

Mobile Angel

Written by Gayle Nobel

Tuesday, 06 March 2012 21:19 - Last Updated Friday, 09 March 2012 15:56

Kimberly showed up at our door with a smile. This was her third time at our house. She travels our city drawing blood from children/adults with special needs in the comfort of their homes. Yesterday Kyle needed a blood draw. Once again, he is in a debilitating, cycle mode which prevents him from going anywhere, especially to a lab.

Our system is down to a science. We sit in his chair together very tightly applying the deep body pressure Kyle craves during his cycles. He settles in with his arm squeezed behind my back. Just enough of it is sticking out to expose the area needed for the needle. I hold my breath and Kyle breathes.

Have you ever had blood drawn and needed to be poked multiple times? Maybe even in multiple locations? This has happened to Kyle particularly when the person is uncomfortable or fearful with him and they think (understandably so) that he might suddenly move. Despite my assurance, if they are new to Kyle, they are skeptical. I've had nurses in a doctor's office which sees people with special needs be too squeamish to even try.

Kimberly has the magic touch and seems comfortable with Kyle even in his distressed state. Unfortunately, she has never met him in his non-distressed state so this is all she knows. When he's ok, he is able to go to a lab and have his blood drawn. People are always amazed at how smoothly it goes once he gets in the chair. The preliminaries of being in a strange place, waiting, maneuvering himself into an awkward chair, and nurse fumbling are the biggest challenges. The actual draw is usually a piece of cake.

Shortly after we took care of the paperwork yesterday, Kyle and I positioned ourselves for the big squeeze. Angelica, his helper, applied some extra deep pressure from the other side. The more calming pressure, the better. Kyle was rocking the chair and I was unable to fully stop the motion. Kimberly said it was ok and she proceeded to stabilize his arm and insert the needle. (YES, while the chair was rocking slightly). In just a few seconds she had a vial of blood and a bandage on his arm. I could not have ordered a smoother, more flawless job. Perfect!

I'm not sure Kimberly truly realizes what an amazing service she provides with her calm, comforting demeanor and superior skill. What a difference she makes for the special needs community. The visits are always brief. She collects a small fee and even delivers the blood to the lab. For once, something is easy.

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Her business is called Extended Phlebotomy Services with the motto "Pride in Perfection". She really should be called Mobile Angel. I'm thinking we might just skip the lab experience from now on.