

January 15, 2003

To Our FHP/DHSMV Family:

Sarah, Kate and I don't know where or how to properly thank each of you for all that was done for our family throughout Lyla's illness. All of you have been a blessing over the last two years. We hope to be able to thank each of you individually over the next year, but felt the need to do something now. We hope that no one finds this letter, in its form letter style, offensive or in anyway think that it shows a lack of personal gratitude we feel for each of you that contributed to Lyla's fight. However, we received hundreds of expressions of support in many different forms. Support came from all over the world, including Europe, Asia and South America and we have been overwhelmed and unable to keep up with thanks, as we should have. While this letter is meant as a group thank you and we plan to try to individually thank each of you, we will inevitably forget someone or something that helped our family. Please know that if that happens it is completely unintentional and does not mean that we did not appreciate what you did for our family.

The Florida Highway Patrol/Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and specifically Troop G, the Jacksonville Districts, and my Squad have treated our family like their own throughout Lyla's illness, making a terrible situation much easier. Your gifts of food, financial support, cards, presents for Lyla and Kate and your kind words, did not go unnoticed. All of you were and continue to be a true blessing to our family and we will never forget what you have done for us.

Lyla was born an angel, touching countless lives and bringing people together all over the world. While Lyla's job is done here on earth, her spirit is not and she continues to serve God in Heaven today. We miss her dearly and think about her every day. We are sad, because we cannot watch her play with her baby sister Kate or see her beautiful smile, but we are learning to live with our loss. Lyla never let her illness get her down and always had a smile on her face, a giggle to share and something funny to say. Remember that, while our battle is over, there are other families still fighting their battles and new families are caught off guard with their child's diagnosis each day. Lyla's life, as short as it had to be, was filled with the love of her family, but also of many friends and strangers. Thank You!

Please feel free to share our letter with any friends or family that have in anyway been a part of Lyla's fight and let them know that we appreciate their prayers, good thoughts and support. We have set up a permanent internet guest book for Lyla through the Florida Times Union (<http://www.legacy.com/Link.asp?ID=GB00644754>). Please feel free to access the guest book at any time.

Sincerely,

*Ryan, Sarah and Kate Burchnell*