately, businesses stopped shutting people’s power off because of Covid. A child still having hospital appts. In turn, we racked up a hefty utility bill. We tried making payments with whatever we had even if it was only $20, we made a payment. I applied for assistance through a local agency but it was sporadic payments and payments stopped in April of 2021. Then comes the disconnect notice.

We had a utility bill of over $3,000 accumulated with no funds to pay in full. I reached out to the hospital social worker, cancer foundations and putting in applications I could for help because summer was here and we couldn’t sit in a hot house with two children, one being disabled now and another young child. I was fortunate enough to have these wonderful people at Little Star Foundation reply to me, immediately help me and send a current due payment in.

My heart was bursting that I just started crying. I also prayed it was enough to keep our lights on. I tried reaching out to the electricity company pleading with my story and was trying to make payments each week. Nothing. They didn’t even have a disconnect date to give me just it was still pending disconnect even after that payment."

You can help!  
Donate what you can.

Ways to Donate:
- You can donate any amount securely online at www.littlestar.org
- Want to send a check? Little Star’s address:
  Andrea Jaeger  
  Little Star Foundation  
  174 Watercolor Way Suite 103 B343  
  Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
  800-543-6565
- Ask Your Family, Friends, Company to match your Donation.  
  * contact Andrea Jaeger/Little Star directly at info@littlestar.org or at 800-543-6565
- Share this Issue of Little Star's Your Example.
- Donate any amount in celebration of or in memory of someone dear to you.

www.littlestar.org
"With dozens of calls from me and from Adriana at Little Star Foundation to request a payment program to help us with our electric company, the electric company wouldn't budge. Then, we wake up to our electricity turned off. No air, no lights. No power.

All I could do was cry in private and feel so ashamed and feel like I failed as a parent and spouse. It was 3 days with no power when I reached out to these wonderful people at Little Star Foundation to thank them for trying so hard and sending in a payment to help us out but ultimately, our power had just been shut off.

These two, Andrea and Adriana, at Little Star Foundation did everything in their power to help us before our power was turned off. Then when our power was turned off, they stepped in again, contacting the electric company and sent a full payment to have our electricity turned back on. I cried, I thanked God and was rejoicing. I also still feel the shame and the guilt for being in this situation because I know there are so many people struggling out there. To know that there are people who will do anything in their power to help families in desperate need is proof that God is working through people.

There are still amazing people in this world and there are no amount of words to thank you for everything that you have done for us. You deserve every blessing that comes your way and then some. Thank you for saving my family and being a light during such darkness. May God bless you all!
Love, our entire family"

Picture: Landon in the hospital.
For those of you unfamiliar with port-a-caths -they are a medical device placed under the skin connected to a vein used for blood draws, chemo and/or other treatments so a child/any patient can avoid continuous needle pokes and they can help avoid vein tears or collapsed veins when numerous vein access is required.

Together we celebrate 36 years of Little Star Foundation's mission to provide long term care and a better quality of life to children with cancer, their families and communities and children in need. It is exciting to continue Award Winning Programs making an important difference together!
Go to www.littlestar.org and Donate today to improve and save lives.
A Happy and Blessed 2021 to you!
With great appreciation, Andrea Jaeger – President  Little Star Foundation
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