

13 October 2017

To: Leukemia Texas Patient Aid

RE: Patient Aid received by  
Gerard Neumann

Dear Leukemia Texas Board  
and Administration,



*Me with five of my grandchildren.*

Thank you for the check for \$1,250 you gave me to cover my patient expenses.

You have helped me for the past three years and it is with great appreciation that I benefit from your goodness and charity again this year.

This year was a tough one for my family and me. After six years of getting a clean bill of health, in November a blood test showed low platelets. Further investigation revealed therapy related MDS as the cause.

The money you gave me is helping more than ever as I am now required to make trips to MD Anderson every two to three months. Doctors have me on an investigational study with low dose decitabine. So far, results are less than stellar. Platelets that were as low as five in January now reach 23 on a good day. My stem cell doctor has me approved for another transplant, but I'm not sure that is a procedure I want to put myself and my family through again unless it proves absolutely necessary.

I hope to celebrate seven years as a survivor in November. I feel great. I still run regularly and my only real issue is bruising. My blast count is low, and it's hard to complain about a mark or two on my body.

Survival remains a blessing. My grandson Henry was born in January and then granddaughter Claire was born in March. The two brought my grandchild count to 10.

I'm in my second year of semi-retirement as I substitute and wait for my wife to retire in December. At that point, we are selling our home and moving out to Katy where we can be closer to our children and grandchildren.

In December, with my platelets at 14, I ran in the BCS half marathon. A friend remarked that I should have been bubble wrapped. I'm looking forward to running in the same race again this December. It's become a time to get together with my children. I usually come in second of four among my children running the half. Running helps me stay healthy and it lets me forget my trial and reminds me how fortunate I've been.

Leukemia has been a nightmare, but at the same time it has been a blessing. It has given me a perspective I might not otherwise have. Thank you so much for being a part of my recovery and treatment. With help and prayers from you and others, I will continue my fight as long as the Good Lord allows me.

Gerard Neumann