



Dear Sir / Madam,

My name is Orestes and I have worked in the Front Office of the Florida Marlins since the 2002 season. In my capacity within the Season Ticket & Group Sales Office, I have spear-headed many large and worthwhile projects, including fund-raisers for not-for-profit organizations, schools, and high school baseball sports teams, among many others.

Never have I worked on a project that has touched me on as many different emotional levels as this one. I would like to introduce to you this Florida Marlins fund-raising project to benefit the **Ana Alicia Fernandez Special Needs Trust**.

On the next page you will read a note from Alicia A. Fernandez, the mother of Ana-Alicia. Once you have read her story, you will understand why this fund-raising project is like no other.

To raise the kinds of dollars this little girl needs, Alicia, Luis Miguel of Mercantil Commercebank in Coral Gables, and I decided to take advantage of the Florida Marlins' standing in our community. Through the sale of tickets to the Sunday, August 31st game vs the New York Mets, we will help to raise the funds needed for the purchase of a specially equipped vehicle to accommodate Ana-Alicia's needs.

Bullpen Box seats for this event are available for \$20 each (regularly priced at \$23 in advance). They can be purchased in sets of 20, 50, 100, or more. Proceeds from every ticket sold will go directly to the **Ana Alicia Fernandez Special Needs Trust**.

I ask you for your support for this very special cause and this very special girl.

Very sincerely,



Orestes Hernandez

Senior Account Manager



**A SPECIAL REQUEST for a
"Very Special Child"**
**We have been searching for a "handicap ramp ready vehicle" for
Ana-Alicia restlessly, and for a very long time!**

Most of you know or have heard of Ana-Alicia. She is the victim of a hit and run drunk boater at the age of 6, on April 9, 1995. She is very special and requires much special care. I thank God everyday for leaving her with us to care for. I know I am blessed to have her with me. Right now I am asking for help to be able to transport her, and take her out of the house, make her life a little more exciting.

Taking her to doctor's appointments is of utmost importance. When going to the doctor or anywhere else, requires a team of people. Myself and the nurse to carry her. I carry the ventilator into the car, and all equipment she requires right next to her.

However, moving her to the car and out of the car with all kinds of tubing and machines is like an impossible mission and a risky one. In a quick effort to solve this problem we got a minivan donated. Buying ramp ready car was just simply unaffordable.

The second job becomes securing the wheelchair in the car which requires talent and strength to say the very least. We have to take the wheelchair apart to fit it into the back of the minivan. The wheelchair is very heavy; it has a vent tray attached to the bottom. We have to take the legs off the wheelchair, the head rest and tilt it back. Carry it onto the back of the van. The respirator goes on the front seat, next to the driver. Ana-Alicia goes in the back seat with the nurse or me holding her, if I am not the one driving the van. The suction machine goes on the floor in front of Ana-Alicia, a back up battery on the front floor, in case the respirator runs out of the internal battery.

When we get to wherever we are taking her, first I take the wheelchair out, put it back together. Take the vent and put it on the vent tray at the back of the wheelchair. Put the battery back up on top of the vent, the suction machine. Then we take Ana-alicia out of the van between 2 or 3 people helping, seat her on the wheelchair.

Going back home, we repeat the same task of putting her in the car, taking the wheelchair apart again, upon arrival at home, repeat the same thing on taking her out of the van and taking everything back into the house.

How much simpler and safer, just sitting her on the wheelchair with all her equipment, and just rolling her onto the van, securing the wheelchair, and taking her out just rolling out the wheelchair with her already on it.

She loves to go out, but just the trip to the hospital for doctor's appointments is a BIG ordeal. **We Need HELP.**

I realize that it is no one's responsibility but ours to provide the care and comfort for our daughter's own needs.

Today I am asking for a united effort to provide Ana-Alicia a more suitable way of taking her where she needs to go. She needs to get a ready equipped **high top convertible van with a wheelchair ramp, and the modifications required.**

At the time of the accident Ana-Alicia was only 6 years old. She is now 19 years old, getting bigger and heavier. Carrying her is not what it used to be. I thank everyone with all my heart for any and all HELP!

Alicia A. Fernandez
(Ana-Alicia's Mother)

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