

March 8, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is on behalf of Milagros Montesino, mother of Ire Zafra Jr. DOB 02/23/2009. Ire is currently a patient at Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology program under the medical care of Drs. Nicholson, Macarthur, DePombo, Sawczyn, and Salman.

Ire is a 14-year-old male battling brain cancer; he was diagnosed with diffuse midline glioma on 06/25/2021. Since diagnosis, Ire and his family have been seeking treatment with hopes of curing his disease. Ire has received weekly chemotherapy and 6 weeks of radiation therapy followed by weekly appointments in our office as well as JHACH follow up MRI's, labs, physical exams and symptom management.

Milagros is a single mom of 6 and is Ire's primary care taker. For the past 6 month's Ire's mom has been traveling back and forth from Ft. Myers to St Pete for treatment. Therefore, Milagros has not been able to work. Family is under tremendous emotional and financial distress as Ire's tumor has progressed and his condition has deteriorated. He is receiving palliative care at home and it is of utmost importance that Milagros be by her son's side to care and comfort him. The family is enduring financial hardship and is seeking assistance to cover basic living expenses.

We thank you in advance for this special consideration for Ire and his family, as they navigate this extremely fragile journey.

Warm regards,

Lina Diaz-Conde, MSW, CMC Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida

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