

# The Cleaning Mission

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Church Magazines  
(Based on a true story)

Mom looked at her phone. "Oh no! Aunt Alyssa is in the hospital."

Millie felt like her stomach dropped. She knew the hospital was a place where people went when they were very sick. But this was the first time one of her family members had to stay there.

"What can we do to help her?" Millie asked.

"Let's find out." Mom called Aunt Alyssa. Millie got to say hello, which made her happy. Aunt Alyssa told them that she had been sick for a week. She hoped she would be able to come home from the hospital in a few days.

"I think I know how we can help her," Mom said after the phone call. "We need some supplies."

A few hours later, Millie and Mom walked up the stairs to Aunt Alyssa's apartment. They carried a

bucket full of rags, soap, and scrub brushes. They were on a cleaning mission!

First Millie helped Mom wash the dishes. Then she helped fold some laundry. She wiped off the kitchen table and swept the floor too.

While she worked, Millie thought about how much she loved Aunt Alyssa. Whenever Mom and Dad had to work at the same time, Aunt Alyssa came to stay with her.

Sometimes they went to the park together. They liked to watch people walk their dogs by the river.

After lots of hard work, Mom said they were almost done. Millie helped

her put clean sheets on Aunt Alyssa's bed.

"I have an idea," Mom said. "Let's not tell Aunt Alyssa what we did yet. That way, it will be a surprise when she gets home from the hospital!"

Millie giggled as she thought of what her aunt's face would look like when she opened the door.

"Let's leave her a note too!" Millie said.

Mom folded a piece of paper and wrote a note inside. Millie wrote, "Get better soon!" on the front and drew lots of hearts on it. They left it on Aunt Alyssa's pillow.

"Thanks for going on a cleaning mission with me today," Mom said on the way home. "Aunt Alyssa will be so happy and surprised."

Millie grinned. She was still sad that Aunt Alyssa was sick. But helping had made Millie feel a little bit better. She hoped her aunt would feel better soon too! ●

*This story took place in the USA.*

## HOW CAN I HELP SOMEONE WHO IS SICK?

- Pray for them. That can help even if you live far away!
- Listen to them and share kind words.
- Send them a get-well card.
- If you can, help by doing chores, giving food, or doing other things they need.



Millie and Mom had a surprise for Aunt Alyssa.