

## *St. Vincent de Paul Provides Long Term Assistance to Family Affected by Cancer*



Juan and Marta have two young children. Up until their initial request they had never asked for or required financial assistance. In May 2008 their 3 year old son was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and was entered into a 3 1/2 year treatment program at Schneider Children's Hospital. To care for her son, Marta had to give up her job that provided enough income to keep them self-sufficient. After a review of this family's income and needs, we accepted their case and approved long term assistance through our UPLIFT Program. An immediate EFSP grant was processed to get them current with their rent. A \$400 a month UPLIFT grant was approved. Food and grocery vouchers were distributed from our local food pantry. Assistance was provided to apply for an SSD stipend. While most of our UPLIFT cases run 6 to 12 months, we have continued this case since 2008. Their son has several more months of chemotherapy before his treatment course is completed. We hope and pray that it is successful. Marta is planning to resume working in the fall 2011.

### **UPLIFT**

There are a number of unforeseen events that can sometimes put a family in financial straits. For many families on Long Island, the loss of a job, a major health issue or a family crisis can all lead to significant financial trouble, beginning a downward spiral of events, putting them at poverty level.

The UPLIFT Program is not just about giving out money to families in crisis. It's about helping families get back on track to becoming self-sufficient and empowering them with the skills they need for financial independence. Our volunteers and conference members work closely with each family in crisis, counseling them through this difficult time and assisting them in areas such as how to budget and other financial management skills. Most importantly, our Vincentians are there to help families in need by providing comfort, kindness- and encouragement- that is so vital in helping families in crisis not only make it through tough times, but take control of their own future.