



NEWS

Scooter boys pull — and push — together to aid sick boy

By Kevin Spurgaitis

TEN scooter boys who braved hurricane-force winds and torrential rain spells for charity were recently thanked by a father struggling financially to keep his boy in good health.

Bermudian Marvin Brock, whose son, Mihdi suffers from a life-threatening spinal disease, acknowledged the youngsters' fundraising end-to-end scooter ride across the island last November.

Starting at dawn in Dockyard, the boys took turns pushing up roads and rolling down hills during their drive to boost the Mihdi Joon Fund.

The boy is undergoing expensive acupuncture and enduring strenuous body reshaping in Santa Monica, California. The four-year-old's condition is expected to improve as his skeletal system is straightened, a process that may take as long as a year.

Though the treatment performed by Dr. Baoin Wu is painful, it appears to be the only answer, since western

doctors said they could do no more for Mihdi after completing life-saving heart surgery on him last year.

Generous donations from family, friends as well individuals and local businesses exceeded expectations, amounting to more than \$25,000.

The combined effort in Bermuda has helped the Brock family finance Midhi's treatment and care, which cost almost \$70,000 last year. However, in order for Midhi to continue receiving the special Tibetan herbs and formula necessary for his recovery, more funds are needed.

Because the methods used in his treatment are unconventional and rarely practiced in Western medicine, no insurance can cover the boy's therapy. Mr. Brock himself was down to just one meal a day in his desperation to keep up with steep medical payments and rent.

Mr. Brock said in a recent press release he is very confident in this holistic alternative to surgery. "The mission for Mihdi has opened many doors and unveiled many potentially effective avenues for others who are severely challenged."

The family plans to have x-rays completed on Mihdi's spinal chord next spring in order to receive Western diagnostic evidence of any recovery.

• Sponsorship forms are available at Mailboxes Unlimited on Par-La-Ville Road and Church Street. Donations can still be made to the Mihdi Joon Brock Trust at the Bank of Bermuda account number 701 23372.



Committee members of the Mihdi Joon Fund, Megan Aruda, far Left, and Teresa Perozzi, far right, join scooter kids Mark Selley, Nicholas Thomas, David Selley, Kenny Thomson, Tim Fox and Kristiaan Hansen. The boys braved hurricane-force winds and torrential rains during their fundraising end-to-end scooter ride last November. The fund was set up to help four-year-old, Mihdi Brock, who suffers from a life-threatening spinal disease and needs