

Dear OLPH School Family,

I have begun writing a letter countless times but can never find the right words to express my gratitude. As I write, I still cannot think of adequate words, but I have come to the realization that I never will. You all have done so much for my family and my lack of words should not interfere with expressing my gratitude.

The past ten months have been beyond difficult in so many ways. On the other hand, I have seen and learned so much that I will always be able to look at this time in our lives with some small amount of cheer. I truly have never felt more blessed than I do now. So many strangers and people we hardly know have volunteered so much. Whether it has been continued prayers, their blood, gifts, or financial help, the outpouring of support has been amazing.

Each contribution has helped tremendously. When my will weakened and I doubted my ability to stay strong and help Halle, knowing there were so many people praying for our family gave me the strength to keep hoping. At this point in Halle's fight, she and our family need strength and hope more than ever. The love and support of so many amazing people is crucial in our daily lives.

Halle's entire world was turned upside down when she was diagnosed last May. From the beginning, she has received gifts both big and small. Halle's world became the four walls of her hospital room. The pictures and cards she received provided her a way to personalize those walls and make it more of a home than a prison.

The activities she was gifted gave her a means to pass time in a positive way rather than focus on her situation. The toys gave her an entire world of imagination where there was no pain or germs; where she could be anything and anywhere that she wanted to be. Through her very trying journey, Halle has rarely ever been morose.

My daughter's ability to maintain a cheerful attitude and outlook has been an inspiration to all of us. It is important for me that all of you know that everything the OLPH community has done has contributed to Halle's happiness during this time.

When I learned that a blood drive was being held in Halle's name, I was beyond touched. When I learned of how many people gave their time and blood, there were again no words to describe my emotions. There is a nationwide shortage of blood products that affects people of all ages. Halle is getting at least one transfusion each day. As horrible as her situation is, the OLPH support for the blood drive in Halle's name will reach far beyond her little body. Hundreds of deserving people will now be given another day, another chance.

The financial support, whether it be in the form of a monetary gift, lunch for the children, even laundry soap, has done far more for our family than just lessen the financial strain. The assistance provided has enabled us to spend as much time with Halle and our other children as possible. All four of our children are going through an extremely difficult time. They need the love and support of their parents now more than ever. You have helped them have that.

As we continue to learn more about Halle's cancer, we are facing the very real possibility that Halle is in her last days of life. The financial help you have extended toward our family has helped her father and I be with her each and every day to savor and cherish the moments. You have given us time with her which is by far the most valuable of all gifts. We cannot change the amount of time she has left with us, however we can cherish the memories we have made and the ones that are to come.

The amazing community that is Our Lady of Perpetual Help School has opened my eyes to the kindness and generosity in people. I will never be able to express to you how much everything you have done means to our family. Thank you so much and may God bless you.

Lisa Grow