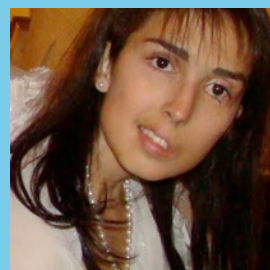
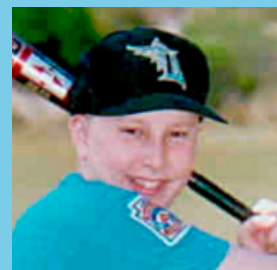
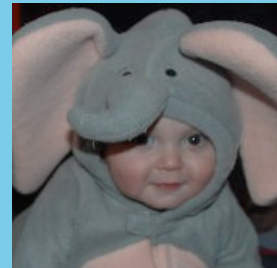


protect our health



Give Thanks & Support Their Caregivers
During National Family Caregivers Month

I love that *you* stick to me
like glue when I am sick.

-- Alex

Thirty **days**. Thirty **children**. Thirty **stories**.

During the month of November, celebrate National Family Caregiver's Month with a gift that will have a real impact: a **\$30** donation that will help the caregiver of a catastrophically or terminally-ill child.

myHERO, an initiative of the Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation, is calling on you, mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, and others, to support caregivers, who are the heroes that makes things a little easier and less scary when a child faces a serious illness.

Donations for **\$30** will go to help alleviate the burden faced by single caregivers.

Follow **myHERO** on Twitter [@asriveroflife](https://twitter.com/asriveroflife).

Tweet for awareness and share your experiences by using the hashtag **#myhero**.

Single parents (with or without other children) who have a terminally ill child and who due to the demands this puts on their time, energy and resources are unable to work and provide financially for their family.

Templer Foundation

4-year-old **Josephina** was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a cancer of the neural system. Her single mother caregiver was forced to move her family out of their home and relocate to an unfamiliar area so that J could receive medical care. This mom did not have the time or funds to find a new home so the family was living in a motel, and the nightly fees were quickly exhausting Social Security. ASRL helped to relieve some of the enormous stress on J's single mom as she cared for Josefina and her two siblings while unemployed and without a permanent residence.

Less than a week after **Eli** was hospitalized and diagnosed with cancer of the lungs, bones, and liver, Eli's father, his only caregiver, was fired from his job for spending too much time at the hospital with his son. Already devastated by Eli's illness, the devoted father of four found that without the money from his job, his family was on the verge of eviction. Upon receiving their request, ASRL immediately sent the money that allowed Eli's father and siblings to remain in their home, ensuring that the father could continue visiting Eli in the hospital.

Dylan was a 3 month old baby who was born prematurely with a series of heart and respiratory issues. His dedicated single mom is at his bedside nearly every day, participating in his care and working with the medical team. With Dylan in the hospital, she had to divide her time between visiting him and caring for her other son, and was left with very little time to try to find a new job. ASRL provided relief for the family so that the mother is able to travel between hospital and home.

Rosie was born prematurely with 2 heart defects. Her father had just moved his family from a homeless shelter to a stable, 1-bedroom apartment, when he was laid off from his job. This family had cut back on their expenses and was surviving on unemployment, SSDI and food stamps. When their van broke down, their church offered donations towards repairs so that they could visit Rosie in the hospital, and ASRL covered the remaining costs.

An overlooked population of caregivers gets highlighted this November during the **myHERO** campaign: the caregivers of terminally-ill children, the heroes who these children turn to for comfort and protection when battling terminal illness.

November is National Family Caregiver's Month, but the terminally-ill children's caregivers—parents and close relatives—are not often recognized for the care and comfort they provide.

The recent two billion dollar health care cuts in hospitals and clinics across California alone had a dramatic effect on safety net programs that provide relief to these caregivers. As a result, millions of California children and their primarily single parent caregivers are facing even greater problems affording the health care they need. It is not surprising that their cries to the Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation for monetary assistance have quadrupled since April 2009.

Nearly 70% of the households aided by Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation are headed by single mother caregivers. "This invisible community has few emotional or financial resources, and little to no support," observes Valerie Sobel, Founder.

**Help A Caregiver
Get to the Hospital****\$10**

Sometimes the simplest thing -- like having enough money for bus fare -- can keep a father and child from getting to the hospital for the child's regular chemotherapy.

A gift of \$10 can pay bus fare for Dad and his child to get to and from the hospital, ensuring that the child receives critical medical treatment. When your child is seriously ill, it is stressful enough. Help relieve a family's financial burden so that Dad can focus on his son's healing.

**Buy a Gift Card
For Cell Phone Minutes,
Gas, Food****\$30**

When a child is diagnosed with a life threatening illness, family finances get stressed fast. If mom quits her job to stay with the sick child, and dad is on disability, where will the money come from? Even the simplest purchases -- for food, diapers, gas, medicine -- can overwhelm a family struggling to care for a child with a terminal or catastrophic illness.

Your gift card will help a kind neighbor or relative go shopping for this family in need. Your gift will help to ease their financial burdens, so that the parents can focus on the child's healing.

**Buy Groceries
When a Child is Sick****\$90**

When a child is catastrophically ill, things happen fast. Medical bills add up quickly. It's expensive to travel to the hospital, and soon enough the money runs out. It's stressful enough to have a child with a catastrophic illness. Having to worry about how to feed siblings and keep gas in the car can add even more stress. Your gift will feed a sick child's family, softening a family's burden and letting Dad focus on caring for the child with a life threatening illness. Just knowing that he can buy groceries and feed his family helps a parent cope better during a traumatic time.

**Bring Someone Else
In to Help a Caregiver****\$120**

When a child is diagnosed with a life threatening illness, life changes in an instant. A single dad might quit his job to be at the hospital with his child, but who will help out the siblings at home? Siblings need a loving parent now more than ever.

Your gift will pay for transportation for a grandparent to visit and care for siblings. Your gift will help with gas, a long distance bus ticket, or plane fare. Not only will your gift give siblings their loving grandparent during this fragile time, it will give Dad peace of mind knowing that he can focus on his sick child's healing.

“Pediatric disease happens to an entire family.”

Valerie Sobel, Founder
Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation

The Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation was created in the wake of founder Valerie Sobel’s loss of her teenage son Andre from an inoperable brain tumor. She realized that it had been a blessing that she was able to care for her son and not worry about finances and other resources. Upon discovering that many single parents with critically-ill children are forced to chose between working to provide basic needs and staying with their terminally ill child, she created the foundation to relieve this financial and emotional burden.

The Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation (a 501(c)(3) public charity) provides emergency assistance within 24 hours to single caregivers of children with catastrophic or life threatening illnesses who are in financial crises. Working in partnership with 12 pediatric hospitals nationally, we have helped over 7,000 family members in the past nine years. Without ASRL’s support, many children with life threatening illnesses would be facing pain, treatments, fear, and at times, even their death, without a parent by their side.

For mail donations:

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