

Two kids battling cancer in need of more care

May 06, 2010|By JASON STROMBERG jstromberg@tribune.com

Cara and Marcus need help at the Chris Evert Children's Hospital and the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, respectively. The two children, both 3 years old, were diagnosed with stage IV neuroblastoma, the most-common cancer in infancy with an annual incidence of about 650 new cases per year in the United States.

After Cara was diagnosed, her mother had to give up her job in student affairs at American Intercontinental University to become a full-time caregiver. Her father, who was laid off as a service adviser for Mercedes, and the family of six currently reside at the Ronald McDonald House near Broward General Medical Center.

With Cara's parents unemployed, the family has been receiving checks from the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation, which helps recipients pay utility bills, car insurance premiums and gas and grocery expenses. Marcus was diagnosed last December and has been receiving treatment at the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital for his advanced cancer. He has already had surgery to remove a tumor from his skull.

After Marcus was diagnosed, his family's car was repossessed and the family lost its home because it could no longer make the payments. The family had to move from Palm Beach to [Broward County](#) for Marcus to receive treatment.

Marcus' mother is a full-time caregiver, and his father is struggling without construction work. The JJCCF and its special volunteer met with the family Feb. 11 to deliver an emergency check for \$1,200 to provide payment for rent.

Other funds for the family have been provided by the JJCCF, which cares for special needs and assists children who are fighting cancer.

For information on the JJCCF, a nonprofit public charity servicing Sunrise and other [Broward County](#) areas, go to <http://www.JJCCF.org>, e-mail info@JJCCF.org or call 954-593-5603.