

Keene Sentinel Keene, NH

You can help a child

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Dear friends and neighbors:

Please let me introduce you to my young friend Spencer, a very brave 3-year-old boy who lives with his mom and dad in Jaffrey.

Last summer, just after he started preschool, Spencer was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor and started treatment at Mass General in Boston.

Since then he has been through brain surgery and chemotherapy — in fact, his last chemotherapy treatment was to be on Christmas Eve. He was to be home with his family on Christmas Day, with a few weeks to recuperate, until he is due back in Boston to start radiation therapy in mid-January.

While Spencer is undergoing radiation therapy his parents would like to be able to stay with him in a home-like setting at Christopher's Haven, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides housing for families who bring their child to Boston's Mass General Hospital for Children for cancer treatment.

Instead of spending hours traveling in unpredictable winter weather back and forth to Boston to get Spencer to his treatments, his mom and dad can stay with and care for him themselves just steps from the hospital.

Christopher's Haven is able to offer them a studio apartment for \$30 per day (a specially reduced rate), and the cost for the stay during Spencer's treatments will be about \$1,400.

Spencer deserves the best Christmas ever this year — and he will have that just by being at home on Christmas Day with his mom and dad.

If you would like to help Spencer and his family to have a better new year, please check out Christopher's Haven on the web at Christophershaven.org. You can donate for Spencer Gentile's stay in particular or directly to Christopher's Haven, which will help Spencer, his family and other families like them.

Thank you for your generosity.

LYDIA LAMSON

Keene