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Patients and families go to Super Bowl

By Rob Amen

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Shawn Clemens peered out the window of a hangar at the Allegheny County Airport Friday, looking for the ride of his wildest dreams.

Imagine how his son felt.

Shawn Clemens Jr., 16, of Hempfield, Westmoreland County, and Katie Miller, 12, of Clarksburg, Indiana County, both patients at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, received the gift of a lifetime: tickets to see the Steelers play the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XL on Sunday in Detroit.

With enough tickets for them and their families, it was hard to say who was more excited.

"At first, it wasn't believable," said Shawn Jr., a sophomore at Hempfield Area High School, as he waited to board a private jet. "Now I believe it."

UPMC Health Plan, in coordination with Children's Hospital Foundation, covered all costs for the trip. Voyager Jet Center donated the jet, and STAT MedEvac volunteered two nurses to accompany Shawn and Katie to Detroit.

One round-trip flight costs about \$8,000, said Bruce DeCarlo, Voyager's charter sales coordinator. The jet was scheduled to fly back to Detroit on Monday to bring the families home.

Clemens Jr. and Miller learned about their new Super Bowl plans Jan. 27.

"I thought my grandma was just kidding," said Katie, a sixth-grader at Saltsburg Elementary, explaining that her grandmother fielded the call delivering the good news.

Yesterday, both wearing Ben Roethlisberger jerseys, Shawn and Katie boarded the jet with their families, off to their date with Detroit.