



# TRAVEL TO HOPE UPDATE

I am pleased to report that Travel to Hope has so far been able to help **161 patients in 22 states** and has **supported 1351 trips** to treatment... all **thanks to you!**

Yesterday was national Cancer Survivor's Day. In celebration of that, I am happy to let you know that **15 of our patients have completed their treatment!**

## Fundraising Update

Over the course of the month of May, Travel to Hope had the opportunity for two wonderful fundraising opportunities:



First, the **Kendra Scott Foundation** supported us for an in-store and online fundraising opportunity which **generated \$813.83 in donations.**



PATINA RESTAURANT GROUP

In addition, we were invited by **Patina Restaurant Group** to volunteer over the seven-day **PGA Championship** event at Valhalla golf course in Louisville, Kentucky.

In partnership with **GE Appliances, a Haier Company**, **over 70 volunteers** from GEA and their family & friends enabled Travel to Hope to **raise \$16,271.41.**

In total, these two fundraising events generated funds to support **nearly 180 trips to treatment!**

### **Bringing Hope and Healing to Cancer Patients and Families: Colleen and Brian's Story**



As two avid golf lovers, it only seems fitting on the heels of our PGA event that I share with you the story of Colleen and Brian to help you understand the impact your generosity makes for the patients we serve.

For the past five years, Colleen and Brian have been traveling extensively from their home in rural Oklahoma to battle what started as colon cancer. So far, due to her cancer, Colleen has had 3 brain surgeries, 2 lung surgeries, 3 back surgeries and 4 hip replacements, in addition to chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

Brian works in the insurance industry and has only been able to work ~60 days per year due to the care and demanding treatment travel schedule that Colleen needs.

In Colleen's words, "My illness has taken a toll on both of us. I worry so much about Brian and all he has to do. Brian doesn't mention the health problems he deals with and I know a lot has to do with stress. You have helped greatly with the burden and stress he deals with on a daily basis when it comes to me and my health and the

travel expenses we face. Travel to Hope is Heaven sent to us and I can't begin to thank you enough for ALL you do!"

Brian recently shared with me some statistics from his work in the insurance industry that became all too real for them when Colleen became ill:

- 87% of the US population will at some point have cancer, heart attack or stroke
- 78% of those that file for bankruptcy do so because of medical bills
- 53% of the money spent on these conditions is not covered by insurance

In Brian's words, "We thought we were financially prepared, but found out quickly that treating the multiple conditions caused by her cancer were going to be more than we ever realized and were more than we could handle."

Most of our patients are just like Colleen and Brian... working Americans who are not only physically and emotionally devastated by their illness, but financially devastated as well, with mounting medical and travel bills and no ability to work or disability benefits available to them. Without your help, many simply would not be able to afford to travel for the care they so desperately need.

On behalf of Colleen, Brian and the 161 patients and families you support, **thank you** for the hope you give...

*Gretta Feldkamp*

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Executive Director, Travel to Hope



[www.TraveltoHope.org](http://www.TraveltoHope.org)

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