



# BLANK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

IOWA HEALTH - DES MOINES

September 7, 2009

FIRSTNAME LASTNAME  
ADDRESS1  
ADDRESS2  
CITY, ST ZIP

Dear SALUTATION,

As school was winding down and thoughts of fun summer days were on the minds of children, Leigh and Joe Miller were learning how to check blood sugar levels and give insulin shots to their 8-year-old daughter, Madison.

They had noticed that Madison had been very thirsty and frequently using the bathroom during the night. She had also lost 13 pounds. Joe, a pharmacist, mentioned to Leigh that those were all symptoms of diabetes. They borrowed his father's glucose meter and tested Madison--it was over 500. Soon they were on their way to Blank Children's Hospital where they received a crash course on diabetes, met with the dietician and Child Life Specialist Kathy.

For children diagnosed with Type I diabetes, also commonly referred to as pediatric diabetes, education for children and families is an integral part of providing care at home. When a child is diagnosed with diabetes, particularly Type I, there is a very steep learning curve, especially when a child has to return to school.

Luckily, Kathy was approved to visit to Madison's school and educated not only her teachers and the staff, but also the kids in her class.

Madison's private school does not have a nurse on staff, so educating the staff helped put Leigh and Joe's fears at ease. Kathy let Madison explain her diabetes to her class and was there to back her up. Her school family is now better educated thanks to the Child Life Program at Blank Children's Hospital.

At Blank Children's Hospital, the child life staff provides many valuable services to young patients and their families. Educated in child development, the child life specialists' primary focus is to make the healthcare experience positive for the child through the use of developmentally appropriate techniques.

The Child Life Specialists foster healing and recovery by helping children deal with the fears and emotions that often accompany a visit to the clinic, hospital or even the classroom after a diagnosis. Won't you consider sending in \$AMT1, \$AMT2, or \$AMT3 to help provide this service?

Sincerely,

David Stark  
President & Chief Operating Officer

[www.blankchildrenshospital.org](http://www.blankchildrenshospital.org)



515-241-6304



[www.iowahealthfoundation.org](http://www.iowahealthfoundation.org)



While parents are comforting their child, the Child Life Specialists are there to explain the tough stuff. Can they count on your gift today?

*YES! Here's my gift for Blank Children's Hospital's Child Life Program.*

\$AMT1  \$AMT2  \$AMT3  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please charge my donation:**  Mastercard  Visa  Discover

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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My e-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_



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