

Celebrations

Single mother grateful for donation

Group assists woman with ill daughter

BY HEATHER S. WALKER
STAFF WRITER

For **Teresa Hugo**, a \$500 donation to help with her electric bill was welcome relief.

Hugo, a single mother from Coral Springs, spends many nights in the hospital with 6-year-old daughter **Catherine**, who is fighting leukemia. She quit her job as a bookkeeper to take care of Catherine while tending to the needs of her other children, Jon, 12, and Kristen, 15.

The Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation recently donated money to help Hugo pay bills. Since 2004, the foundation has provided financial assistance, hope and comfort to underprivileged children in Broward County.

"We now have an alliance with Broward General Medical Center," said **Sandra Muvdi** who started the organization after her daughter **Jessica** died of cancer.

Muvdi met the Hugo family while Catherine was a patient at Broward General.

Catherine is a first-grader at Coral Springs Elementary and has two favorites: science class and a mother whose hugs make her feel much better. She was diagnosed three years ago.

Hugo said she hopes to find a part-time job, which would provide the flexibility to take care of her children. Getting help with the power bill was a pleasant surprise.

"There are a lot of organizations but they don't do things like that ... care about things like your electric bill," she said.

There is also joy in giving for Muvdi, the foundation's only permanent employee.

"This experience is extremely satisfying," she said. "It fills the void from my own life."

The Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation is in need of volunteers and assistance in the form of cash or kind. Call Muvdi at 954-593-5603 or visit www.JJCCF.org.



Heather Walker can be reached at hswalker@sun-sentinel.com or 954-385-7918