

October 20, 2015



Dear Miracle Families,

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your lives through the Children's Miracle Network Travel Grant Program. The miracle stories we hear every day make such an impact and we feel privileged to serve you. After much research, time, and discussion, it is with heavy hearts that we write to inform you that CMN must cease travel grants as of December 31st, 2015. This was an incredibly difficult decision to make and we hope this letter lends reassurance that it was not made in haste, but with the future of Pediatric care in Amarillo at the forefront of our minds.

In order to most appropriately explain this decision, we must first shed light on the history of Children's Miracle Network of Amarillo. We have been in the Amarillo community for 34 years and have traditionally been aligned with one not-for-profit hospital. Originally, CMN was aligned with Northwest Texas Hospital and then transitioned to Baptist St. Anthony's in the 1990's. While being aligned with our non-profit hospital, all CMN funding stayed in that hospital and was used to purchase equipment and help patients. Because of the sale of both local hospital systems, Children's Miracle Network of Amarillo became part of a newly established community-based health organization, Harrington Cancer and Health Foundation.

The transition into a community-based foundation enabled us to focus on the community as a whole, helping everyone that lives in our service area, rather than only those in a specific hospital. As you can imagine, this presented the opportunity to meet many families with sick or injured children. During this phase we began the Travel Grant Program and our eyes were opened to the overwhelming number of children in our area being referred to specialists in other parts of the state and throughout the country.

This program unveiled a major shortcoming in our region so we began looking for ways to rectify it. We want to stop sending children away from our area to get the treatment they need and instead bring that specialized care here to Amarillo. As the first step in bringing said treatment to Amarillo, we have recently partnered with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Amarillo and Northwest Texas Healthcare System to recruit several pediatric sub-specialty doctors we desperately need in our community. The first recruitment stage is for two pulmonologists and one neurologist and although the recruitment phase is a long phase, it is of utmost importance to be sure we get the right doctors who will be invested in the long-term needs of the children in our community.

While it is hard for us to discontinue funding travel grants, we must stay focused on our vision: *Creating community partnerships to help local kids receive the best medical care in Amarillo.* In order to follow this vision, we must reprioritize where CMN spends fundraising dollars. That said, support will continue with Family Grants to assist with medical bills, home modifications, prescription co-pays and more as well as support for the child life programs at BSA and NWTHS, and the purchase of equipment for rural and non-profit hospitals. The majority of our funds will be allocated to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Department of Pediatrics. We hope this partnership with Tech will enable us to recruit more doctors and staff. We believe this is the first step toward achieving our goal of one day seeing a specialty children's clinic right here in Amarillo come to fruition.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We hope you understand this was an incredibly difficult decision but one that is necessary in creating opportunities to bring quality children's healthcare to the High Plains region. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the CMN office with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Gleason".

Chris Gleason
CMN Board President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Ware".

William Ware
CMN Board Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Parker".

Matt Parker
CMN Board Secretary