

From: Stephanie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 03, 2012 8:05 PM
To: Dr. Niamtu
Subject: Pictures as requested

My name is Stephanie and I have a daughter who is starting school in September. Her ears protrude badly and I have tried everything to find an affordable plastic surgeon but it's just too expensive for us.

My daughter will be 6 in December. She first started noticing her ears were "different" when we enrolled her in a summer ballet class through our local Boy's & Girl's club. It was required that the kids wear their hair in a bun. All the other students would ask her why her ears were so big or they would laugh at her pointing out her ears. She was 3 years old at that time. We stopped going to the classes because she was being bullied. She wanted to enroll again but said she wanted to wear her hair down. They wouldn't allow her to stray from the rules so she has never done ballet again.

Last night she came to me crying asking me "Why are my ears like this? I don't like them Mommy." I keep telling her that she is beautiful just the way God made her and I love everything about her. I feel bad and helpless but I am on a very limited income. I am not on any state assistance and we have never been a burden to society. I work and have horrible private insurance. This is where our roadblock usually begins. I have applied through several charities that do the surgery for free but once they begin checking into my insurance they start explaining that it's more difficult to offset costs with private insurance and they recommend I call back if she starts receiving state-funded medical. Why is it that people are more willing to give to people who are on state services? Where is the fairness? I make less than most people who live off state aid yet we are punished because I am responsible. This doesn't make sense. I have even offered to pay what money I can for these charities to help my daughter but it's a lost cause.

I am so scared about my daughter starting school in September. Some of the bullies we encountered at her ballet class will be there starting school too. I won't be there to protect her. I just fear the emotional scars that this is going to cause. She is begging to me get her ears fixed. I keep looking for low-cost plastic surgeons but it's difficult. We live in Oregon and the services in our area are limited and way over-priced.

What I would like to know is if your office does discounted services for low income families? I can provide all the documentation you need and give you my insurance information but like I said before - my insurance is bad. I am not asking for a handout - I am just looking for someone willing to help me, help my daughter.

If you could get back to me - I would greatly appreciate it. You can reply to this email or call me at [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,