



CovenantChildren's

4015 22nd Place

Lubbock, TX 79410

www.covenantchildren.org

February 4, 2016

Dear Sunshine Kids Foundation,

On behalf of the Covenant Pediatric Oncology department, and myself, thank you for inviting our patients on the 2016 Mardi Gras trip in New Orleans. The Sunshine Kids Foundation offered a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the patients and me that will be remembered for years to come. I want to also take a moment and specifically thank the staff of the foundation for making this trip not only exciting, but also easy and fluid. At the hospital I often hear patients say, "I just want to feel normal again," and as a Child Life Specialist it is my job to help "normalize" life for the kids undergoing treatment. Sunshine Kids and the Mardi Gras trip brought that sense of normalcy for them. You gave them a week of fun to just be a kid, very spoiled and well fed kids at that!! Many of them could not believe everything that was happening was for them! There are few people in this world who take time to realize just how hard the journey of childhood cancer can be and the Sunshine Kids Foundation not only realizes it, but they go above and beyond to bring happiness into the life of each child they meet. I have never seen such passion and commitment as I did this past week. The volunteers, the sheriff's deputies and of course The Sunshine Kids staff were amazing. If there was a need or special accommodation, it was met instantly. Cancer can be a very isolating feeling, and this week they did not have to feel that way and enjoyed being able to bond with other kids experiencing some of the same difficulties. My life is forever changed by this trip and I know the kids I got to take would agree it was a trip of a lifetime. Everything was flawlessly planned and executed that we all felt like celebrities. I am truly grateful to everyone who made this trip possible. You touched the lives of each child, and I am forever honored to have gotten to be a part of it.

Thank you and God Bless,



Katie R. Crump

Certified Child Life Specialist

