

Dear Friends,

It is with enormous gratitude that we recognize your tremendous assistance to our family. The challenges that we have been facing with the illness of our dear 6-year-old daughter, Malkie are so completely overwhelming, that we cannot even begin to express the warmth we feel towards you for the generosity that you have showered upon us.

It is now over 2 months that she has been hospitalized in Hadassah Ein Kerem in an isolation room. Over 4 years ago both Malkie and her identical twin sister, Tovi were diagnosed with ALL (Acute Lymphomatic Leukemia) - a type of Leukemia. They were a little over 2 yrs. old at the time. They underwent 2 years of difficult treatments and with God's help they were cancer free. It was a very stressful time for our family and our 4 other children. My wife had to leave her job as a special ed teacher in order to tend to the twins. There were constant trips to the hospital and numerous burdens that sprang upon us in this surreal situation. As time went by, we continually fell into greater financial debt. With my wife not working and with many new expenses cast upon us, we realized that we needed a lot of outside help.

We then had 18 months of quiet with the twins back to normal functioning after finishing up the treatment program. We welcomed a new baby into our family and we invested in a small business, hoping to get ourselves on our feet financially. And then, this past November, Malkie began to complain of stomach pains. Within days she was diagnosed with a relapse of the Leukemia. But this time around, the doctors informed us that the treatments would be more aggressive and she would definitely need a bone marrow transplant. Refoel, Malkie's 8-year-old brother was fortunately deemed to be a donor match. With many prayers accompanying the procedure, Malkie's transplant was successful but unfortunately she is still suffering from severe complications due to her body's immune system still trying to fight off the foreign bone marrow. Her digestive system is a mess. She cannot eat normally. Her IV pole has so many bags hanging from it, it is heavy to move. She cannot be alone for any period of time and my wife and I share the time spent in the hospital. Juggling our responsibilities at home with the other 6 children, my work as a teacher, and our devotion to Malkie in any way possible is taking its toll on the family. After 2 months of not having their parents around and with the home not functioning normally, we hope and pray that they will not suffer from any long term effects of this situation.

Our financial situation is still not good. We still have not managed to pay back our debts that we began to accumulate when the twins originally got sick and now we are again dealing with many many extra expenses. To keep the house running, we have to hire a lot of help with cleaning, food preparation and laundry. Children need tutors to help with school work. The expense of transportation to and from the hospital is very costly. And there is much much more.

At this point in time, all of our physical and emotional energies are being directed at Malkie. Keeping her comfortable, engaged, happy etc. and of course being on top of the medical issues at hand together with the doctors and nurses. We are unable to deal with the urgent necessities of finances. Your generosity is the glue that is keeping us from crashing. You are keeping us whole and we are so grateful to you and all the wonderful people that have stepped forward and given of themselves.

May you be blessed by God Almighty with good health and every blessing that you could wish for yourselves.

Sincerely,

Moshe R.