



*the new
name of* **NATIONAL
JEWISH**
Medical and Research Center

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2010 Annual Fund

Dear Friend,

You may never have heard of eosinophilic esophagitis or “EE,” but we need your help to stop it before it threatens the lives of any more children or adults.

EE is rare and mysterious, but if you or someone you love have this diagnosis, it is deadly serious. Sadly, very few medical centers in the country are equipped to recognize EE and care for EE patients.

Thanks to you and generous friends like you, National Jewish Health® is one of the few that are.

Your continued support of National Jewish makes possible the research that is unlocking the secrets of EE and leading us to a cure. It lets us give EE sufferers the help they need to break free from this horrible condition. That is why I hope you will accept the enclosed mailing labels and renew your support of National Jewish Health today.

How bad is eosinophilic esophagitis? Imagine being a child and suffering from persistent vomiting, nausea and difficulty swallowing. Imagine it being so bad that throughout your childhood, you visit the emergency room an average of one to two times every week!

And finally, imagine being told over and over again by doctors that despite all that, there is nothing really wrong with you. That it is “all in your head.”

Often connected to severe food allergies, EE can lead to nausea and vomiting, choking and dangerous weight loss — even death.

Eating becomes almost impossible. Swallowing medication hurts so much it makes you cry.

(over, please)

That is what Mikka White's childhood was like. For 11 awful, bewildering years, her symptoms grew more and more severe.

Through it all, members of her family were the only ones who took her suffering seriously ... and it turned out to be her brother-in-law, a third-year medical student at the time, who finally identified the mysterious condition at the root of it all: EE.

Once that diagnosis was made, it was clear to Mikka's family that her best hope was at National Jewish Health.

You see, just two years ago — in January, 2008 — Dr. Dan Atkins, Professor of Pediatrics at National Jewish, and his colleague Dr. Glenn Furuta of The Children's Hospital in Denver, established an eosinophilic esophagitis clinic at National Jewish.

This is one of just a handful of dedicated EE clinics in the entire nation, and the only one within 1,000 miles of Denver.

In its first two years, the EE clinic has seen patients from around the country. We have also hosted dozens of physicians eager to learn more about this mysterious condition.

After just a few months working with Dr. Atkins and his team, Mikka is learning how to manage her condition, and finding more and more foods she can add to her diet. Best of all, she has not had to make any more trips to the ER.

"I am so much healthier, and have more energy than ever," Mikka says with a big smile. "I now can live my life!"

That is the remarkable impact your support of National Jewish Health has every single day. Will you take this opportunity to give a gift again and help other children and adults battling EE and related diseases recover the health they need to live their lives?

I hope to hear from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Michael Salem, M.D.
President and CEO

P.S. There is so much we still do not know about EE. Please help us put an end to this frightening and even deadly condition. Children like Mikka do not deserve to live in so much pain! You can help them get the care they need. Thank you again.