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the Q, who I had just spent minimal time with yesterday, died of a massive coronary within hours of my leaving the Q. My heart sank further, not only for her, but as I thought of the kids who were present and witnessed the tragedy. She was one of the more caring helpers. Tears flow in abundance.

Yet promises were also abundant. Umida's cat gave birth Thursday night and the miracle of that coupled with U's excitement (and disgust) were great gifts. She, of course, was sad to leave the kittens, but she is also excited about seeing them again upon our return. She has also made a new friend, who is a local neighbor girl. They sat around for hours just staring at the kittens and jabbering girl talk.

This week, I was also able to provide, for a few of my Q-kids, some special "tvorak" (like cottage cheese rolls compressed and coated in a light layer of chocolate). The quantity wasn't

all that much, but the openness of being able to feed it to them was a welcome sign in an ongoing battle. The kids who ate it, were instantly positively responsive to something that had taste, beyond the usual gruel.

In all fairness, the dietary standards of the Q are where they should be, if one audits it on paper. The sad reality is the kids are not only not getting enough nutrition, but they are not getting enough food. Their bellies are empty. Their hunger drives them to eating off the floor and stealing food from the more vulnerable; the kids who have a disability such that they are easily targeted for thievery from their feeble hands and sometimes even straight from their mouths. Yesterday, they even started eating the crayons and weren't deterred by the bit-

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