

Recently news of a member's family struggling in the face of their 2 year old daughter's serious illness came to the attention of the Local 516 office. Their stress is heightened even more by the fact that they have another child on the way. Other members of Local 516 have experienced adversities of various kinds and at times such as this our local union, YOUR local union, feels an obligation to assist in any way possible. This is paramount to our motto of "*Fidelity, Benevolence, Education, Protection*" in the interests of our brothers and sisters and their families. It is a key principle of the labour movement.

Below is a note of gratitude we received from Scott Gammel, reprinted with permission.

Hey Jason,

I wanted to say thank you again for everything that you and UA516 did for us. It is very nice to feel supported by people who don't know us well but care nonetheless. I was truly moved and touched by your gesture. It is very appreciated.

We have started a Facebook support/update group for our daughter Olivia. We post pictures and videos so people can see how we are doing. It helps free us up to care for our daughter and not answer a lot of phone calls and emails asking for news. Don't get me wrong, it's often nice to speak to people but it's hard to keep everyone up to date. If you or anyone at UA 516 want to join the group you are welcome to. It is easiest to "friend" me (Scott Gammel — my profile pic is a panda) on Facebook and I will invite you to the group.

Olivia is doing well. She started her 3rd round of chemo yesterday. Her spirits are very high and she is full of energy and fight. Last week she had a second MIBG scan and a second bone marrow biopsy. The scan showed that the tumor has gotten smaller and the preliminary biopsy results show that the bone marrow is clear of neuroblastoma cells. Both things are very positive and encouraging. They don't change the treatment however. We still have a long hard road ahead. Still, we are happy with the results and will keep pushing forward.

Please feel free to share this with whomever you see fit. If people are interested and want to support Olivia, we are happy.

Take care,

*Scott Gammel*

