

February 24th, 2014

Malachi Dean is a four year-old pediatric oncology patient at Chris Evert Children's Hospital at Broward Health. He is diagnosed with brainstem glioma. Malachi was first diagnosed in April 2013. Since diagnosis, Malachi has undergone treatment including chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation. Malachi and his mother Muriel have also been referred to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for collaborative treatment. They travel to Memphis, Tennessee where St. Jude is located several times per year.

Muriel is a strong and loving mother who always has her son's best interest in mind. Despite how difficult it has been for her to work throughout his course of treatment, she has been able to keep a job. We have worked together to provide her employer with documentation about Malachi's treatment to ensure she doesn't lose this source of income. The challenge becomes greater when she goes without pay each time Malachi is hospitalized and she has to be present, or when they travel to St. Jude. Malachi's mother is reluctant to ask for help, as she feels she has always been able to make it on her own. Knowing that she is reaching out at this time shows she so greatly needs this assistance. This family requires support for household bills that have been difficult to keep up with due to missing work as a result of Malachi's cancer treatment.

Sincerely,



Melissa Stachowiak, LCSW

Social Worker