



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

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Dear AYP and NAFYR colleagues:

Life is so fragile. Why does it take fighting for your life to find this out? It took a year long battle with head and neck cancer for my outlook to change. No warning, no risk factors. Three surgeries to my tongue and neck. Chemotherapy and radiation were needed to knock this disease into remission. I live with the faith that it won't return. Recovery from all this will take years.

I don't know how I found the strength for each round of the fight. The strength came from God, family, friends, colleagues, and the caring members of AYP. They all helped us so much. There's a time to carry others and a time to be carried. This was our time for help. I never thought I would be one of those in need of EAF throughout my years of belonging to AYP

We found out my wife was pregnant with our fourth child, to top off the chaos of 2006. Taking care of our three young girls and a bedridden husband, doctor visits, daily trips for treatments, administering home IVs and other treatments added the nursing hat to my wife's cadre of duties. All of this, plus pregnancy, running a household, and the constant stress of wondering if you're going to lose your spouse. Heady things. Challenges far beyond what a family can endure — yet, you do.

The medical treatments and expenses took their toll, including trips to the Mayo Clinic. The expenses became overwhelming.

My YMCA colleagues submitted an EAF grant, and I received an instant response with support and monies from the AYP office. We were able to immediately reduce some of our stress. It takes a lot of energy — mental, emotional, and physical to fight for your life.

I've been given a gift. A gift of compassion. A gift of knowing Christ in a very personal way. A gift of learning how to help others. A gift of appreciation and knowing how fragile life is. A gift of healing. Give your gift to others.

Tragedy and crisis don't pick and choose. It's just a matter of time. Support EAF now. Give generously each year. Don't wait until the message is driven home and you need the help. AYP members take care of each other.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Bauman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Bauman
Missouri Valley Family YMCA
Bismarck, North Dakota

P.S. This is the first of three mailings you will receive this year from EAF. They serve two purposes: to spur you to make your gift now, and to keep the "face" of your colleagues in front of you on a regular basis.