



**Stella Blue before the cancer.**

# Let's Help Stella Blue!

Background: Stella Blue Woods is a five-year-old kindergarten student valiantly waging a battle with cancer. In September 2011, Stella Blue, who lives near Bozeman, Montana, went to the doctor with a stomachache. Tests revealed a cantaloupe-sized Wilms tumor, a type of kidney cancer that often occurs in children. The tumor was removed, but Stella's Stage 4 cancer had spread. She underwent 30 weeks of intense chemotherapy in Seattle. Doctors gave her a 30% chance to rid herself of the cancer. No one knew if she would see her fifth birthday on April 17, 2012, but she did. They brought Stella Blue home, and she started kindergarten. However, by Christmas 2012, Stella and her family were back in Seattle at the Children's Hospital where she very recently underwent four days of chemo and then a stem cell transplant, which the hospital likens to a rebirth, if successful. None of these procedures are pain-free, but Stella fights gamely on. Care has to be taken with her one remaining kidney. Weight has been a focus throughout this process as she is tiny, and of course with the chemo and the accompanying vomiting, she has little appetite. The family is pretty much isolated now because Stella no longer can fight off any germs. If all goes well, the family will return to their home near Bozeman, Montana, by Stella's 6th birthday on

April 17. However, she will NOT be able to go to school, have parties at home, or be among any crowds for TWELVE MONTHS as it will take that long for her immune system to recover.

## How You Can Help: If you want to help, and who wouldn't want to help this darling child and her loving family, there are numerous ways:

1) Buy a Stella Blue cookbook. Susan Metcalf, who does the "Cooking in the West" column for Western Ag Reporter, together with her daughter Brooke compiled a heap of great recipes with 20 of Susan's all-time favorite columns to create a cookbook called "The Best of Cooking in the West for Stella Blue." The book comes two ways: a) As a PDF for a minimum donation of \$10 (more is better!), which means you receive the book via email, or b) As a hard-copy book for a minimum donation of \$25 postpaid (more is better!) Susan's contact information: email Susan at [cookinginthewest@yahoo.com](mailto:cookinginthewest@yahoo.com) or mail money to the Stella Blue Benefit, c/o Susan Metcalf, PO Box 765, Big Timber, MT 59011.

2) Bid on a growing list of wonderful items that includes, among other things, a round of golf for four people at the Yellowstone Country Club in Billings, Montana; two of Bill Huntington's out-of-print first book *They Were Good Men and Salty Cusses*; two catered gourmet beef dinners for eight prepared by our very own Susan Metcalf; horseshoeing for two horses. You can get all the details by reading the current issue of Western Ag Reporter, and if you're not a subscriber, you can read it for free for two months by calling 406-259-4589. You can also get all the details on the website [warpathwomen.com](http://warpathwomen.com) – click on the "Current Project" button. If you have something of significant value to donate to this unique auction, contact Linda by phone (406-259-4589) or email ([editor@imt.net](mailto:editor@imt.net)).

3) Send hard cold cash to either Susan Metcalf (Stella Blue Benefit, c/o Susan Metcalf, PO Box 765, Big Timber, MT 59011) or Linda Grosskopf (Stella Blue Benefit, c/o Linda Grosskopf, Western Ag Reporter, PO Box 30758, Billings, MT 59107).

Stella Blue's grandmother, Adele Woods, wrote: "Due to the huge efforts by Susan and Linda, over \$13,000 has been raised so far to defray living expenses for Stella Blue and her family. We are all very grateful for the support of everyone who has helped... it is truly amazing! It is one less worry for the family as they travel this journey."

Susan says: "I believe our prayers are helping, and I KNOW our support is helping." Linda says, "Frankly, Susan and I don't care how it gets done, but we intend to significantly help this sick baby. Won't you please help us help them?"

