January 4th 2011

First update of the New Year! It’s been pretty hectic, as it is for every family over the holidays, and I apologize for leaving so many people wondering how things are going. I’ll quell any worries that anyone has by saying outright that everything is the same as it was last time I wrote. Jessika is still healthy and we are taking every precaution to make sure she stays that way! Some may see our protocol as extreme but, when you’ve been told that, ultimately, your child’s life depends on protecting her from any virus, even one as common as a cold; most parents will go to extremes! We have not made any progress in acquiring any of the machines we have requested and we have not heard anything about when Jessika will have her g-tube surgery. We are battering against a brick wall when it comes to the medical system; it has been 3 months since diagnosis yet we still do not have any of the machines/equipment that we should have had from day 1. The worst part is that it’s not because the doctors are uncooperative or are going against us; they want to help, they are agreeing to provide us with what we have requested, but we need to wait. We need to wait for the system to turn its slow-moving cogs, we need to wait for space to open up in the OR and we need to wait for bed space to be available so Jessika can be set up with the machines and so we can be trained in their use. We are advocating to the extreme to get things moving and are willing to go as far as contacting the media, if need be.

On a much happier note, we had a wonderful, surprising Christmas and were really shown generosity, kindness and caring from the whole community. We received 3 BIG Christmas food baskets; one from the Dorval Elementary home and school that included much canned food, toiletries, toys, turkey, even some baby food, as well as a monetary contribution from the teachers and staff at the school. The other two baskets came from; a close friend and her mother who collected 6 boxes full of non-perishables as well as some fresh fruits and vegetables, turkey, eggs, bread and a bunch of gist cards for maxi; and from all the amazingly generous people at the Avalon Center, here in Dorval, who were able to put together another 7 full bags of groceries for us. So, we have a very full pantry, to say the least, and may not have to buy many groceries until sometime in March!

Jessika really enjoyed her holiday season; spending time with two of her big brothers, Josh and Christian, and her mom and dad. She got to see a lot of extended family as well. January will be a very busy month as well, even busier than December; Jeff, Josh and Jessika all have birthdays this month and we will be spending some time in hospital before the end of January for Jessika’s operation.

There are still some fundraising events being organized by my friends, Lisa Marie and David, and we continue to be so grateful for all the love and support we are receiving every day from the community.

Thank you all and Happy New Year!!!!

Eva, Jeff, Jessika, Christian and Josh and family