



Nicklaus
Children's
Hospital

Nicklaus Children's Hospital
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06/26/2025

RE: Nicole Casellas Fernandez

Dear Supporters of the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation,

Nicole is a 3-year-old girl that was diagnosed in January 2024 with Neuroblastoma. I remember the first time I met Nicole, her mother, Leydis, and her family. It was devastating – Nicole had been taken to surgery after discovering her Neuroblastoma, but they could not operate on it. The tumor was in such a position that, if operated on, Nicole's life would be in jeopardy. The family surrounded her but were heartbroken and looking for answers. Nicole's journey from that point was a challenging one, as you will read in her mother's very impactful letter to you all. It was faced with many obstacles that, at times, felt impossible to overcome. Nicole, our brave little fighter, continues to push towards being cured.

While we hate that Nicole has had to face all this, being so small and so vulnerable, she has been blessed with something amazing – an incredible family. Her mother has made it her mission to see Nicole healthy again. She is Nicole's best friend and the person that understands her most. She has never left Nicole's side in the 18 months that preceded this. This meant that Leydis would have to give up her job to support her daughter. She did so without a second thought, knowing how much her daughter would need of her. This left them vulnerable to so much and there was always the looming worry of how they would pay their rent, car, transportation, diapers, groceries, etc. The loss of an income like this throws a family into a tailspin. Your help to this family would mean stability so mom can continue to strive for Nicole's recovery. We hope that the treatments and efforts of all bring forward a cure for her.

I leave you with one of my most heart-tugging memories of a conversation with Nicole's mom. I went to her and found her crying. I sat with her as she gave me a peek into this hard life she was drafted into. I remember her telling me that she is surprised by people telling her how strong she is for being the parent of a child with cancer, when all she was doing was simply being a mom – something she would choose over anything. I took it as a beautiful testament to her love for her daughter. Your support for this family would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Tiffany Gallart, LCSW

Pediatric Social Worker