

### The BAYADA Way in action on a special Christmas Day



**ABOVE:** Siani spent her final Christmas with her family, in their own home, thanks to the dedication of BAYADA employees.

Fun and laughter boomed from the employees' holiday party at Voorhees Pediatrics in Voorhees, New Jersey. Then the phone rang. It was Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, familiarly known as CHOP. Mary Ellen Garofalo, Transitional Care Program Director, answered and quickly learned that a gravely ill 13-year-old girl, Siani, and her family had a wish to be home on Christmas Day and needed coverage.

Siani was so ill with leukemia that any attempt to move her could result in her death. She needed a nurse with the highest pediatric intensive care nursing skills.

December 25 was just days away. Having planned for coverage months in advance, Debra Magaraci, Director, learned of the situation and asked herself, "Who is available? All of our nurses were on shifts already."

But this was an extremely special circumstance. Siani's condition was terminal and this would likely be her last

holiday at home. Without hesitation, Debra said to her office, "We're bringing this baby home. They can count on us."

Upon hearing the story, everyone at the party proceeded to make phone calls to nurses. One nurse offered to come off a complicated shift if someone else could fill in for her, so she could offer uninterrupted care to Siani.

Realizing that the family hadn't been home much—they'd been virtually living at CHOP—BAYADA employees dismantled the office Christmas tree, carried it to the family's home, and redecorated it there. Debra also called the local grocery store to have them cook and deliver a complete holiday dinner for the family.

Coming home and playing with the family dog one last time boosted Siani's spirits tremendously. "Her dad was walking around the house saying, 'I didn't know there were angels on earth. . . . I never knew there were angels,'" Debra says. "We cried all Christmas Day. It was a true Christmas miracle." 