

Litany of Thanks

read on behalf of the family by
Jane Sappington and Rod Scheck

We are grateful ...

For our children. The smiles and joy we have from them continue to buoy us through these challenging times. Anna and Sophie – you have been the best daughters and sisters a family could ask for. We love you more every day.

For our families. The hours of calls, the miles and miles of travel, the time freely given, and the comfort of your company have shown us over and over what true family means.

For each word of support, thanks, prayer and thought that was daily given as they've lifted us through difficult times.

For every donation, unselfishly given us. Every penny eased our burden and allowed us to focus on our family at a most critical time.

For the continual stream of visitors who wrapped us in the loving support we have so needed.

For the many many cards and gifts that were sent to brighten the day of a sick little boy;

For the homemade meals given to nourish our family;

For the neighbors and friends who helped us juggle caring for the girls while our attention had to be focused in Baltimore;

For the friends, teachers, and counselors who helped us support Anna and Sophie during this difficult time;

For Johns Hopkins Medical Center and our great fortune at living so close to a top notch hospital, and to the amazing doctors and nurses there;

For Doctor Will, who was like a light in the dark of this difficult road we had to travel, helping us grapple with difficult decisions, and who always kept Henry's best interests first;

For the Believe In Tomorrow Foundation, which housed us in Baltimore in such comfort that we have dear and fond memories of our time there;

For Chick-Fil-A, a true and enduring favorite of Henry's. Those crispy nuggets were the first food he ate consistently after his stem cell transplant. We stopped at Chick-Fil-A in Baltimore virtually every time we went to clinic;

For Tri-State Community Health Center for supporting Tara and her family in so many ways, through fundraising, visits, gifts, and for giving Tara the thing she needed most: time with her family;

For the Hagerstown Hurricanes, our soccer family, who came to aid us so many times, with money, transportation, gifts, but most importantly love and support to Bryan and the girls;

For Miss Eunice, on the dietary staff at Johns Hopkins, who Henry loved to talk to on the phone to place his order, and who always brought him his special orange mug;

For Hospice, for the calm and compassionate support they gave us and countless other families facing loss;

For Miss Lindsey, Henry's babysitter since birth. Henry loved her dearly, and as a bonus, she drove a lime green VW bug, which will forever in our home be known as a Miss Lindsey car. Lindsey, you brightened his life in so many ways and we can never thank you enough.

For The Little Gym. Henry so enjoyed his Friday sessions. He ran and jumped and played hide and seek in the dark. He was able to be normal boy there.

For the dozens of people who fundraised for Henry, either to benefit him, or to benefit pediatric cancer research. These included several strangers shaving their heads, a sorority sponsoring him for Relay for Life in Kansas, a motorcycle ride in Henry's honor, a local basketball game benefit, bake sales, bracelet sales, numerous raffles, ornament sales, and our own Alex's Lemonade Stand, which Henry loved.

For everyone who donates blood. Henry's treatment never would have been possible without this selfless act. He received multiple life-giving transfusions, and through each one we tried to imagine the giving person on the other end.

For the so many special treats that Henry got to experience through the generosity of loved ones, friends, and strangers. We cannot hope to list them all, but here are some of the really cool things that Henry got to do:

- Ride in a monster truck
- Pilot a boat through the Inner Harbor. He was especially good at turning circles.
- Drive real construction vehicles.
- Build a RideMakerz fire-dump-monster truck. The store was opened just for him because at the time Henry couldn't be around other children.
- Visit and sit in so many fire trucks. He even got to control the ladder on the truck that came to his birthday party.
- Ride the water taxi in the Inner Harbor whenever he wanted, for free (thanks, Captain Mark.)
- Took a fabulous trip to Orlando through the generosity of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and those who support it.

For all of you. It's so clear that Henry's life, though short, touched a lot of people, those here, and many many others not here. Henry's life was filled with love, and we thank you all for that.

And for Henry, who taught us all so many things, but most importantly taught us that the more we get together, the happier we'll be.