

Green Bay Packers Make Wish Come True



December 26, 1999

Dear Making Memories,

I can't thank you enough for fulfilling my dream of going to a Green Bay Packer Game in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Making Memories made the experience much more wonderful than I could have ever imagined.

All my life I have wanted to attend a Green Bay Packer game but when you live in Wisconsin it is almost impossible to get a ticket. Many times there are people on a waiting list for season tickets for so many years that when their name finally comes up the tickets end up going to their grandchildren and this is not a joke. Sometimes people are on the waiting list for 40 years.

Last summer I was thinking about my breast cancer and how it will probably cut my life short and was thinking about what was the one thing I would like to do but never was able to do and I immediately thought about the Packers. Then I thought about how nice it is that there is a foundation for children for cancer wishes but that it was too bad there was nothing for adults. I took my idea in my own hands and put a notice in a local paper for someone to bless my husband Tom and I with tickets to no avail. I told my story on a Breast Cancer Survivor List and some unknown, at this point, person directed my wish to Making Memories and the night before Thanksgiving a wonderful lady named Fran Hansen called and told me my wish had been granted. I was in shock. I had never even contacted Making Memories myself but some wonderful person did in my behalf. I was also shocked that my dream was going to come true and after hearing the wonderful news I called some friends and went to my husband's place of employment and acted like a small child who had just opened the perfect gift under the Christmas Tree.

So Tom and I were very excited about going to the game only to find out there was more. We live about 5 hours from Green Bay and the date of the game was December 12, 1999 and my husband looks like a clone of Santa Claus. We not only received tickets to the game but money for our expenses for the weekend and other wonderful things that I could have never imagined.

We drove up near Green Bay on the night before the game. I had all my Packer paraphernalia on and my husband had his red winter jacket and Santa hat. Tom's beard is very long, very white, and very real and kids loved touching it and adults loved telling Tom what they wanted for Christmas at the restaurant on Saturday night. It was a blast!

On Sunday morning we drove up to Green Bay and got there early and just walked around the stadium. The atmosphere seemed to be like the Mardi Gras. We saw a man dressed up as the Pope but called himself St. Vincent after Vince Lombardi, a Santa in a green and gold Santa suit and two men dressed as apes with Brett Favre jerseys. In the background of 30 degrees was the aroma of barbecuing bratwurst and Wisconsin's finest beers.

We then were honored to attend a chapel service at Lambeau Field that is for the Packer personnel and the families of the Packers. It was really great and a contemporary Christian singing artist on tour was there to sing during the service. Wow!

From there we got to go down on Lambeau Field itself and watch the pre-game warm-up of both the Green Bay Packers and the Carolina Panthers. I stood down on the field and felt like Mary Tyler Moore before her show when she would toss her hat up in the air since I couldn't believe I was standing on historic Lambeau Field where all the legends of football had been including the famous Ice Bowl. We were able to walk around the perimeter of the field and I took about 50 pictures of the players practicing and I was so excited I'm amazed that the pictures turned out. Tom and I even got a few pictures of ourselves taken on the field. How very awesome and just standing down there looking around was breathtaking.

Then the game. We were told the tickets were what was left over. Well they were on the 40 yard line on the Packer side about 20 rows up. I'd say the perfect tickets. The game was very exciting even though the Packers lost. Going to a Packer game is not just going to a football game its an event. My quiet and shy husband yelled so much during the game that he could hardly speak afterwards. He also wore his Santa hat at the game and got many interesting requests from adults especially one woman who seemed to have downed quite a bit of that Miller stuff who kept asking Santa to please pay her bills.

My husband Tom is 51 and I am 48 and we have been only married for 2 years after dating for 9 years since Tom was a confirmed bachelor. Times have been tough for us this year when I was re-diagnosed with breast cancer after being cancer free for 5 years. Going to the Packer weekend provided by Making Memories was the greatest time Tom and I had spent together in the 11 years we have known each other and I hope we have another opportunity like this again. This is the greatest Christmas present that anyone could have given both of us especially no with our stressful times with my cancer.

Thank you very much to Making Memories and I hope others can benefit from this wonderful foundation the way Tom and I were blessed.

Sincerely
Barb & Tom Schmidt
Elkhorn Wisconsin