



### Where The Shopping Is Free And Easy

Hello,

My name is Buck Schroeter. In August of 2006 I was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia and received a stem cell transplant the following November. I am in remission and doing well. During my illness I was overwhelmed by the care I received from the hospital, family and friends; and I promised that when I got well I would find a way to give back care like I had been given. One of the hardest things about my illness was being in the hospital during Christmas and unable to shop for and give Christmas presents to my family and friends. I thought that other kids in the hospital must be going through the same thing I was, so I decided that I would come up with a way to give them the opportunity to get and give Christmas gifts while in the hospital.

At first I thought that I would ask for donations and money to buy gifts to put on a cart to take around to the rooms in the hospital and kids could choose presents from it. But when I began telling people about my project, the support became so generous that we had to create a store, a wrapping room in the hospital and find many volunteers to help us run this project I named Buck's Barn. Since 2007, each year we choose a weekend near Christmas and set up Buck's Barn at Dell Children's Hospital. Throughout the year my mom's expert shopping skills help me accumulate over 1,000 gifts and then before Buck's Barn, my Boy Scout Troop helps transport them all in two trailers to the hospital. Over 70 volunteer friends and family give over 300 inpatient kids an opportunity to shop for free at the Barn. Young patients get to shop for gifts of all kinds for their family and even pets, then volunteers wrap the gifts and deliver them to their hospital rooms. We also offer Buck's Barn to kids in the Oncology clinic at Specially for Children and over 100 kids going through cancer treatment get to enjoy Buck's Barn as well. The event is amazing and anyone will tell you, it brings a lot of good feeling and lifted spirits to kids who needed it a lot. Many people told us that because of their medical woes, Buck's Barn was the only Christmas they had. I can't tell you how much it meant to me to see how much it meant to them and to know how much stuff like this helped heal me.

I can tell you from experience, there is nothing that made me feel better or helped me get well quicker than kind acts of other people, like those from you to Buck's Barn. I wanted to let you know that we are set to have another Buck's Barn again this year on December 4th at Dell Children's Hospital. We have over 1,900 presents and 90 volunteers ready to work 3 shifts during the day assisting patients choose gifts, wrap and deliver them to the hospital rooms. We hope to have a bigger and better Buck's Barn every year.

Thanks for considering helping either by cash donation or volunteering, it is very much appreciated by me and very many kids in need. If you would like to help, please call me or my mom.

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