

WA gives brave Georgia a fighting chance at life

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West Australians have opened their hearts and wallets to help a young Leeming girl with an inoperable brain tumour whose only chance of survival rests with an alternative cancer treatment in the US.

The parents of seven-year-old Georgia Marshall, who admitted last week they might have to sell their house to pay for the costly trip, said yesterday they had been overwhelmed by the generosity of charity groups and "mums, dads and grandmas" who had come to their aid.

Georgia, who is in Year 1, has pontine glioma, an aggressive brain tumour that attacks the brain stem and is usually fatal within a year of diagnosis. She recently finished radiotherapy,



Texas bound: Georgia Marshall, who has an inoperable brain tumour, with John Zaccaria from Strike a Chord for Cancer. Picture: Ian Ferguson

the only conventional treatment available.

Her parents now want to try an experimental cancer treatment known as antineoplaston therapy

offered by the Burzynski Clinic in Texas, a trip likely to cost between \$70,000 and \$100,000.

But this week, on top of money sent in individually from readers

of *The West Australian* who read of Georgia's plight a week ago, the group WA Charity Direct has offered to contribute \$10,000 towards the cost of treatment.

And Strike a Chord for Cancer, a charity set up to help children fighting cancer, will pay for Georgia's airfare and is trying to cover her mother's flight costs, too. Chairman John Zaccaria, who survived a battle with rectal cancer at the age of 33 last year, said he had been moved by Georgia and her family's plight.

"I've been given a second chance myself, so I want to help give back to others," he said.

Georgia's mum, Maggie, said the family were now confident of finding the money needed for the trip without having to sell their house.

"I just can't thank people enough," she said.