



B.I.G. Love September 2007

"We cannot all do great things but we can do small things with great love."
Mother Teresa

about us

B.I.G. Love Cancer Care is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization committed to providing personalized and relationship based care to cancer kids and their families at Arkansas Children's Hospital and Texas Children's Hospital.



Brooke Alyson Phillips

Summary for 2006-2007

We delivered:

- 92 Thanksgiving Bags
- 180 Valentine Baskets
- 77 Mother's Day Baskets
- 77 Father's Day Baskets
- 400 Children and Adult Books
- A Valentine's Meal for ACH and TCH
- A Christmas Lunch at TCH
- Desserts for ACH Doctor's and Nurses
- Desserts to ACH PICU and Cancer Unit along with blankets, hats and candy

Help Out!

Collect Donations
Become an even Sponsor
Register to Walk or Run

Courage Sponsor - \$10,000

Faith Sponsor - \$5,000

Believe Sponsor - \$2,500

Strength Sponsor - \$1000

Hope Sponsor - \$500

Love Sponsor - \$100

Haleigh Cassada

by: Suzelle Martin



On June 20, our family, representing Big Love, had the opportunity to meet Haleigh Cassada and her family at TCH while delivering Fathers Day gifts. With her big, bright smile and vibrant, diva attitude, Haleigh quickly won our hearts. After learning that Haleigh would be in the hospital for her 6th birthday, Big Love, along with Nanny Monette and Granny Sharon, served up a big, birthday bash for Princess Haleigh. It was a pleasure and an honor to share this special day with her and her family. We now wish to introduce you to Haleigh Cassada, a little girl with a whole lot of character and a whole lot of sass.

On November 10, 2005, at the age of 4,

Haleigh was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma. The plan of treatment included chemotherapy, surgical removal of the tumors in her abdomen, and a stem cell transplant. Throughout the course of her treatment, including nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, midnight hour ambulance rides, and frightening reactions to chemo drugs, Haleigh did not lose her spirit or any of her princess qualities. She faced each challenge like a hero...with courage, strength and bravery. Haleigh amazed her family at MD Anderson as she hopped up on the radiation table and said, "Let's Get This Started." After a lengthy surgery to remove her tumors, Haleigh again amazed her doctors and family when she came out of surgery talking and ready to go to a regular room. Finally in April of 2006, Haleigh had her big transplant day which she handled like a pro. And despite the many complications and set backs with her next phase of treatment, Haleigh came through with flying colors. She was home in time to attend the Princess Haleigh Parade in her home town and to celebrate her 5th birthday. She had the opportunity to start pre-school

and was even a TV celebrity during National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Then on February 16, 2007, Haleigh relapsed with new tumors appearing on her spleen and possibly her lungs. Haleigh entered a clinical study for the next two months and eventually underwent surgery for the removal of her spleen, a part of her stomach, and pancreas. With all of this



behind them for the moment, Mom, Dad, Big Brother and Haleigh are preparing for a Make-A-Wish trip on a Disney Cruise Line. We look forward to hearing the Disney details from Princess Haleigh herself! And like Haleigh's Mom always says — "Until next time, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!"

When the Storm Rages....

by Lori Rigdon

Oh the weary days surround me and I can't escape this pain
Just when light begins to shine it is put out by the rain.
Everywhere I turn a storm cloud looms above
I try to run away, but I'm consumed by the flood.
Oh how much more? I can't go another day
Lord are you there, can you hear me pray?
Why must these storms linger? When will I find peace?
When will I find solid ground on which to rest my feet?
Oh, Lord why all of this turmoil? I don't understand
Where are the answers? What is your plan?
There in the silence
when there were no more words to pray
A gentle voice whispered, "I am with you all the way.
I can see the storm clouds raging,
I see every drop of rain

I know your heart is breaking, I can feel your pain.
For me there are no mysteries though you can not understand
But you must trust me with the outcome and know I have a plan.
For you are my child, I will not abandon you
All of the answers I can't give, but I can offer you this truth...
That my love is everlasting and I am with you everyday
I will be your shelter in the midst of storms that rage.
And when they seem unending, I will give you peace.
Just know I hear the words you pray, and you can trust in Me.
I am the solid rock on which your feet can stand
I will fulfill in you all that I have planned.
I will bless and keep you, and on you my face will shine,
And my plans will be fulfilled in My perfect time.
I will turn my face toward you, and there you will see,
beyond the stormy days of pain, My promise of peace.

B.I.G. Love...to renew your hope, make you smile, and love you up!



Our Beginning

B.I.G.Love Cancer Care Services was established in honor of our five year old daughter, Brooke Alyson Phillips, after her battle with acute myeloid leukemia. After two years of fighting courageously through intense chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant at Texas Children's Hospital, we had to say goodbye to our sweet girl. She waits for us in heaven now...and we daily hold onto the hope that we will see her again one day and

feel her little arms wrapped tight around our necks. Until then, our family is determined to love like she loved us. Although she taught us many things throughout her two years of treatment...like how to trust, believe, persevere, and have faith...she also taught us how deep and long and high and wide love can really be. She had a special love for all her people, and she never ceased in expressing it. Even during her last days in the intensive care unit at Arkansas

Children's Hospital, she still managed to love BIG all her people. She sent out hundreds of kisses and gave the I Love You sign to everyone in the room. She would reach for us, pull us close to her chest and hold us tight. She held a picture of us close to her heart and kissed it over and over again. She told us repeatedly, "I love you up the sky." In Brooke's five years of life, she truly captured our hearts, changed our lives and loved us up.

Brooke not only loved all her people, but she cared deeply about the cancer kids around her. She prayed for them when they were crying and took them things to cheer them up. It is our desire to honor Brooke by serving and extending big love to other cancer kids and their families who are having to endure the intense burden and strain that we ourselves have had to face. We will follow the example of our sweet and loving Mermaid Princess!

Our Purpose

Our primary focus is to help cancer kids and their families during their most "critical" cancer battles. Whether the family is in the Intensive Care Unit or the regular cancer unit, we will provide them with weekly catered meals, a basket of essentials, parking passes, and groceries. During one of our "critical" battles, within Brooke's last few months on this side of heaven, we found ourselves in our greatest time of need. Every moment was critical, and it seemed as though decisions had to be made all the time. We never wanted to leave Brooke's side...not to eat...not for anything. We had several families that came along side us and "carried" us through these very difficult days. They made sure we had food. They ran to the store for us. They took care of Taylor. They provided for

all of our most basic needs. We are forever grateful... we could not have made it without them. Likewise, BIG Love wants to help "carry" families through their critical battles. We want them to worry less about the details and be able to focus their attention on their child.

In addition, we will have many events throughout the year to enhance Holiday time at the hospital for all cancer kids and their families. We will provide Holiday Gift

Baskets and Catered Meals celebrating: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Princess Diva Day (Brooke's Birthday).

It is also of utmost importance to BIG Love to support and encourage the doctors and nurses that everyday care for cancer kids and their families. We have seen first hand what our doctors and nurses have to endure everyday. They were not only our doctors, they became our friends. They loved Brooke and us deeply... and worked endlessly to fight for her. It is not just their job... it is their calling. We want to make it one of the missions of BIG Love to always lift them up, esteem them and encourage them in all their efforts.



We Lovingly Remember

- Rebekah Belmont by -
- Frank and Ina Jean Smith
- William Rumph by -
- Susan Rumph
- Brooke A. Phillips by -
- Chace and Michelle Phillips

We Lovingly Honor

- Dr. Meredith Denton by -
- Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Yelverton
- Hailey Cassada by -
- Granny Phillips and Nanny Smith

"I need you to know your story has changed my life. I thank Brooke for that change! I picked up my newspaper one day (the Houston Chronicle) and read Brooke's obituary. I then logged onto Carepages and read your whole story. I was so touched and moved by your faith and love that I started telling myself I needed God in my life. So I thank Brooke and yourself for opening that door for me."

Donations in Honor or Memory of Someone Special

Your Name: _____ Donation Amount: _____
 Send To: _____ At: _____
 In Honor Of: _____ (or) In Memory Of: _____

Send your gift to B.I.G. Love Cancer Care in the attached envelope.



In Loving Memory

♥ Chelsey Coy Campbell



In October of 2005, Chelsey Coy Campbell, a 15 year old high school sophomore and home coming princess was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called undifferentiated sarcoma, which at the time of diagnosis was classified as advanced Stage IV. Statistically, survival rate for this type of cancer is minimal, however, Chelsey, was determined to beat the odds. After her 3rd round of chemotherapy, there was evidence that the tumors were beginning to shrink which made surgery for tumor removal possible. In February of 2006, Chelsey made headlines when she underwent a marathon surgery. The 10-12 hour surgery turned into an unbelievable 29 hours removing 95% of the tumors. Despite numerous complications following this surgery, she made remarkable progress. Enduring physical therapy and other regimens, Chelsey's determination and strength always shone through. She also loved the cancer kids that shared her life, spending countless hours in the playroom with them.

Chelsey was loved, evident by the 900 + visitors that checked her care page daily, leaving messages, offering encouragement or a prayer. Over the next year, she became a celebrity on the local news and a familiar face dropping the puck at an Aero's game. Snowdrop Foundation was created in her honor to raise awareness of childhood cancer and fund research. She faced many obstacles but always navigated them with strength and faith. In October of 2006, the tumors returned. There were no other treatment options available for Chelsey. She was welcomed into heaven on December 9, 2006 at the tender age of 16 but not without a courageous and valiant battle against this vile enemy. While Chelsey is no longer on this side of heaven, she will live on through her family and friends and by all those whose lives she touched

♥ Andy Summers



On March 8, 2006 our 5 month old son Andy was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, AML. The next few months were spent at Texas Children's Hospital and were full of ups and downs. Andy was the hit of the 9th floor at TCH with his big smile and flirtatious nature. He loved strolling around the floor or sitting in his walker at the entrance of his room watching all of the activity. Andy was rarely sick or in pain and enjoyed all of the attention that was lavished on him by nurses, doctors, fellows, PCAs and just about anyone else who came in contact with him. In July, we found out that Andy had relapsed. We started preparing for Andy to receive a bone marrow transplant. During that time, he relapsed again with leukemia in both his eyes. In September, he received his new bone marrow from his 3 year old sister, Betty. October 2, 2006, we were finally all together again under one roof.

Andy loved playing with his big sister and being outside. He was a typical little brother pulling hair, wrestling and always right behind Betty. Three weeks later, we learned that Andy had relapsed again. On November 8, 2006, Andy entered heaven's gates. He was truly an inspiration to many and his smile will always be etched in our memory.

♥ Malachi Thomas Schaefer

Malachi Thomas Schaefer was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia on Jan. 15, 2007. Leukemia cells were found in his spinal fluid making his type of leukemia a type 5. A very aggressive form of cancer, plans were to hit the enemy hard, cripple it and have sibling matched donor cells ready to take on the fight. Unfortunately, Malachi's sister was not a match, which meant he would have to endure 5 rounds of chemotherapy to prepare him for a non-related bone marrow transplant.. Throughout the next few months, Malachi endured bouts of fever, mouth sores, pain, pokes, prods, pills, weakened and non-existent immune system resulting in infection yet he faced each part of the chemo with God's strength and power. Having read each entry on his care page, one entry explained how the challenge of Malachi's disease had altered his and his family's lives forever. Malachi had taught them a number of things about himself and he had taught them a number of things about themselves. The one lesson that was before them was the ability to be tough. This toughness was far more than just the physical ability to withstand pain and suffering (although that was a portion of it), but includes the resilience and attitude of the heart and mind. Malachi had already endured more pain, discomfort, sickness, etc. than anyone at his age should be expected to endure. The surprising part is that he did it with such grace and dignity. Rarely did he cry about his medical procedures, rarely did he whine and fuss when he didn't feel well. Instead he had set his mind to not only endure the trials set before him but also to engage them with a positive attitude and disposition. By mid June 2007, Malachi was half way through his 5th and hopefully the final round of chemo and doing well. Within 24 hours, infection and fever had attacked his little body and within just a few short days, this horrible disease claimed another life. Malachi Thomas Schaefer fought the good fight, he finished the race, and he kept the faith. On the 19th day of June, 2007 he quietly passed on to receive his crown of righteousness



www.biglovecancercare.org
jessica@biglovecancercare.org
 870-863-4490



Ways you can love BIG!

Donate items for cancer kids and their families

Books, coloring books and crayons, kids movies, games, art and craft kits, match-box cars, lego sets, Disney cup and bowl, nerf basketball set, princess dresses, crowns and princess shoes, eye-shades, make-up sets and purses, window stickers, puzzles, hats, bandanas, blankets, soft pillow cases, book lights, socks, house shoes, body lotions, shower gels, bath scrubbers, shampoo, pedicure or manicure sets, lip balm or lip gloss, thank you cards or stationary set, pens, journals, cof-

fee mugs, flavored coffees and teas, flavored powered creamers, razors, shaving cream, \$10 in quarters (for vending machines), key chain flashlights, ear plugs, disposable camera, toothbrushes, toothbrush holder, kleenex, softsoap, laundry detergent, dental floss, Q-tips, flexible drinking straws, Clorox disinfectant wipes, word find book/crossword puzzle books, and phone cards.

Make a donation in honor or

memory of someone special

Honor a loved one's memory by making a donation in their name, or you can make a donation in honor of some-

one's birthday, graduation, anniversary, or wedding. We will notify the recipient/family of your gift. Complete the form included in this newsletter and mail to us in the attached envelope.

Sponsor Holiday Gifts and Baskets

For six different holidays throughout the year, we will go to Texas Children's and Arkansas Children's Hospitals to take holiday gift baskets and meals. Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Princess Diva Day (Brooke's Birthday).

Make a donation to BIG Love

Make a donation and help

us meet the needs of all the critical cancer kids at Texas Children's Hospital and Arkansas Children's Hospital by providing weekly catered meals, parking passes, groceries and other basic necessities. Thank you for your generosity.

Help us sell our BIG Love

merchandise

At your place of work, school or church, you can help us raise money for BIG Love by offering to your friends our Cancer Kid Cookbooks, T-Shirts, Scripture Books, Key Chains and Coffee Mugs. You can view and order all these items on our website.

Thanks for your BIG Love!

Jennie Luicke, Greg and Shay Olinger, Mike and Theresa Hammonds, Brandi Horvath, Rita Benton, Jim and Becca Collins, Jerry and Suzanne Yelverton, Butch and Sharon McReynolds, Glen Johnson, Barbara Greenway, James and Suzanne McCracken, Phil and Elissa Green, Cathy Christie, Patty Cragg, Robin Haidacher, Marty and Jill Gibson, Karla Supak, Tracy Shambley, JJ and Natalie Molock, Linley Kowis, Katy Crockett, Marissa Ipock

BIG Love Store

Brooke's Incredible Cookbook
A Loving Tribute to Cancer Kids
and their Families

Cookbooks will be ready in November

Price: \$20.00

T-Shirts - \$12.00

(Brown, Purple, Turquoise,)

Silver Bracelets - \$12.00

Prayer Needs

Please continue your prayers for our many friends at TCH and ACH who are still undergoing cancer treatment, and remember all the incredible doctors, nurses and staff that so lovingly serve them everyday.

Please also continue praying for BIG Love as we begin and continue this journey.

And last, please remember all the families who are now separated from their little ones...pray for strength and peace.

Big Love Cancer Care
P.O. Box 10386
El Dorado, AR 71730





