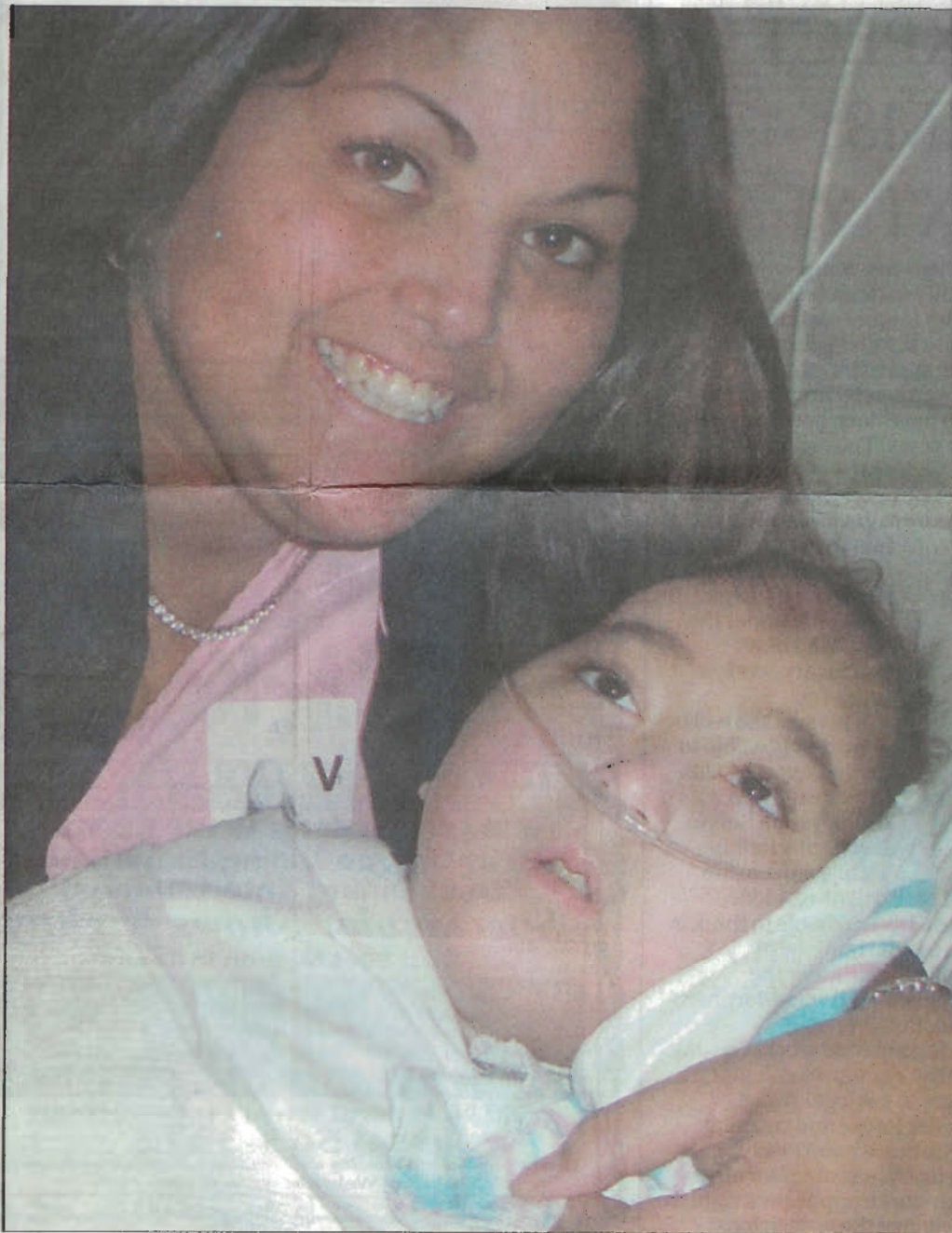


Help for a sick boy and his mother

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Son's cancer takes physical and financial toll on family, who need medical supplies.

BY KAREN A. DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

The Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation has taken on the case of 8-year-old brain cancer patient **Luis Sanchez**. He has had 13 surgeries and undergone chemotherapy and radiation at Miami Children's Hospital.

"This family needs help from the public," said **Sandra Muvdi**, the foundation's founder and president. The group "has already helped them financially, but it is just not enough for their needs."

Luis is so weak that he cannot speak and communicates by blinking.

"Everyone thinks I am strong, but all I do is break down and cry," said Luis' mother, **Jessica Cotto**. "I try not to think about it too much."

Cotto quit her job to care for her son, but

the sacrifice has left the family in debt.

"His doctors told me I need to quit my job to take care of him and that I could get help financially, and it's been 10 months and I am still waiting. I lost everything," Cotto said.

Cotto, **Maikel Antonio Sanchez**, Luis, and their youngest daughter, 4-year-old **Tatianna**, are living out of a hotel. Cotto sent her 13-year-old daughter temporarily to live with relatives in Puerto Rico.

The family needs a home where Luis would have a bedroom that can accommodate his medical needs.

The foundation is asking the public to help the family buy medical equipment.

"She is very desperate about her situation, and I'm doing everything I possibly can to help her," Muvdi said.

"This has been the only foundation that has taken the time to help me out," Cotto said.

Donations can be sent to: Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation; 1 Las Olas Circle, #209, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316 or visit www.jjccf.org.

For information, call Sandra Muvdi at 954-593-5603.

HELP FOR CANCER PATIENT: Jessica Cotto and her son, Luis Sanchez, 8, who has brain cancer. Debt has left the family in financial crisis and living out of a hotel. Photo courtesy of Sandra Muvdi