

Compassion Can't Wait

Valerie Sobel's "Living Legacy" Helps Single Parent Families in Despair

[The Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation](#) (ASRL) and its founder Valerie Sobel are featured in [this month's philanthropy issue of Angeleno Magazine](#). Cited for her "Living Legacy," Sobel's work is featured among some of the Los Angeles area's most visionary philanthropists. Sobel seeded the Foundation with her own philanthropy, naming it for her son who died of a brain tumor at the age of 19.

Since 2000, Sobel's ASRL has provided urgent financial assistance to over 12,000 single parent family members with a child facing catastrophic or terminal illness. Pediatric social workers nationwide identify families in crisis who have exhausted all other financial resources and refer them to ASRL.

ASRL responds by paying for rent, mortgages, car payments, groceries and more so that the parent can focus on the child's healing. Sobel notes that "although we cannot cure the child, we can soften the family's journey."

The story of Baby A, below, is just one example of how the Foundation has helped families in urgent need this month. Sadly, there are twice as many more families requesting aid than ASRL is able to fully assist. You can help -- ***when compassion can't wait*** -- please [make a contribution](#) today.



"When Compassion Can't Wait" for Baby A's Family

Baby A is 18 months old and was born with genetic non-curable disease that attacks his neuromuscular system and degenerates his muscles. Tragically, Baby A's expected lifespan is now measured in mere months. Since time with Baby A is so precious, his single mother is determined to spend every possible moment with him, even as she works full time to support her family -- including her parents. Mom is not only emotionally devastated, she is financially drained. When the family's social worker reached out to ASRL to assist so that Mom can focus on her child, ASRL responded quickly with payments totaling \$900 to cover the car payment, phone bill and urgent household needs.

There are so many families with urgent needs, and many that face unthinkable medical situations like Baby A's. While we cannot cure the child, we can help "when compassion can't wait," allowing Baby A's family the precious gift of time with him. Won't you [help with a family](#) like Baby A's?