

News & Updates

September 2024 | Volume 15 - Number 7

Upcoming Activities

November 6
"Operation Give Back - the Impact of Non-Profits"
[US Senate](#)
[Federal Credit Union](#)

November
Candy & Item Drive

December
Annual Drive

About Us
Spreading Hope
Through
Psychosocial
Support SM

[Learn](#)

Support
Help Make The
Miracles Possible

[Donate](#)

CFC #59853



Everything you want on wheels!

In 2015, Mattie Miracle launched its first Snack & Item Cart at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. When caring for Mattie in the hospital, the Co-Founders of Mattie Miracle learned first hand, **the importance of outside support and generosity**. The Brown Family's support community provided food, snacks, and drinks daily for 14 months. These gifts were vital to maintaining their basic needs and enabled them to care for Mattie by his bedside.

The Snack & Item Carts were designed to provide this same level of support, but on a grander scale, to countless families caring for children with cancer and other life threatening illnesses. **Mattie Miracle operates five Carts**: two at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (Washington, DC), two at Children's Hospital at Sinai (Baltimore, MD), and one at NIH's Clinical Center (Bethesda, MD).

Our Carts meet the needs of over **2,500 families a year**, and provide nutritional snacks, candy, toiletries, drinks, and wellness items free of charge to families. Each Fall, Mattie Miracle hosts a **virtual community Item Drive**. The candy and snacks supporters donate enable us to keep our Carts stocked.

Check out our Amazon Wish List and participate in our Fall

Candy & Snack Drive. It is thanks to your generosity that these psychosocial miracles are possible!

Feedback on the Carts

It's not just about the medicine!SM



15th Anniversary Video

"I can attest to the fact that my child knows the day of the week the Cart comes around and it is truly something he looks forward to. Being in the hospital for weeks at a time, there are only a few moments these kids look forward to and the Mattie Miracle Cart has achieved just that!" ~ MedStar Georgetown Hospital Parent

"As I walk through the units with the Cart, it provides an opportunity for me to explain and offer my educational support services to those who may be struggling with school decisions." ~ Christine Anninos, MedStar Georgetown Hospital Education Specialist

"The experience here has been so different from other hospitals; I mean look at this Cart... Mattie Miracle really loves families and cares for children with cancer." ~ Children's Hospital at Sinai Parent

"We are grateful to Mattie Miracle. They provide snacks and toiletries that you usually wouldn't have access to while in the hospital, and this really makes a world of difference." ~ Children's Hospital at Sinai Parent

"It is a 10 out of 10! They have everything you need and want!" ~ Children's Hospital at Sinai Parent

Click on the image below to keep our Carts rolling.



Spreading Hope Through Psychosocial Support. SM

It's Not Just About the Medicine.....

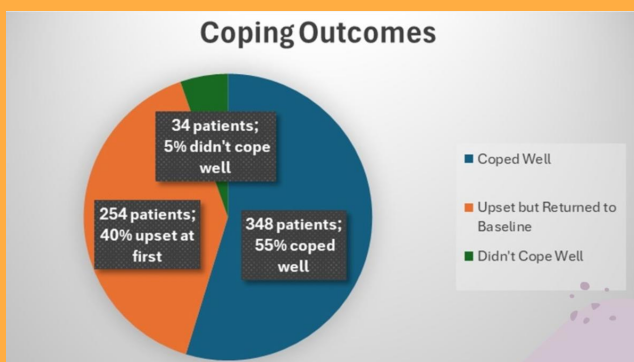
1. The **Psychosocial Standards of Care** provide evidence-based information on the emotional and social support needs to optimize the quality of life for children with cancer and their families (Wiener et al., 2015).



SEPTEMBER IS
CHILDHOOD
CANCER
AWARENESS
MONTH

SUPPORT • ADVOCATE • CURE

2. Optimal cancer treatment **must include psychosocial care** (Institute of Medicine, 2008).
3. Depression and other psychosocial concerns can affect **adherence to treatment** (Institute of Medicine, 2008).
4. Psychosocial care has been shown to yield **better management of pain and fatigue** (Jacobsen et al., 2012).
5. Treating the **pain, symptoms, and stress** of cancer enhances quality of life and is as important as treating the disease (Institute of Medicine, 2015).
6. **Siblings** of children with cancer are at risk for developing anxiety, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder (Alderfer et al., 2003).
7. Childhood cancer survivors reported medication use for **anxiety and depression** at rates nearly two times those reported by the general public (Hawkins et al., 2017).
8. Symptoms of **post-traumatic stress** disorder are well documented for parents whose children have completed cancer treatment (Kazak et al., 2004).
9. Financial **hardship** during childhood cancer treatment negatively impacts family well-being (Bona et al., 2014).
10. The **death of a child** to cancer frequently results in depression, anxiety, loss of appetite, sleep disturbances, and fatigue (Alam et al., 2012).



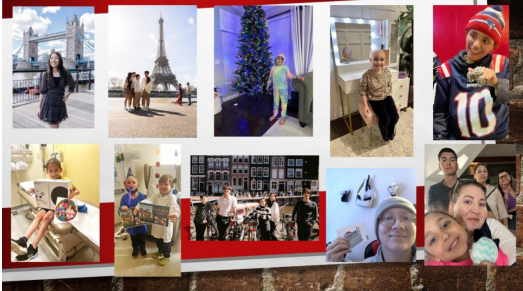
Impacting Care

Mattie Miracle has been funding Child Life services since 2011. **Child Life Specialists play a critical role in supporting child health and wellness.** They provide preparation, education, distraction, play, and coping tools. In the process they minimize stress, anxiety, and psychosocial trauma, while empowering children and families.

In the last six months (January to June 2024), **Emily Nosek** (our child life specialist at Children's Hospital at Sinai) has supported **636 children** through various procedures such as IV placement and port access. Thanks to Emily's interventions and support, she has helped **95% of her patients successfully cope and manage** these

procedures.

Mattie Miracle is honored to support the amazing work of Child Life Specialists, and to directly meet the psychosocial needs of children with cancer and their families.



M&M Wishes

In 2021, Mattie Miracle launched its M&M (Margy & Mattie) Wishes Program in memory of our board member, Margy Jost. M&M Wishes offers families a **grant of up to \$1,000** to support a fun activity, trip, or a wish list item for a child or teen with cancer.

To date, Mattie Miracle has granted **\$34,000 worth of M&M Wishes** to children and their families. Mattie Miracle understands that wishes must be granted around a family's timing and needs, and we work hard to ensure that children and teens have a chance at making their dreams come true.

Check out our application. We are honored to keep Margy's legacy work alive and directly support the wishes of children and teens with cancer.

apply today!



Therapy Grants

Our therapy support program **grants children with cancer up to \$1,000** for therapy sessions with a licensed mental health provider within their community. Families face a host of mental health issues as a result of a childhood cancer diagnosis, such as depression, anxiety, medical traumatic stress, substance abuse, and eating disorders. Yet frequently families of children with cancer are referred out of the hospital system and into the community for support, in order for them to manage and cope with their psychosocial needs and concerns.

The problem with this is it is very challenging for families to access such support because of financial difficulties. To date, **Mattie Miracle has awarded \$12,000 of therapy support** to children and teens with cancer. We invite families and their social workers to reach out to us about our Therapy Support Grants.

apply today!

14th Annual Fall Item Drive

It's candy and snack season! Please help us stock our **free Snack and Item Carts** at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital



Virtual
Candy & Snack
Drive

(Washington, DC), Children's Hospital at Sinai (Baltimore, MD), and NIH's Clinical Center (Bethesda, MD).

Our five Carts are considered a life saver by families who are caring for a child with cancer or other life threatening illnesses. **Our hospital Carts support 2,500 families a year.** Hospitals have requested that candy remain in its original unopened vacuum sealed bags, with its manufacturer's expiration date. Therefore, the safest way to meet these requirements is to use an Amazon Wish List.

You can participate in our 14th annual Candy and Snack Drive from anywhere in the USA. Please view our Amazon Wish List, and we request all items be received by November 11, 2024.



Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation
is a GuideStar PLATINUM
Participant Charity



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