Each new page in this book opened for her a new horizon.

And so, on the day the miracle occurred, Miri signaled that she wanted her Blis book. And when she got it, she leafed furiously through the pages -- far, far beyond the point to where she had advanced.

Finally she came to a section of the book that no one had ever thought that she could ever reach.

She pointed at a picture...

...the therapist looked...and the experienced expert that had "seen it all" burst into tears. She hugged Miri, kissing her and saying, "yes...yes...yes..."

Little Miri had pointed to a picture of a smiling face with the inscription, "happy" under it.

That was the miracle. Miri, a child that was once classified as retarded beyond hope, was telling us that she was happy and that she wanted to be happy.

Miri has broken through the barrier of her disability. She was free.

That breakthrough was followed quickly by speech. And now Miri literally talks up a storm. In fact, she has been moved from the daycare program for the severely retarded to the rehabilitative kindergarten.

And what will happen to little Miri next?

We don't know how far she can advance. But we know that she will get as far as she possibly can, because she is being cared for in the most exceptional learning and rehabilitation institution for special children in the world today.

Special education experts from all over the world come to Aleh to study new techniques for rehabilitating special children. Despite its meager resources, Aleh is the finest of its kind.

Most institutions have between 8 and 20 children per worker. At Aleh, we have 1 worker for every 2 children. In special cases it's even 1 worker for **each child !!**

That way, a child is never left alone, unattended, to vegetate.

We believe that a special child -- no matter how disabled -- is first and foremost a human being, and no matter what, deserves the highest degree of of care and quality of life possible.

But, frankly, we have urgent financial needs.

For example, we desperately need specially built vans to bring children with Cerebral Palsy to and from their homes -- with chairs designed so that the children are safe and won't fall from their seats during the ride. We now transport them in taxis for that reason alone.

And at Aleh we need special chairs so that the chlidren -- regardless of how severe their physical condition -- including those with severely curved and twisted spines -- will be able to sit up and join the world instead of hopelessly lying on a rug.

Also, for the children that spend 24 hours a day in their beds, we need special beds that will prevent the formation of pressure wounds on the bodies of the children.

We need so much! Because we want to help more and more children. And we want to give them the best help humanly possible.

You see, the miracle of little Miri would never have happened if we had not given to her individual, loving attention. There's just no way!

But how long can we keep this up? And how can we ever go on to help more children?

My friend, that is the question I must ask you to consider, because Aleh is a completely a nonprofit facility. We don't charge any fee for our services.

Perhaps you can send a gift of $27 to provide a child like Miri with a Blis-language book, and shine the bright light of communication into her dark world of lonely isolation.

Or a gift of $12 that will provide a child with three meals -- spoon-fed with endless patience to develop his mouth muscles and respiratory system.

And if you can send a gift of $100, you'll help us to get a wheelchair-bound child her first pair of custom-constructed orthopedic shoes, enabling her to take the first steps towards independence and freedom.

We need you! Our children need your love!

And if you can find it in your heart to send a gift to

(over, please)