

## Flights Help Student Get Back to Books



Stephen (r to l) poses with his mom, Suzanne, and sister Emily.

Stephen C., a senior at St. John's College in Santa Fe, suffered from recurrent bouts of tonsillitis that left him ill with fevers, body aches and excruciating sore throats.

Unable to keep up with his demanding academic load (St. John's, with its flagship campus in Annapolis, Md., is a highly rigorous "Great Books" program), he was forced to take a medical leave.

He wound up in Chicago living in a church-owned house, uninsured and too sick to work.

With his condition worsening, his mother, Suzanne C., of Virginia Beach, took action.

A single parent with limited financial resources, Suzanne contacted Angel Flight and was able to get a flight to Chicago. However, on the weekend in February that she was

scheduled to travel, the weather turned threatening and the flight was cancelled.

Angel Flight pilot Steve Sargeant of Charlottesville, Va., called her to say he had purchased round-trip commercial airline tickets so she could fly out to Chicago the following weekend.

"I am absolutely overwhelmed with the level of compassion and commitment from Mr. Sargeant," Suzanne said.

She visited her son and "helped with cooking, shopping, and cleaning as well as offering loving encouragement," she said.

Three days later and with Stephen improving, she flew back home to begin the process of finding out how to arrange for him to have his tonsils removed.

Stephen was able to get an Angel Flight in March to Virginia Beach. "The flight was great," he said. "The pilot had called earlier and told me not to worry about weather. His plane [a Socata TBM turbo-prop] would be grounded only if commercial planes were grounded. It's an awesome aircraft."

Surgery was scheduled for April 17 at an ambulatory surgical center

in Virginia Beach. The procedure went normally and Stephen is recovering, with plans to take an Angel Flight back to Chicago in early May.

"He'll be able to return to St. John's College next spring to complete his final semester," Suzanne said. "God has been with him all the way."

### Missionaries Glad To Get Trip Home

Paul and Mary B. of Galax were visiting their daughter and her family in New York last Christmas when Paul had a massive heart attack with a blood clot severely damaging his heart. At Strong Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y., he underwent surgery to implant three stents in his heart arteries.

"We have been Christian missionaries to Kenya since 1981 and did not have any funds to travel home by commercial airlines," Paul said.

Angel Flight provided a two-leg flight from Rochester to Altoona, Pa., and changed pilots and planes for the home stretch.

Paul said he greatly appreciates Angel Flight's "kindness in arranging the flights and the compassion shown us by the pilots."