

Oława, June 14th, 2013

We are appealing for help in treating a terrible illness that our colleague - a teacher, a Scout Leader, a volunteer, our school colleague - Mrs. Justyna Piotrowska has been suffering from.

Now Justyna, who has always made her pupils aware of the needs of others and has kindled the fire of knowledge latent within their young minds, is fading away. Day by day we watch her die slowly. Justyna developed her health problems after giving birth to her daughter (4 years ago). She consulted various medical specialists. It took them a year to diagnose her illness as pulmonary hypertension, which she might have developed as a result of childbirth.

We do realize that Mrs. Justyna Piotrowska is suffering from a serious illness. Moreover, we are aware that some people die because nothing can be done to save them. However, in our opinion they have the right to receive proper treatment and to be provided with the best medical care. It is our belief that in her case more ought to be done. She should be given a chance. Let us find someone who will fight tooth and nail to save Justyna's life. She does deserve it.

During this prolonged illness Mrs. Justyna Piotrowska has been an active school staff member and a model employee. She takes no sick days. Neither has she gone on a paid leave of absence to recuperate. Justyna treats working as the best therapy, which entails combatting extreme exhaustion. She is 34 years old. She was brought up in a teachers' family. After her father died when Justyna was seven, she together with her sister was raised by her mother only.

Not only teaching, but community volunteering - which she encourages youngsters and adults to engage in - is her passion as well. Since the foundation of the non-profit and non-governmental charity organization called the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity (WOŚP) Justyna, together with her boy scouts and girl guides, has been actively involved in their noble charitable activities. Last year despite her serious illness the troop Justyna led raised a considerable sum of money (12 thousand zlotys) for charity.

She has always shown passionate devotion to others, thus, she has enjoyed a successful career as a teacher. Her pupils keep achieving impressive results in inter-

school competitions. Some of them went on the "Zawisza Memorial Cruise" („Śladami Zawiszy"), while others won a trip to London. Some of her students also attended a scout rally in England and represented the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association at the Scout Rally in Lviv. Moreover, Justyna's pupils have won awards at drama competitions held in Olawa and in Lower Silesia. Thanks to Justyna, one of her pupils was awarded the Polish Children's Fund scholarship. Others won the „Freedom" Photo Competition and were awarded with meeting the President of Poland, Mr. Bronisław Komorowski.

We are writing this letter of appeal to all of you - our prominent public figures, Friends, organisations hoping that your sensitivity, power and abilities can move mountains.

On behalf of the Staff Members, the Parents' Board and the Students of the Bolesław Chrobry Primary School No. 1 in Oława - Mrs. Zdzisława Golańska, the School Head Teacher

On behalf of the Scout Leaders, Junior and Senior Scouts and Guides of the Olawa District of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association (Hufiec ZHP w Oławie) - Mr. Jerzy Październik, the Scoutmaster & the Head of the Oława District of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association

To donate, Justyna's Bank Account Details:

Bank PKO I Oddział we Wrocławiu

SWIFT: PKOPPLPW 51 1240 1994 1111 0010 5166 3028

Fundacja Świat z Uśmiechem

ul. Kopernika 6

56-400 Oleśnica

Prezes Fundacji - Agnieszka Grażyńska, the Foundation President

tel. 605447234

e-mail: fundacjaswiat@gmail.com

Because except for the campfire we would like something more,
Because apart from the songs, something lies in our hearts,
Because except for wandering something must be done,
Because you are not able to live without Friends.....

If you, Chief Guides and Chief Scouts, received this e-mail letter, it means that in the path of my life we have sat down around the Campfire. I might have been your teenage trainee or maybe we trained the future instructors of our Association together, or perhaps we were preparing for participating in an important Scout event, or we might have been camping somewhere with our Cub Scouts and Scouts...We were lighting the glimmers of joy in lots of hearts. I am Justyna from Oława, Poland, my maiden name was Gachowska and currently, my surname is Piotrowska.

Scouting was not my lifestyle – it was just my life. I am 34 years old and I have been running a Scout troop for 19 years. One day I was dreaming that all of my Scouts, irrespective of their rich or poor family background, would be enjoying the 100th Anniversary of the Scout Movement at the jamboree in England. After two years of hard work we renewed the Promise at the ceremony among the members from the whole world. Five years later I gave birth to my daughter - Blanka. Most probably the very difficult delivery caused an almost unknown disease – pulmonary arterial hypertension. Two years of wandering to hospitals and private surgery offices did not bring the right diagnosis – I heard that my heart and lungs were in good condition (the results of my computerised tomography and magnetic resonance examinations were not described properly) and I should enrol on aerobic classes or make an appointment with a psychiatrist because I made up my illness.

But I was getting weaker and weaker day by day. Being at the 100th Scout Jamboree in Kraków I realised how seriously ill I was. Not only was I unable to follow the troop going to the activities, but I also could not keep pace with my two-year-old daughter toddling along jamboree paths. I was diagnosed three weeks after that Scout event. Two and a half years too late – the defective lungs damaged my heart, which I additionally ruined by doing regular physical exertion forbidden in my disease, but still advised by the unaware doctors.

A struggle with the National Health Fund (NFZ) for very expensive medicines and very burdensome treatment, continual departures for the clinical hospitals in Wrocław, Warszawa and Otwock – that has been my life since the end of September, 2010. In spite of all the trouble I have not decided to resign from my job and I have been running my beloved troop up to now, although I

am not able to go together with them anywhere. I have to arrive at the meeting places following them by car and the basic condition of my presence there is a lift. Stairs are impassable obstacles. My sister, husband and Mother are supporting me all the time.

For a year and a half it has been known that in my case the treatment has no results, the medicines ruined my organism completely. None of the organs works properly and since September I have had severe ascites – about a dozen litres of body fluid accumulate in my abdomen, which mechanically drained accumulate again within a few days and that is the reason I have to be lying in hospital all the time and I almost cannot move at all. I am just saying goodbye and leaving my job. I have given back my navy blue cord to my husband. I have got a pump inserted into my lungs. It permanently introduces the medical substance into them, which a little bit expands my stuck veins. It is as if I was undergoing a chemotherapy treatment all the time.

My struggle for a double-lung transplant surgery is like a film script about callousness, incompetence and despair without any chances for the happy end. Two weeks ago, after my health condition became worse another time, the doctors who are in charge of me wrote a letter to the clinic hospital in Vienna. The reply came after three days, which was unbelievable to us. The Viennese doctors would like to see me there immediately. They advised me a family donor double-lung transplant. After a long time there appeared hope for life in my heart. But unfortunately, Poland is a strange country - it has not entered into a contract with Eurotransplant, which was done by other countries. That gives their citizens the opportunities of undergoing transplant surgeries in the whole Europe.

Today my life is worth € 150.000. Because you are not able to live without Friends.....

I have my Mother, sister and husband. All of us are teachers. Since the beginning of my illness we have been saving up, but the treatment and frequent commuting to hospitals turned out to be very expensive. I live in a Housing Association flat (TBS). We have not got any tangible goods, which we could exchange for money. 600.000 zlotys - that is the amount of money none of us could even imagine. I have found out the information from the Internet about the companies, which sponsored in full transplant surgeries in Vienna, but the economic crisis has excluded them from further charity activities.

Maybe you , Chief Guide and Chief Scout, know of any firm which would agree to sponsor a medical procedure and you could help me in my race for life, which I am losing more and more.

I am sorry if you felt offended that I dared send the letter to you. It is very much difficult for me. Up to now I have always helped, held charity events and I have never supposed I will have to ask somebody for money. Only few people knew about my being ill. But my doctor does not make me disillusioned – I have got no time to waste. My Girl Guides and Boy Scouts said, “ Chief Guide, we are going to organise a charity event. For sure, we will manage.” But they do not realise what a large amount of money it is. They also do not consider the fact that so many people are asking for money all around.

When I am at home my little daughter comes up to my bed , strokes my cheek and says ,” Mummy, but promise me you won’t die... .” I have been living in a terrible pain and it would be easier for me to finish it. However, when I was a child my Dad, a great Scout Instructor, passed away. I know what a child feels when the beloved parent dies. Such a void can never be filled.

Justyna Piotrowska

If somebody could help me, I am giving my e-mail address dhjustynka@wp.pl and my phone number 607895689. I am very often unavailable when I am in hospital, that is why I would like to give you my sister’s, Magda Gachowska, e-mail address mgachowska@wp.pl and her phone number 607888140.

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