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Re: Jilka Duarte

To whom it may concern:

Request for Admittance into JJCCF's Financial Assistance Program for Jilka Duarte

Jilka is a 17 year old patient at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital. She has been under the treatment of UF Pediatric Hematology Oncology since her diagnosis with Acute Myelocytic Leukemia on 11/23/2021 when she was 16 years old. She underwent induction chemotherapy cycles 1 and 2 as well as intensification cycles 1-3 at our hospital. She completed her treatment on 6/24/2022. On 1/24/2023 she came to our clinic for follow up and her bloodwork revealed that her Leukemia had returned. She has been started on inpatient chemotherapy again and would like to pursue a Bone Marrow Transplant if she can obtain the funds to do so as she has no health insurance. Jilka's cancer treatment has presented a significant hardship on her family. Her mother and two younger siblings live over 2 hours from the hospital. Jilka copes best when her mother is with her so her mother has been driving back and forth to visit her daily. This allows Jilka's younger siblings to continue attending school near their home. Because of this schedule, Jilka's mother is not able to work.

Jilka and her siblings are financially supported by Jilka's step-father who is separated from her mother and lives in a different town. Jilka is originally from Mexico and not eligible for public assistance through state or federal government programs as well as many Pediatric Oncology charities as she does not have the necessary documents that those programs require. Jilka and her family would greatly benefit from any financial assistance that can be provided to help them through this time.

Kelleen Simons, LCSW

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