

# *In Memory of Olivia B. Miller*

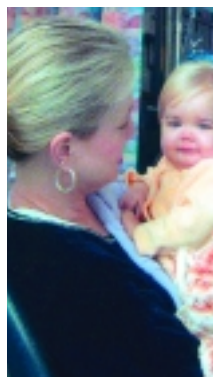
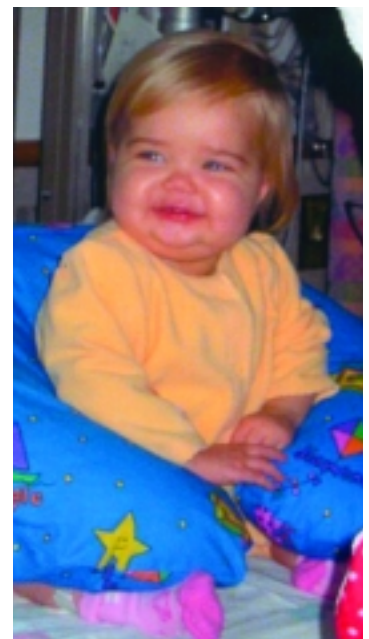
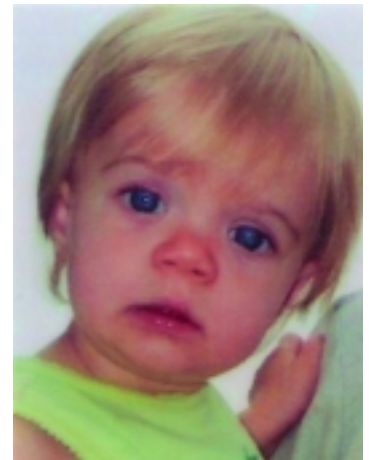
December 19, 2003 – April 12, 2005

**Olivia B. Miller**, 15-1/2 month old daughter of W. Edwin and Pamela Brantley Miller, died Tuesday, April 12, 2005, at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia after a six month battle with an autoimmune disease, hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis.

She was born in Lancaster on December 19, 2003.

Surviving besides her parents is her ten-year-old sister, Rachel B. Miller; paternal grandparents Wayne and Yvonne Miller of Mount Joy; maternal grandparents Paul and Dorothy Brantley of Leola; maternal great grandmother Estella Ressler Stauffer of Lancaster; paternal aunts and uncles, Barbara Miller, Dwight and Kim Miller, Quentin and Lydia Miller; and seven cousins. She is also survived by a maternal aunt and uncle, Sharon and Greg Smith; and four cousins.

Family and friends may pay their respects to the family at the Charles F. Snyder Jr. Funeral Home and Chapel, 3110 Lititz Pike, Lititz, PA, on Saturday from 9–11:00 a.m. Services and interment will be private and held at the convenience of the family.



# What is HLH or Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis?

HLH is a type of autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system is confused and attacks normal healthy cells/tissue/organs. It is a rare disorder primarily affecting young children at a very early age, but it is also found in patients of all ages.

Histiocytes are produced by the bone marrow and they may travel throughout the body. At a later stage, these cells remain in place within various tissues in the body. Their job is to help destroy certain foreign material and to fight infections.

Patients with active HLH have too many of these histiocytes, as well as lymphocytes (another kind of infection fighting cell), both of which are so called white blood cells. These cells begin to penetrate and accumulate in good tissue and can cause damage to a variety of organs. Scientists and doctors do not yet know all the complicated processes involved in this disease.

Although HLH can be inherited, Olivia was diagnosed with the secondary form of HLH. This means the disease develops after abnormal activity of the immune system due to infections or immunosuppressive conditions or therapy.

Olivia started out with a high persistent fever that led to the diagnosis of systemic Junior Rheumatoid Arthritis. A swollen liver and spleen as well as results of a bone marrow aspirate led doctors to the diagnosis of HLH. Despite treating Olivia by a standardized HLH protocol, as well as a few of the new "miracle drugs", Olivia's disease raged on causing her to need a shunt to relieve intra-cranial pressure. Her disease continued to remain active and cause damage despite the maximum level of drugs and multiple drug therapies the doctors prescribed her. Although Olivia fought hard to remain here with her large loving family, it was time for her

to be in a place where she could run and play and point her little finger without hurting anymore.

We are setting up a memorial fund in memory of Olivia at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to be used for HLH research. If you are interested in contributing you may make your contribution to The Children's Hospital Foundation. Please indicate it is for Olivia Miller's Memorial Fund. The contact information is as follows:

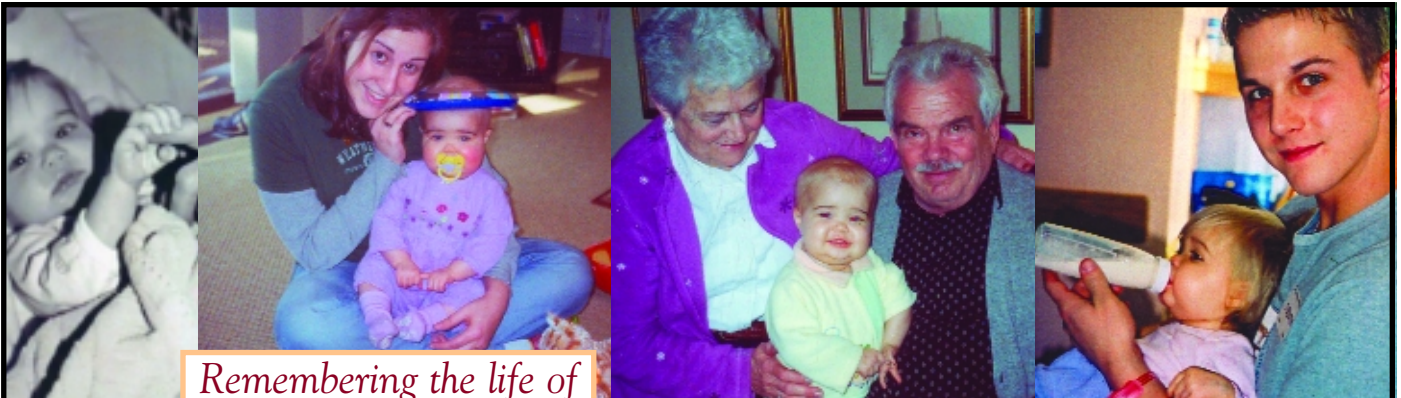
**The Children's Hospital Foundation**  
34th Street and Civic Center Blvd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-4399

For more information on HLH, you can visit the website supported by the Histiocytosis Association of America at [www.histio.org](http://www.histio.org).

## *Remembering the life of Olivia B. Miller*







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## For Olivia

My work has been the work of change.  
The challenge — how to rearrange  
Perceptions of a past that seemed  
To harbor wonders yet undreamed.

I'd raise my hand, the visions grew.  
Proud cityscapes were born anew.

My mark was large upon the land.  
Tall towers arose at my command.  
How could one not feel truly blessed

To have and hold what I've possessed?  
But for that undeveloped space  
Where once there was an angel's face.

What would I ask, what one thing more?  
A princess fair to labor for.

~ author unknown

