

## A Heartfelt Request

11/11/21

Dear Friend,

We are writing this letter to appeal to you for funds for Goli Balakhani, a quadriplegic woman in our community. **We last appealed to you in 2020 and the support you provided then has been critical to keeping her alive and functioning. We are profoundly grateful for your past support and appeal to you now so that we can continue to see Goli cared for and living her life to the fullest.**

As you recall, for the past 30 years, Goli has struggled with Muscular Dystrophy, a devastating and degenerative medical condition which has left her almost completely paralyzed. Despite these significant challenges, she has been an active community member, and worked as a supervisor in an agency that advocates for those with disabilities.

However, in the summer of 2018, Goli experienced significant new challenges. After falling into a coma and thank G-d subsequently awaking from it, she lost her ability to speak. As a quadriplegic woman, speech was her only form of communication, her key to independence, and her way of navigating the world. Losing that was a major setback.

Goli is in her forties and is confined to a bed in a nursing home. She is completely aware of everything that is going on around her, but has very limited means to communicate even her basic needs. She cannot call a nurse for help, press a button to request the frequent suctioning that vented patients require, and has no ability to even cry for help. This is an acutely painful situation for Goli, and one that she frequently had to deal with alone. COVID has exacerbated these already extremely challenging conditions for Goli. The limited visitation has made her days excruciatingly lonely.

Goli truly requires the presence of an aide and previously the community responded generously and raised enough funds to hire a part-time aide and purchase some much-needed assistive technology to improve her ability to communicate. This has made a huge difference in Goli's quality of life, both physically and emotionally.

As those funds are almost depleted, we appeal to you, her fellow community members, to help continue to provide Goli with this basic level of care in this excruciatingly difficult situation. The part-time aide has been a lifesaver for Goli and we ask you to please contribute whatever you can to help cover these significant but necessary costs.

Goli and her family are profoundly appreciative of your partnership in helping to alleviate some of her suffering and enhancing her quality of life.

In the merit of your caring and kindness, may HKBH grant you and your family every bracha.

Respectfully,



**Rabbi Yaakov Hopfer**

Mara D'Asrah, Shearith Israel Congregation and President of the Vaad HaRabbanim,  
Baltimore, MD



**Rabbi Moshe Hauer**