



MONROE CARELL JR.
children's Hospital
at Vanderbilt

Department of Social Work

Dear Wanda,

Thank you so much for another year of allowing the patients and families in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital to benefit from the fund you started in honor and memory of your daughter, Terra.

For someone who has never had a child with cancer or serious hematology disease it would be hard to imagine how everything in life changes the instant you hear that diagnosis. Will my child survive? What are the treatments like? What about my child's schooling? How will this affect my other children? What about my job? How can I work and take care of my child at the same time? How will I pay the rent or mortgage? How will I pay the car payment, the electric bill, the phone bill, buy groceries, buy gas for the car? What if something unexpected happens and I need the car repaired? Terra's Angels understands how difficult it is for parents to struggle with financial burdens at the same time they are trying to manage their feelings of helplessness, fear, anger, anxiety, and resentment brought on by their child's diagnosis.

The families who have received financial assistance from Terra's Angels have told us over and over again what a blessing it is and how much they appreciate the help. They are so grateful when a month's rent is paid and they don't have to worry about being evicted. They are so thankful the phone bill will get paid so they can stay in touch with their child's oncologist at any hour of the day if a fever develops. The less families have to worry about how they are going to pay their bills, the more they can focus on helping their child through their illness.

Most wish organizations will not grant wishes for patients over 17 years old. Terra's Angels has stepped up to fill that void and has granted a wish for some of our young adult patients who otherwise would not have gotten a wish. It may seem like a small thing to some people, but to those patients it really brightens their spirits and gives them something to look forward to.

Many of our patients live a long way from Nashville. After a stem cell transplant, the physicians want patients to stay close by the hospital for 100 days until they are medically safe to go home. With the Ronald McDonald House being frequently full, Terra's Angels has been a safety net, paying for a hotel room or local apartment for a patient until a room at the Ronald McDonald House is available.

If Terra were here, she would be especially pleased that the fund with her name on it is continuing to help families daily with many varying, unexpected needs. We hope that people who are considering donating to Terra's Angels can understand what an important impact their gift will have on a family whose child has cancer.

On behalf of all of the families at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital that Terra's Angels has helped over this past year, we thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Three handwritten signatures in cursive script are arranged horizontally. The first signature on the left is for Sarah Smithmier, the middle one is for Jill Wanish, and the one on the right is for Cindy Miller.

Sarah Smithmier, CMSW

Jill Wanish, CMSW

Cindy Miller, CMSW

Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
Vanderbilt Children's Hospital