

Road to Hope Community Support Foundation:

Volunteer Driver testimonial as presented in October 2012

Good evening ladies, I would like to start off by saying that I do not like driving for Road to Hope; **I LOVE IT**. I am very proud to be here to talk to you about the enormous privilege it is to be a driver for Road to Hope.

When Madena [RTH Transportation Coordinator] first asked me to speak for this event, I was happy to have the chance to share the beautiful moments that I've had driving.

None the less, I was nervous to talk in front of a crowd, but it helps me to see the friends that I have made throughout the 2 1/2 years that I have been driving.

It is wonderful to see the people that have not given up and are still battling while keeping their spirits up. It's also good to see the people that are now cancer free and never gave up no matter how hard the journey got.

It is an honor to be a person that was able to help the patients forget about their current situation for a few hours on some of their roads to recovery. Sometimes the patient and I talk all the way, while other times they would rather sleep the whole time, and that's fine with me. It often makes me smile because they are so comfortable that they are snoring all the way home.

I wasn't sure if I was going to like driving before I started, but after I began I saw how happy and grateful I could make these people by doing the simple task of driving. This alone made me love driving.

My only wish is to see all of the patients' cancer free and for them to have the opportunity to lie on a beach, or to garden or to do whatever their simple pleasures of life are.

Sadly sometimes I see some of the patients lose their battle, but I thank God that I had the opportunity to meet these beautiful and wonderful people who helped me become a better person in multiple ways.

I had a good laugh the other day because I remembered when my husband and I were talking; I said that the day my car breaks down I will have to give up driving for Road to Hope. But I realize now that even if I have to buy a new car, I will not give up this amazing opportunity that Road to Hope has given me.

So as you can see, for me it's not just a volunteer job, it's a soul enriching job.

I speak for every patient when I say that this is a wonderful program that minimizes the amount of pressures they endure during this difficult time.

I'd like to finish by saying that driving is not only for the patients but amazing and wonderful for my self-being.

DORIS LAFOREST October 12, 2012