



# angel TREE MISSION



## *The Helton Family*

### **Battling: 42-year-old, Sophie**

Sophie is a single mom of three, 10-year-old son, Bradley, 19-year-old daughter Elianna, and 24-year-old daughter, Helena.

For 3 years now, Sophie has been battling a cancer of the unknown primary. Sophie has endured very aggressive chemotherapy & radiation treatments. She has had so many rounds of radiation that she cannot risk more without the possibility of additional harm. Sophie has neuropathy, Cellulitis, Thyroid Disease and kidney issues. Since inception of her cancer diagnosis, the Cancer has spread to her trachea and lungs which have been present for over a year. She has metastatic stage 4 lung cancer. She is on a treatment cycle currently which will continue well into the foreseeable future. Due to consistent sepsis infections, she is frequently in the hospital or on home care.

Sophie has lost some of the closest friends and family, so her support system has dwindled making her feel quite alone in the battle. When this all began for Sophie, her doctor, who she called her quarterback, her parents, and her partner, were helping her through the fight. That changed however starting with her parents who have not been around since after the first three months. Then, she lost her partner as he left not able to continue the fight with her. And finally, she lost, her doctor, her quarterback, the head of Oncology at Methodist Hospital, who passed away in February of this year.

For the first two years of her treatments, she didn't have insurance, everything was out of pocket so financially things have been extremely difficult. Sophie is on disability income; she does her best to support her two daughters who are in college and manage a fourth grader. Finances are rough and with her children who depend on her, like other mom's desire to do, all she wants is to provide for them the best way she can. She has not been able to do or celebrate many things with them because she is either strapped financially, or too ill and in the hospital. Even though the journey has been very tough mentally and physically and has taken quite a toll on her, Sophie aims to rise above her battle and help others as much as possible, especially when she is on a good day with her cancer.

*This year we join to help this family have a wonderful Christmas!*