

Calistro Mother Wants MD In U.S.

By LINDA BOUVIER
Citizen Staff Reporter

Patti Calistro has been working hard to organize an alternative cancer therapy campaign. Her daughter Amber has been receiving cancer therapy in the Bahamas at the Immunology Researching Centre, under the care of Dr. Lawrence Burton. Ms. Calistro and others want Burton to offer his immuno-therapy in this country. Currently, his treatment is banned here.

So, Ms. Calistro has spent a busy week here in Connecticut, while her daughter remained in the Bahamas for treatment, to organize Burton sympathizers.

As a result, a documentary film and educational newsletter plus the development of a non-profit organization to assist Burton's cause is being pursued by New Haven Professor Bert Garskof. Burton treats cancer patients with non-toxic immuno-therapy, according to Ms. Calistro.

Ms. Calistro met with Garskof and others who are interested in getting "Burton back into the States." It may take a while, but "We'll be putting together a strategy to get Burton back here; then we'll contact other people by correspondence," Ms. Calistro said.

Search For Surgeon

Another reason Ms. Calistro came back to the area last week was to search for a surgeon who will "debulk" the tumor behind Amber's right ear. Doctors in Montreal examined Amber in July and felt that the operation, which is designed to remove part of the tumor, would be too risky. Burton feels the operation can be done.

Amber is treated with eight daily non-toxic injections of blood serum which keep the immune system fighting her rare cancer. Burton feels he can dissolve the tumor with injections, but there would be less stress on the little girl's body if the tumor were reduced in size, according to Ms. Calistro.

The tumor had regressed after initial treatment, but grew again after Amber had tonsillitis.

Because of limited medical facilities in the Bahamas, costly expenses, and the absence of family and loved ones, Burton sympathizers want him to practice here in this country.

Fund Started Here

Ms. Calistro has enlisted financial support for Burton by approaching people who can help. She has started a fund at First Bank in Milford for this purpose. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Eleven businesses around the area have canisters collecting donations to the Amber Calistro fund.

The places are: Carvel, Curry Copy Center, McDonald's, Izzie's News Stand, Milford Diner, Walsh's Book Store, Wolfe's Bakery, Princess Beauty Salon, Edge of the Woods, Howard Johnson's (off the Merritt Parkway), and Blue Sky Diner (Stratford).

Members of the Calistro family regularly collect the contents of the canisters.

Patti and Amber Calistro will stay in the Bahamas for Amber's cancer treatment for an "indefinite period of time." Burton will decide when they can return.

Meanwhile, Ms. Calistro has turned the "indefinite period" to "soon" and adds, "that gives me hope."

Thanks

8-28-80
I am leaving tomorrow morning for Freeport. Before I go, I want to commend Linda Bouvier for her excellent article (Wednesday, August 20) about Amber and her plight. Linda had much information to sift through and the resulting article was moving.

I also want to thank the citizens of Milford, especially the students at Jonathan Law, for your caring, love and support. Without it, our situation would have been a nightmare.

Those of you who have been touched by Amber know what gift she has to give. She is an amazing child with a purpose just revealing.

I will bring bits of Milford back to her in hopes of renewing her strength and courage. We check the post office in Freeport every day and she delights in your cards and letters.

Once again, thanks, Milford. I look forward to the day when we return and become a part of this great city.

Respectfully,
Patricia A. Calistro