



August 2019

Dear Friends:

Your gift truly matters in each life we touch. We ask for your support today.

Every dollar makes a difference, so please take a few minutes to make a pledge or donation to the Employee and Volunteer Giving Campaign. Your donation will be put to use immediately to support our colleagues and our patients.

Thank you,

*Bob*  
Bob

*Tammy*  
Tammy

*Trish*  
Trish

*Nicole*  
Nicole

*Sarah*  
Sarah

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## HELPING HANDS SUPPORTS THE JONES FAMILY OFFSETS MEDICATION COST

Elizabeth (Liz) Jones, who works in Physical Rehabilitation's Essex office, has been a long-time advocate and supporter of the Helping Hands Assistance Fund. She has helped both colleagues and patients apply for assistance when there was an unexpected hardship, but never expected that she would benefit from the Fund herself.

Liz and her husband, Todd, have three children. When their eldest son, Christian, was in fourth grade, he was diagnosed with Asperger's, depression and anxiety. Since then, they have struggled at times with the complexity of the care and services Christian needs. Their goal has always

been to help manage Christian's symptoms, make school easier, and ease his struggles in any way that they can. Sometimes that means multiple doctors' appointments in a week; other times managing medication changes.

The family is covered by Todd's insurance and they were caught off guard when they learned that a new medication would cost \$850 and that they had reached their maximum pharmacy coverage. The pharmacy would only give them enough pills to get Christian through a few days until the family could figure out how they would cover the cost. Liz shared that she was so overwhelmed that she "lost it and started to cry" right in the pharmacy. She shared that sometimes the process is so hard to navigate as many insurance companies do not cover a number of behavioral health costs.

When learning of the situation, a colleague suggested she look into Helping Hands, and she did. The request was approved by the Helping Hands committee and Liz's family received support to help offset expenses so that the family could afford to buy Christian's medication. Liz said it was such a "relief and the support of my colleagues has been incredible." Christian is currently thriving as a sophomore in high school with an interest in marine science.

You can help make a difference by donating to the employee + volunteer giving campaign.

"It was such a relief, and the support of my colleagues has been incredible."