



Houston Ground Angels

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Angel Updates</i>	2
<i>Planned Events</i>	2
<i>What's New</i>	2
<i>Patient's Poetry</i>	3
<i>Trina's Letter</i>	4
<i>Final Notes</i>	5
<i>Contact Numbers</i>	6

IT'S A PERFECT MATCH !!

Does your employer match contributions and hours you have volunteered to non-profit organizations??

Know a business that would sponsor some of our events?

Please Contact Us !
www.houstongroundangels.org

NEW OFFICE FOR HOUSTON GROUND ANGELS

After many years of operation this non-profit organization out of private homes, The Houston Ground Angels can finally coordinate their missions of assisting patients from this new location. "This is an exciting time for all of us, and an opportunity to move forward with our goals to assist patients who are traveling to Houston from surrounding areas in reaching their treatments and diagnostic tests in Houston's Medical Center District," says Dayton Zimmermann, Executive Director for Houston Ground Angels.

Our volunteers and staff have been offering their time, free transportation, and peace of mind for travelers with illness for many years since it was first founded by Kathy Broussard in 2000. The volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and pay for their own fuel, just as the pilots use their own planes and provide their own fuel. Some patients also fly in by commercial airlines and some corporate sponsored jets.



Our drivers greet the patients at the planes or airport terminals, then transport them, free of charge, to Houston's Medical Center. The volunteers ease the sometimes overwhelming burdens that patients face during their battle with an illness. Traveling out of state, or long distances frequently is expensive and physically draining enough, but the expenses for transportation add up quickly.

Now patients can arrive and know they will be met

with a friendly face and will not have to worry about reaching their destination safely.

The organization is always seeking new volunteers, and welcomes donations or corporate sponsorship.

Check out the updated website:

www.houstongroundangels.org

CALLING ALL ANGELS !!

As you can see by the announcements above, there are many new developments at Houston Ground Angels:

The opening of our new office in Kingwood, Texas

Mr. Dayton Zimmermann has joined us as our Executive Director

We are currently acquiring funds for hiring a full time staff

We now have TWO mission coordinators: Kathy Cardiff and Mary Hutto

Please Let Us Know If You Have Any Interest In Working With Any Of These Fun Committees, Or If You Can Share Some Of Your Expertise With Us, We Welcome It!:

FUNDRAISING: Contact Jeanette Coiner or Pam Keffer

HUMAN RESOURCES: Contact Donna Zimmermann

NEWSLETTER/PUBLISHING SKILLS: Contact Jan Zieche

PUBLICITY/SALES/MARKETING: Contact Dayton Zimmermann



“Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat upon a chair

Perhaps you sent us beautiful flowers, if so, we saw them there

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words that any friend could say

Perhaps you were not there at all, but thought of us that day

Whatever you did to console our hearts

We thank you so much, whatever your part.”

The Davidson family

EARLY MORNING DEPARTURES MADE EASIER FOR PATIENTS AND DRIVERS

Now patients with early morning flights out of Houston Intercontinental Airport have another option that will make their travel a little less stressful. The Baymont Inn & Suites 18032 McKay Drive

Humble TX 77338 (281) 446-0343 and Best Western Plus 7114 Will Clayton Pkwy Humble TX 77338 (281) 548-1402 offer special rates to Houston Ground Angels’ patients which include, free

breakfast, and free shuttle service to the terminal when a patient stays the night before their early morning departure from Houston.

The patient only needs to request the Houston Ground Angel rate.



Special Hotel Rates !!!

FREE BREAKFAST

FREE SHUTTLE

REDUCE STRESS

SLEEP IN

NICE, NEW, CLEAN HOTELS

VOLUNTEER REMINDERS

Transporting patients to and from airports, hotels and hospitals requires a little extra “consideration.”

A few things to remember, that can make a big difference in the passengers’ experiences with us are:

- 1) Avoid wearing strong fragrances, colognes, lotions, etc.
- 2) Contact your patient

immediately after accepting the mission to let them know they will have transportation upon their arrival.

- 3) Let the patients, and any other passengers along for the ride what vehicle to be watching for, which entrance to meet you at, what you will be wearing, and what your cell phone number is if they need to

contact you after they land.

- 4) Tell your passengers about how long you expect the ride to be, in case they need to use the restroom first.
- 5) Be polite, helpful, and **welcome them with a warm, friendly, and reassuring smile!**

END OF YEAR FUNDRAISER PLANNED

SUNDAY—DECEMBER 4, 2011
SPONSORSHIP WELCOMED !

Mark your calendars now for the **Houston Ground Angel** end of year fundraising event at the Junior League of Houston, located just inside the loop .

We chose a more “centralized location” this year so if you have never attended an event held in this beautiful building, you are in for a pleasant surprise. The food and service are exceptionally good.

This year we are honored to have the outstanding musical gifts of **Julia Laskowski** to entertain us once again.



SPECIAL LETTER FROM A PATIENT SENT TO HOUSTON GROUND ANGELS



*Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat upon a chair
Perhaps you sent us beautiful flowers, if so, we saw them there
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words that any friend could say
Perhaps you were not there at all, but thought of us that day
Whatever you did to console our hearts
We thank you so much, whatever your part.
The Davidson family*

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR DECEMBER FUNDRAISING EVENT

If you have any items that can be contributed to our silent auction during the December fundraising event this year, please let us know!



Some Ideas:

Fine Wines
Spa Packages
Restaurant Offers
Antiques

Houston Ground Angels

1525 Lakeville Drive
Kingwood, Texas 77339

Phone: (281)900-7377 -Main Office
Or Contact Dayton Zimmermann at:
(281)841-8083

We are on the web!
houstongroundangels.org

Volunteer Pilots and Drivers
Caring Hearts / Friendly Faces



Trina's Letter To Houston Ground Angels

It was the day before Thanksgiving, 2008 when I discovered something wasn't right. The day after Thanksgiving, I received the call: You have cancer in your right breast.

November quickly became December and by the middle of the month, I was requesting a second opinion at MD Anderson. I arrived in Houston the first week of January and met with my oncologist. Immediately, he gave me realistic hope. I was diagnosed with Stage 4 HER2 Positive breast cancer that spread to my liver and he truly felt that my worse case situation was 10 to 20 years in chronic care.

The month of January was filled with tests and scans and finally, I was accepted into a trial study. I'll never forget the day when Dr. I came into my room and gave me the news. My daughter Hilly was with me and with a twinkle in his eyes and a smile larger than life, he didn't even bother to say hello. "I'm going to cure you!" At that very moment, I knew I was where I belonged. Houston was becoming my home. He asked me if I liked to travel. Of Course! Well, if you are accepted for the trial, are you willing to travel from Appleton, Wisconsin to Houston every week? Absolutely!

Hilly and I happily packed our bags and started our drive back to Wisconsin. Knowing I couldn't drive this every week, I started looking at flights. I was told of companies with private jets that could offer me a seat to Houston, but I wouldn't know if there would be space available until 2 days before departure and there also was an underlying factor of weather. This wasn't going to be an option for me. I had to be sure to make it to Texas on time, every time. This was going to become very expensive, but my life is more important!

My first treatment began February 4, 2009. I came down and took a taxi to the hotel. I wasn't able to get into the Rotary House... I learned to plan far ahead, but I was close enough to the hospital. My jaw dropped when I owed the driver \$50.00 the ride. I looked at my sister and said, "Yikes! This is going to be very expensive!" But what choice did I have?

During my treatment, my research nurse came in and stayed with me for the better part of my infusions. I was so much more than a patient here. I was a person.

When we were talking, she asked me if I had concerns. I told her that the commute from the airport is pretty steep and that's when I first heard about Houston Ground Angels and Pilots.

I was given the number and I called. I couldn't get anyone for the return to the airport, but I was helped with how the system works. This was my first conversation with Kathy Cardiff, a living, breathing angel.

The following week, My sister and I arrived in Houston and began our search for a red Ford Explorer, and there she was, warm, loving and ready to become not only my chauffeur, she would become a dear friend. I cannot explain the gratitude I feel to this day for this organization.

*Driving in Houston is nothing less than chaotic, especially for a girl from Wisconsin! Not only is this organization generous with the absorbed cost of the airport- hospital commute, the living angels one encounters are gifts. Houston Ground Angels and Pilots are filled with respect, love and grace. For these volunteers to give of themselves is a truthful and sincere way of benevolence. I thank God for this organization, especially for its originator Kathy Broussard. Her selfless giving has created a remarkable charity for people everywhere who find themselves in a challenge of their lives. Houston Ground Angels and Pilots are beyond helpful. They take the worries away from the minds of those in the throes of physical and emotional turmoil.

My second Houston Ground Angel encounter was with a true Texan: Jerry. I had just finished my treatment and Jerry was to meet my sister Kris and I at the valet service area of Mays Clinic. Looking for a silver truck, not knowing whom to expect, my name was called: "Kath-er-ine????? There he was, Jerry. It's true. Everything is big in Texas, especially the warm hearts and southern smiles of the men and women surrounding Houston. I am endeared to all of you.

Trina's Letter (Continued From Previous Page)

Houston Ground Angels and Pilots are people who without their knowledge give strength and courage to those who are blessed by their giving. These things may seem small, but in the life of a person who is fighting the fight, they really are just as important as the chemotherapies and procedures towards healing.

I love my Angels.

Trina Reynolds
Appleton, Wisconsin

We would love to hear from you too !

Send us your ideas, comments, share your stories, and help us to reach out to others.

INVITE A FRIEND, ASK YOUR CHURCH, ASK YOUR SCHOOL, ASK YOUR EMPLOYER !!!

Our volunteer drivers and pilots are much appreciated for their help in transporting patients, and we encourage everyone to **SPREAD THE WORD** and invite others to volunteer as well.

So tell a friend or two and invite groups you associate with to get involved and help others by signing up with Houston Ground Angels!!

Give them the number to call, and tell them to visit our website.

Important Contact Information

Web Site www.houstongroundangels.org

Mission Request can be made via web site or by phone

Mission Request Phone 281-900-7377

Houston Ground Angels
1525 Lakeville Drive
Kingwood, Texas 77339
office 281-348-9103 ext. 2221
Fax 281-348-9188

Dayton E. Zimmermann, Executive Director
dayton.zimmermann@houstongroundangels.org
281-348-9103 ext. 2221