



ONE ACT OF KINDNESS!

Shepard Cancer Center team members take their mission to heart, one act of kindness at a time.

Since its inception in 2007, the mission of the Shepard Cancer Foundation has been to financially support and promote the Marion L Shepard Cancer Center in its efforts to improve the mind, body and spirit of cancer patients, survivors and caregivers. Through the years this mission has served as an inspiration to the team members at the Shepard Cancer Center to provide support and encouragement in so many different ways to their patients and their families.

As a matter of fact, the foundation was started years ago because the staff at the cancer center held a fundraising dance – Shaggin’ for a Cause – to raise money to help the patients and families they served. Now, 14 years later, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised to continue to support cancer patients and their families in a myriad of ways and the team members are at the center of making that support come to life and to brighten their patient’s lives. Whether it is wearing crazy socks or hats or dressing up in fun costumes at Halloween to bring smiles to their patient’s faces or offering words of encouragement and a hug to planning a day of fun to celebrate cancer survivorship – this team of compassionate and devoted team members takes their mission to heart.

In February of 2020, the cancer center team had the honor of meeting and the privilege to provide care to a young man, Jeremy Boyer, who was fighting a diagnosis of leukemia. Jeremy, not even 30-years-old at the time, his girlfriend, Alexis, and their sons, Jeremy and Sylas, quickly touched the hearts of the cancer center team. (Con't on page 2.)

Jeremy's cancer battle was a hard one for him and his sweet family. As Jeremy continued his treatment, the team learned of Jeremy and Alexis' desire to be married. Their hope was to wait until Jeremy was well, but unfortunately his prognosis was critical. Once Jeremy and Alexis decided they were ready, the Shepard Cancer Center wedding planning team kicked into high gear! Flowers, wedding cake, rings, music, a minister and a photographer were all acquired within 24 hours and the team, along with support from the Shepard Cancer Foundation, made Jeremy and Alexis' dream come true.

Alexis describes Jeremy as a very affectionate person, an amazing father to Jeremy and Syllas and a wonderful husband, provider and protector and she has peace knowing that their dream of becoming husband and wife came true before Jeremy's passing. The cancer center team has continued to stay close to the Boyer family, deciding at Christmas to adopt Jeremy and Syllas to make sure their Christmas wishes came true, as well.

The mission of supporting their patients goes well beyond the exam room and infusion suite – the kind of care and support this team provides – touches the heart of our patient's journey – one act of kindness at a time!

Members of the Shepard Cancer Foundation board include: Jim Hackney, president; Marvin Alligood; Cynthia Barrett; Frank Belote; Amy Brewer; Pansy Champion; Mary Jane Cook; Mike Gwynn; Stacey Lynch; Ed Mann; Melinda Moore; Catherine Pfeiffer; Jack Piland; Gary Wilson.



In 2020, Shepard Cancer Center and its foundation provided:

- 3,278 referrals and services
- 193 patients with financial assistance
- \$4,000 in upgrades to multi-purpose room

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