

An Open Letter of Gratitude

Long Way Home Texas was fortunate enough to present Honkytonk for Hope, benefitting pediatric transplant patients, to the Cypress community on November 13th, 2021. When we started this endeavor, we were just a group of knuckleheads with a crazy idea, wanting to give back.

We had no idea how much our lives would be impacted. The generosity of Cypress, local businesses, and Texas artists from all over was simply amazing.

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, we raised \$42,000 to assist the families of these children with our first event.

We chose as our benefactor of the event the Children's Transplant Initiative, a local 501c3 charity that works directly with these families. Founders Ross and Cheryl Witty are some of the most amazing human beings who enabled us to cut out the middleman and assist these families directly.

What most people don't know, is that, depending on the organ, as of 2017 the average transplant costs \$932,337.00 in medical expenses alone. For a significant portion of the actual medical expenses, there are mechanisms and organizations to provide relief.

The immediately crippling expenses no one thinks of are the ancillary costs. Temporary housing, food, parking, insurance premiums, and assistance with lost wages because of a parents need to be with their child in those teetering moments between death, and the hope for life.

Our organization is named after a song by local artist, Hayes Carll. The lyrics that capture my heart, and exemplified by these children like Oliver, go as follows:

*"You weren't askin' much at all,
Just catch you when you fall.
On your own, the long way home
What's that sadness in your smile
You've been cryin' all the while
Could you lean upon my shoulder
I guess you'd die to just get older"*

My most heartfelt gratitude goes out to our host, The Barn at the Frio Grill, our very generous sponsors, the dozens of volunteers who selflessly gave of themselves to help us, the artists from all over our beautiful state who came performed, Scott Hall of LEL Photography, and the hundreds of Cypress citizens who came out and supported us.

I'm just a simple kid who grew up in the area and loves Cypress and its people. Once again, proving that Texans are always there in a time of need, Cypress did not fail to deliver. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

If you would like to know more, get involved, or would like more event info, please visit our website at www.lwhtexas.com.

In most humble gratitude,
Michael Broussard
President – Long Way Home Texas

