

# Teen aids Colombian family

## She raises funds via cancer unit

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For her bat mitzvah project, **Melissa Cohen** didn't have to go far to make a difference in a child's life.

Cohen, 13, raised \$600 for the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation, a Fort Lauderdale-based organization that helps impoverished children with cancer and their families.

**Jessica June Eiler**

**Muvdi** died of leukemia in October 2003. Her mother, **Sandra Muvdi**, founded the organization and named it after her daughter.

"I bought jewelry from Colombia and sold it to my friends at my camp," said Cohen of Cooper City. "I went to my Dad's job and collected donations."

Cohen's efforts lightened a little boy's world.

**Neider Munoz**, 4, of Baranquilla, Colombia, has Burkitt's lymphoma, a non-Hodgkin's cancer of the lymphatic system. Neider had been undergoing psychological therapy for his fear of dying.

Muvdi chose the Munoz family based on the little boy's physical and mental condition.

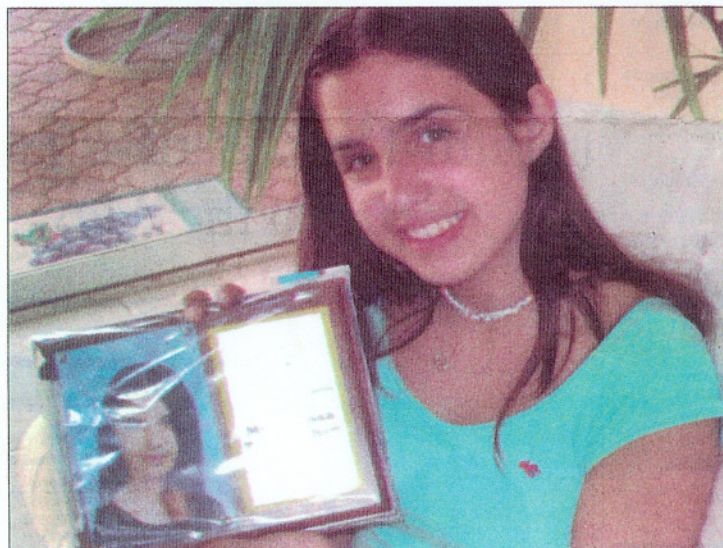
As part of the all-expense paid trip to Cartagena, Colombia, **Neider**, his brother and parents stayed at a resort.

"Neider and his family were in shock to know they had been chosen to take a vacation since they never had taken one," Muvdi said. "They were ecstatic and worried at the same time. They didn't know how to behave in a hotel; they didn't have a bag to pack their clothes; they didn't know how to use the disposable camera we gave them; they didn't have a bathing suit, etc."

After the vacation, the family was able to buy a 14-inch color TV with money left over from the trip.

For information on the cancer foundation, call 954-593-5603.

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**THANK YOU!** Neider Munoz and brother Jorge hold up a sign thanking the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation and Melissa Cohen, at left, for their fund-raising efforts. Cohen displays the plaque she received for the time she spent raising money. The cancer foundation aids families dealing with cancer. Photos courtesy of the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation