

EFFINGHAM HERALD

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CHRISTMAS PROJECT



Submitted

Combat baseball coach Shawn Cantaline's 12-year-old boys recently joined forces for a Christmas project. Kim Hesling, a team mom, approached some of the other team moms with the idea of sponsoring a needy family and the boys jumped at the opportunity. The team purchased more than 40 gifts, wrapped and delivered them to Manna House. Manna House Executive Director Lisa Bush will take the gifts to an appreciative family. Pictured are (front row, from left) Carter Futch, Griffin Howe, (middle row, front left) Kim Hesling, Konner Tyson, Michael Hesling, Dru Futch, Ty Cantaline, Mandy Atkins, Alicia Howe, Jake Waldhour, Peyton Kirby, Ethan Atkin, Nick Midock, (back row, from left) Stacy Cantaline, Misty Futch, Stephanie Kirby, Lynn Waldhour and Kim Tyson.

Letter to the editor

We must speak now for choice in cancer care

Patient choice is everything when you're fighting cancer.

Trust me.

I'll never forget the three words that my doctor said to me when I was diagnosed.

"You have cancer."

So many things rushed through my mind, but I believed with proper treatment, I could continue to live a positive life — even with cancer.

And decisions had to be made. The biggest one — where do I go for treatment?

After talking with family and friends, I chose care at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Newnan. My friend, a patient there, highly recommended it. I felt I would receive top-notch care there.

And that's when I

I can't imagine being turned away from a cancer center because of a law. I didn't have to, but others have, and others will. Every Georgian should have a choice in their cancer treatment.

learned not everyone has that choice because a state law says CTCA can treat only a limited number of Georgia patients. Just 35 percent. The rest have to come from other states.

How terrible a law that restricts people from freedom of choice. I was shocked, sad and furious.

I can't imagine being turned away from a cancer hospital because of a law. Luckily, I didn't have to, but others have, and others will.

Every Georgian should have a choice in their cancer treatment. It is a deeply

personal choice, and no one should be robbed of that choice because of a law.

I joined Speak Now Georgia, along with other patients, caregivers and concerned citizens because we believe that Georgia patients deserve better. And I urge you to act now.

Visit www.SpeakNowGeorgia.org, contact your state legislators and sign the petition to change this ridiculous law.

Cancer doesn't wait, and neither should Georgia.

DONALD WALDBURG
Rincon