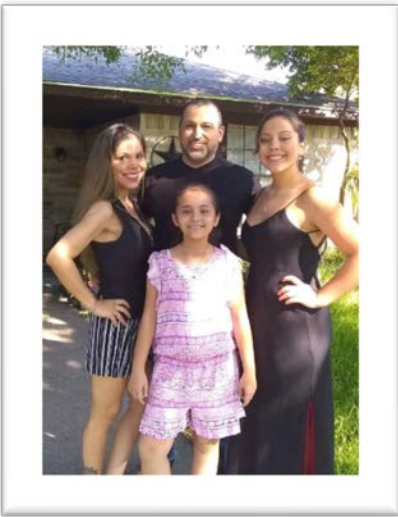




angel TREE MISSION



The Robles Family

Battling: 49-year-old, Mark

Mark and his wife Melinda, 38-years-old, live with four teenage daughters! Brooke 19-years-old, Addison, 10-years-old, Samantha, 12-years-old, and Jenna 14-years-old.

Doctors diagnosed Mark with a rare cancer; large B cell diffused Lymphoma, in 2017. It was a bleak diagnosis for the family. The doctors informed them that without a stem cell transplant, his life expectancy is two years at best. Mark had several rounds of treatments finding that the transplant is the best chance of saving his life. Finally, after nearly two years of treatment and worry, March 21, 2019, Mark received a bone marrow transplant with much anticipation. After spending three months in the

hospital, the unfortunate news came that the transplant was not a complete success. The cancer is not only still present but has also metastasized into his stomach and thyroid.

The next steps will be daunting. Mark will have a fine needle aspiration to determine the type of cancer he has in his thyroid. He will also undergo a series of pet scans for his stomach since the tumor is too deep to biopsy and a risky operation. Meanwhile, Mark has to watch his numbers carefully, and if they get low, he must go to the hospital for a five-hour IV treatment. Mark is currently living in a state of unknown. While trying to figure out which cancer is present, he is in a lot of pain, which can be debilitating most days.

This is not the family's first run-in with cancer. Melinda faced uterine and breast cancer herself. Luckily, she has been in remission for four years now. But as we know, no story is the same. Melinda was in an accident in November 2018. During one of her hospital visits, the doctor broke her arm, which led to discovering that she had an abnormal bone scan. This scan reported enough for the radiologist to believe that Melinda could be within the 1% that has bone cancer. This news was a huge scare to the family. Thankfully, test results just revealed it is not cancer, but in fact, osteoporosis due to the accident. While this is a relief, since the accident, she has not recovered and hasn't regained the use of her left arm. She is excited to have had a little movement for the first time recently but is still struggling physically.

Both Mark and Melinda have been deemed disabled and receive disability, which is the only money they are surviving on with four children. The hospital visits and inability to work or find other means have put an enormous strain on the family.

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