



Teri and Fritz Spence

How the Bob Perks Cancer Assistance Fund Helps Local Families

In February, Penn State assistant track & field coach Fritz Spence, 36, was diagnosed with acute myelogenous

leukemia — a cancer of the blood. He was hospitalized in Hershey for several months while he underwent numerous chemotherapy treatments, and, ultimately, a bone-marrow transplant, with his brother being the donor.

Fritz and his wife, Teri, have a blended family with Teri having a daughter, Ashli (19), and a son, Ashton (17), from a previous marriage, and Fritz having two daughters of his own — Keiva (12) and Ale'ka (6), who live in Springfield, Missouri. They faced many unexpected expenses: prescription drugs, expenses while in Hershey, airfare for their daughters to visit from Missouri, and for Fritz's mother and brother to come from the Bahamas, and fuel for trips back and forth from State College to Hershey.

"It seemed the expenses kept coming," says Teri, who wasn't eligible for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act, and has not been able to find a new job. Fritz, fortunately, retained his job through his illness.

Fritz and Teri learned about BPCAF from Penn State basketball coach Ed DeChellis. They applied for the program, were quickly approved, and received assistance right away.

"If it were not for BPCAF, I don't know what we would have done," Teri says. "With their help, and with the help of others, we have gone through what would normally be financially devastating, but we made it through relatively unscathed! We are so thankful to the BPCAF and to Doreen Perks for the generosity they have shown us! We feel truly blessed to live in this community!"

On November 6, Fritz celebrated his 100-day post-transplant milestone. He has returned to work on a limited basis and is experiencing a remarkable recovery!

To donate or for more information on BPCAF,

visit www.bpcaf.org
or call 231-2692.

Donations can be mailed to:

BPCAF
P.O. Box 313
State College, PA 16804

Please write "Town&Gown" on the memo line of your check.