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Frisco resident James Petty partners with Dell to provide computers for bone marrow transplant unit at UT Southwestern

DALLAS – April 24, 2008 – Thanks to a father's dedicated effort, UT Southwestern Medical Center has received 13 laptops from computer maker Dell Inc., which will allow bone marrow transplant patients and their families to stay connected from the comfort of their hospital rooms.

When James Petty's son, Art, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma eight years ago, he had to spend seven weeks in a local hospital while undergoing a bone marrow transplant.

Because of the risk of infection, Mr. Petty and his wife, Dianne, were their son's only approved visitors. Staying in touch with friends and family was difficult for Art, a college sophomore at the time, and his parents because there was only one computer available for the entire unit.

After his son's recovery, Mr. Petty made a commitment to give back. Last year, he partnered with Round Rock-based Dell, which has agreed to furnish laptop computers for patient rooms in every bone marrow transplant unit across the state.

"Spending weeks in the same room is a really long time," Mr. Petty said. "Sometimes, patients don't have the strength to get out of bed. Having a laptop computer available in each room opens up a new world for patients and their families."

Now 27, UT Dallas graduate Art Petty is married and living in Frisco. He works for his father's Dallas-based business, Lan-Tec Texas Inc., a wire and cable company.

"For our family, there is a happy ending to the story," Mr. Petty said. "We're happy to be able to give back to families who are in the same situation that we were years ago."

The elder Mr. Petty, who has lived in Frisco for the past 16 years, says that had Dell not stepped up to help, he would have still been holding fundraisers to outfit bone marrow transplant units with computers – one hospital at a time.

Ed Gillispie, Dell area vice president of health care, said: "We live in a connected era and the ability for a patient to stay linked to family, friends and the world has the potential to make a tremendous impact on their well-being. Dell is honored to make a donation that has the power to make a difference for families going through such a difficult experience."

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, president of UT Southwestern, said, "Mr. Petty's collaboration with Dell will allow our patients and their families to stay connected during difficult times. On behalf of our patients, we extend our sincere gratitude."

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