



Do More News

Helping Families Facing Medical Challenges Do More!

Facing Loneliness

"This is a lonely road and at times we feel abandoned."

These are the gut wrenching words written on a Facebook update I read recently. While those words written by a mother caring for her terminally ill six-year-old daughter are hard to hear, it is the stark reality for so many families.

Do you remember how exhausting it was to care for your baby when they got sick?

How about the toddler that is throwing up?

Have you ever had the flu go through your house?

All you wanted was for your family to get better so you could get back to normal life. This morning, thousands of parents are waking up in a hospital room with their child. Thousands more are waking up in a Ronald McDonald House. Others have transformed their homes into therapy centers for their disabled child, while others have made a bedroom a Hospice unit.

***Don't forget the power of a meal,
a note or even a text.***

Today, you may not know a family walking through a medical crisis, but I promise you will someday come across one. Find ways to be an encouragement so they know they are not abandoned.



We love going into children's hospitals and spreading joy, even if it is for a brief time. Many children's hospitals arrange for therapy dogs, athletes, choirs, even clowns. These few minutes of company, conversation and distraction are such an encouragement for

families. Especially for the parents.

When my daughter has been inpatient, I longed for adult conversation. And that adult conversation must come from someone that doesn't want to talk medical stuff. The doctors and nurses will provide plenty of the medical chatter.

If you know someone that is sick, even if it is just a cold, give them a call or text and let them know you are thinking about them! I promise you will brighten someone's day.

-Lori

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Founders - Scott & Lori Lassen

The Do More Foundation helps families with expenses related to the illness or death of their child.



Helping Families Facing Me

WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS?



When we are facing an illness, it is important that we focus our energy into healing and wholeness. Our priority should be in seeking out the best treatment for ourselves and for those we love. However, there is a danger in becoming too singularly focused.

When my son was ill, we spent months going from one specialist to another seeking out a diagnosis for him. Every week the calendar was filled with doctors' appointments, therapy appointments, and lab appointments. It seemed endless. Unfortunately, our efforts were not rewarded with the answers we wanted but rather with more unwanted diagnoses.

In that quest for answers, I became all consumed and was sharing my troubles with anyone who appeared even remotely interested. It was one day at a Bible study that I was attending that the leader was talking about the danger of the things that we identify with becoming, in a way, the thing we worship. It was an "aha moment" for me – my sons' illness was becoming my identity. It was true of me and it is true of many people faced with illness. We tend to not be able to find who we are because we become so blinded by the situation we find ourselves in. I soon felt God calling me to look beyond myself to the suffering and needs of others. A spiritual teacher once said, "When you are helpless, help somebody."

What small act of random kindness can you do for someone else today? Paying for the meal of the person behind you at the drive thru? Allowing someone else to share their story with you? Even a heartfelt smile can change the trajectory of someone's day. Mother Theresa once said that, "Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing." If you are feeling hopeless and lost in your own life today, help someone.

- Jeanette -

Jeanette Pham is married to her best friend and is mother to three children. She works as a Nurse Practitioner with patients facing life threatening illnesses. She writes and speaks on living your best life.

Get **INVOLVED**



TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER



Thank you to the many that participated in our Trivia Night Fundraiser on March 26 at The Forum. Special thanks to our gold sponsors, Chick-fil-A of Pompano Beach and Olive Garden of Fort Lauderdale, and our bronze sponsor, the Califano family.

The competition was fierce but fun was had by all. In the process over \$10,000 was raised to help families with chronically ill children with financial grants and to assist families with funeral expenses following the death of their child.

SPREADING JOY WITH SONG

The girls' choir from Highlands Christian Academy was able to join forces with The Do More Foundation and visit the patients at Chris Evert Children's Hospital in Fort Lauderdale. They sang a medley of songs from famous Disney movies. The girls visited the Outpatient Hematology/Oncology unit, the General Medicine Unit, Pediatric ICU and the Inpatient Hematology/Oncology Unit. With each stop, they were greeted with smiles from kids undergoing treatment. One little boy was listening to the choir perform when someone from transportation showed up to take him to surgery. He asked if it would be possible to wait a few minutes. They loaded him up and wheeled him into the hall for a private concert before being wheeled to surgery.



Chick-fil-A in Pompano Beach provided sandwiches that were passed out to patients and families. One family that had relocated here from California had never had a Chick-fil-A sandwich. The 14-year-old brother of a cancer patient knew we were coming and was all smiles when we showed up at his sister's room with sandwiches.

He had been a great supporter of his sister, relocating with his mother to help her undergo months of inpatient treatment. We figured he deserved two sandwiches after being such a great support to his sister!



During hospital trips like this, kids are given backpacks and toys. Mom and dad don't get left out. We give them gift cards to restaurants that are in the hospital, such as McDonalds, Subway and Starbucks.



MEET BABY ZENTAVEIOUS

On March 1, Zentaveious entered the world at just 27 weeks gestation.

Zentaveious has been in the NICU at a children's hospital in California since then. He has had severe problems with his lungs because of his prematurity. He has been on and off a ventilator. Mom had been on bed rest since January due to complications with her pregnancy. She is currently taking care of her other kids while going back and forth to the hospital to spend time with her son. Zentaveious will have to remain in the NICU for a couple more months.

The Do More Foundation was able to give this family a small financial grant to help with some of the out-of-pocket expenses they are facing as a result of this medical crisis. Please keep this sweet baby in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to grow and meet milestones so he can be discharged.

The Do More Foundation, Inc.
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DO YOU WANT TO DO MORE BUT FIND LIFE GETS AWAY FROM YOU?

Did you know that if everyone who followed us on Facebook and read our Newsletter were to commit to the DO MORE Challenge, it would meet our budget to help families?

Take the DO MORE Challenge today and commit to giving \$5 or more each month to help us provide for more families who are in need.

The best part? It's automatic! Let us do the work for you so that you can give while not taking away from your own life.

Go to www.thedomorefoundation.org/ways-to-give for more info!

GET SOCIAL
WITH US!!



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