



St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center

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NEWS RELEASE

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Valley Teen Battling Cancer Captures Dream Opportunity

Jennifer Marlowe's dream of becoming a photographer is about to come true despite her fight with cancer. The Valley teen will receive professional photography lessons in Colorado next week thanks in part to staff at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and a photography company based in Littleton.

Jennifer, 19, was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer in 2007 and is receiving ongoing care at St. Joseph's. When hospital staff learned of Jennifer's love for photography, they contacted a photography company in Colorado that offered to donate lessons to Jennifer.

"Jennifer is an inspiration to St. Joseph's staff," says Kristen Bayne, Pediatric CARES Program coordinator at St. Joseph's. "We wanted to grant her an opportunity to fulfill a goal she's had for a long time. We're thrilled to see that her dream will come true."

The photography company, Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep, will fly Jennifer and her mother, Sharon, to Colorado this Sunday for four days of lessons. The company is also donating a camera to Jennifer and will take professional keepsake photos of Jennifer and her family during their visit.

"When we first heard that Jennifer was going to carry out her dream of photography, it floored me," says her father Jeff Marlowe. "This opportunity is a Godsend and one of the greatest things that has ever happened to her."

Jennifer has been ill since she was two years of age. She has undergone many surgeries and lived with a breathing tube for 14 years before having it removed two years ago. In 2007, Jennifer was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma, a common skin cancer that formed in her lungs. The malignant tumor spread to her spinal column and is too close to her vital organs to have it removed. Jennifer has undergone radiation and is currently being treated with chemotherapy.

Her illness and rigorous treatment has not stopped Jennifer from fulfilling her goals. The senior at Cortez High School is looking forward to graduation this spring and wants to attend college in addition to practicing photography.

"Jennifer's positive attitude and outlook on life has helped her battle this illness," says Jeff. "She refuses to give up on her goals and I credit St. Joseph's staff for helping her stay positive. She's a very special girl."