

# Brent's Place



It doesn't matter your age, race, or socioeconomic standing, no family chooses to battle the rigor of childhood cancer. While we may not be able to control who is inflicted with cancer, we do have the ability to lend a hand in making the recovery process a little more bearable. As the benefactor of the Urban Navigator, Brent's Place will receive our support to help two important programs that do just that. Below are two stories that depict how the My Time and Personal Chef programs make a huge impact on these families during recovery.

**Adam, age 23**, from Michigan, was in Avon, Colorado completing his internship for Construction Management with Village Homes when he collapsed on site. Adam woke up at a hospital in Denver to sounds of beeping IV machines and whispers about Leukemia. Leukemia became the dreary topic of conversation. The months that

followed were grueling. Adam's parent's and sister flew from a small town in Michigan to be by his side while he was administered a bone marrow transplant (thanks to his favorite donor and sister, Amy). After a month at the hospital, Adam and his family were welcomed to Brent's Place.

Brent's Place offered Adam a safe place to heal, delicious meals from our talented Personal Chefs, movie tickets when white blood cell counts were high, and video game and poker rivals when white blood cell counts were low. The Brent's Place *My Time Program* also ensured that Adam's family was given a chance to decompress. Adam's mother enjoyed massages, quilting materials, and having her hair done at a salon across the street. Adam's father, a talented guitarist, visited music stores with staff and even practiced his chops with a Denver band!

Brent's Place had the pleasure of having Adam's Family for 131 days. Adam, an avid hockey fan, celebrated his trip home by attending Denver's Frozen Four Hockey Tournament. Adam plans to return to Denver this June, cancer-free, for the Brent's Place Volley for Kids, a co-ed volleyball tournament.



**Sean, age 2**, from Albuquerque New Mexico won a really awful lottery. Sean is one of approximately 15 children in the US to be diagnosed with NEMO, a genetic defect that results in being born without an immune system.

Sean's concerned family came to Denver to obtain specialized treatment at The Children's Hospital, determined that their luck would change. Sean's treatment required a bone marrow transplant; which would be difficult because Sean does not have any genetically related siblings. Hope was re-kindled when a matched donor was found on the worldwide bone marrow donor registry!



After Sean's transplant, Mom, Dad, and sister all came to Brent's Place. Sean was so pleased to have his family with him... and also to have the fire station nearby. Every time a fire engine would blaze past Sean would run to his window and wave. Sean's Mom enjoyed pottery making in our Foundation House, and Sean's Dad loved to challenge our other guests to electronic bowling tournaments. Sean's sister learned how to ride a bike (without training wheels) on our playground! After four months at Brent's Place, Sean was healthy enough to return home. On his last day at Brent's Place, a fire engine came down his familiar street. Much to Sean's surprise, it STOPPED just outside his window! His friends had arrived to send him off...not before he'd had a chance to push some buttons and spray the hose.

Sean has touched our lives, and we look forward to seeing him realize his dream of becoming a firefighter.