

ANNOUNCEMENT



On hand for the Grand Opening of Mario's no frills. Left to Right: Mayor Don Cousens, Marthese Natale and Mario Natale

Mario's no frills
is located at 9255 Woodbine Ave. at 16th

YORK REGION: Richmond Hill couple raises funds for treatment

Family needs van to help twins

BY CHRISTOPHER DOURIS
Staff Writer

With twin, three-year-old daughters both diagnosed with cerebral palsy and facing six weeks in body casts following surgery later this year, parents Abdullah and Zeenat Aumeer are wondering how to make ends meet.

Their 1992 Mazda gets the Richmond Hill family around town when it's not broken down, but it won't accommodate the girls in their casts following surgery.

The girls, Aaliyah, which means God's Princess, and Amina, which means faithful, have been diagnosed as spastic quadriplegic.

"The surgery is to cut a muscle, hopefully they'll have more flexibility to sit," Abdullah said. Surgery will be performed Dec. 3.

The cerebral palsy resulted from a surge of oxygen after the twins were born 12 weeks prematurely.

Zeenat said the twins surprised everyone but her. "They were what is called mirror twins," she said, and "weighed just under two pounds at birth."

Cerebral palsy cannot be diagnosed until 15 months of age, Abdullah said. The family found out at 16 months.

Dealing with the children's condition has taken its toll on the family. A wheelchair stroller cost almost \$9,000, but some help has been forthcoming, Abdullah said. "I've got \$40,000 I have to raise."



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

The Aumeer family of Richmond Hill, Abdullah, Zeenat and twins Aaliyah and Amina, need a van to help with treatment for the girls, who have cerebral palsy.

"We're hoping (a manufacturer) will reduce the cost of the vehicle and finance the rest," Zeenat said. "I didn't realize it would be this hard. We don't want free money, we just need help."

Abdullah said they need a van with doors on both sides. With both girls in body casts he won't be able to reach.

He said a van is also necessary to transport wheelchairs.

Another \$6,000 in modifications to the van would be required for specialty equipment to allow the children to sit up in a safe manner, Abdullah said.

A perfect fit for the family would be a Chevrolet Venture or Transport, he said. "It allows the

equipment without special renovation."

The twins already undergo intense therapy, involving a physiotherapist and a chiropractor, but Abdullah and Zeenat can't do anything about the girls' condition. "After the surgery it's going to be crucial," Abdullah said. "They want to run around and play but they can't."

The Child's Voice Foundation will accept donations for the Twins Transportation Fund and will issue receipts. The foundation is located at 3034 Palstan Rd., Suite 302, in Mississauga.

The registered charity number is 887549285RR0001 and the foundation can be reached at 1-888-837-3354.

KESTANE JEWELLERY

COME IN AND SAVE

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL

14K, 18" SNAKE CHAIN

1MM YELLOW OR WHITE GOLD

NEW ONLY \$99⁰⁰

Specializing in Fine Custom Made Jewellery
Come in and receive a great deal on a large selection of:

- Diamond Engagement Rings
- Wedding Bands
- Necklaces
- Bracelets
- Earrings
- And a large selection of Quality Watches and other Fine Jewellery

We also do repairs and appraisals

ESQ CITIZEN MOVADO

8601 Warden Ave. (at Hwy. 7)
Markham Town Square Tel: (905) 949-5553

OCTOBER PROMOTION AT THE MILL

Dexter Bed

Queen \$699 Regular \$959
King \$875 Regular \$1215

Sale ends October 31st

QUEENSBIDGE MILL • 4160 19TH AVENUE, MARKHAM (905) 887-1127
OPEN THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY FROM 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL QUEEN'S PANTRY, 176 MAIN STREET, HISTORIC UNIONVILLE (905) 477-4625 • www.queensbridge.com

Halloween Fun

Princess Karina
Magic Show & Illusions

Sunday, October 24th - 1:00 pm & 3:30 pm
FREE HALLOWEEN TREATS FOR ALL KIDS!

Pumpkin Decorating & Face Painting

Saturday, October 30th - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

All children are invited to decorate a pumpkin to take home and have their faces painted for the big event!

Come See How We've Grown

3255 Highway 7 East
(East of Woodbine on Highway 7)