



News & Updates

February 2021 | Volume 12 - Number 2

Upcoming Activities

April, 2021

[Toiletry Drive](#)

May 16, 2021

[12th Annual Virtual Walk](#)



About Us

Spreading Hope Through Psychosocial Support SM

[Learn](#)

Support

Help Make The Miracles Possible

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Our Partnership

Mattie Miracle is grateful for **Kearney & Company's** generosity and support since 2015. Every Fall, Kearney & Company hosts a poker tournament to benefit Mattie Miracle. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the the poker tournament was converted into a virtual trivia night. On December 17, 2020, the co-founders of the Foundation were invited to the virtual trivia night to give greetings and to thank our long time sponsor for their annual support.

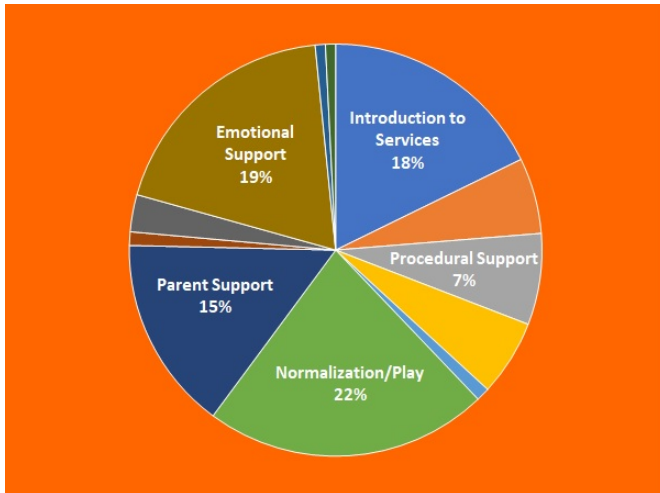
Virtually we had the opportunity to meet **Brian Kearney**, the COO of the company, and over 100 participants at the event. Brian shared the exciting news that Kearney & Company is contributing **\$10,000** to the Foundation to support our amazing work. In addition, Kearney & Company wanted us to know that they are committed to the cause for the long-term. Mattie Miracle is proud to partner with a company that has such a big heart and is committed to making a difference in the lives of children with cancer and their families.

It was a very moving experience for Mattie Miracle to attend Kearney & Company's virtual event. We received many heartfelt chat messages that evening from participants, such as:

- Thanks for all that you do!
- Honored to be remembering Mattie tonight.
- What an incredible way to change the world.
- Thank you for being a positive force!
- You are superheroes.

Kearney & Company makes the Mattie Miracles possible. We realize community service is a vital part of Kearney & Company's culture but we are thankful they choose to partner with us.

Click on the button to read Kearney & Company's Press Release.



755 Patient Interventions

Mattie Miracle is proud to fund a **full-time child life professional**, Adina Levitan, at Children's Hospital at Sinai in Baltimore, MD. Adina understands that childhood cancer IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE MEDICINE, and she represents the Foundation's mission beautifully.

Certified Child Life Specialists generate positive behavioral, psychological, and physiological outcomes through individualized interventions with pediatric patients. They implement an array of play-based, coping-focused techniques shown to **ameliorate pain, lower anxiety, reduce distress, and increase satisfaction** with institutions of care. Children demonstrate fewer behavioral disturbances during and beyond medical encounters when receiving comprehensive preparation, procedural support, and coping skills education, all of which are associated with accelerated healing.

In the six month time period between July to December 2020, we are proud to report that Adina directly assisted children and their families by performing **755 patient interventions**. The interventions fall within 12 categories, and the percentages indicate the number of children receiving each intervention:

1. Normalization/Play - 22%
2. Emotional Support - 19%
3. Introduction to Services - 18%
4. Parent Support - 15%
5. Procedural Support - 7%
6. Procedural Distraction - 6%
7. Psychological Preparation - 6%
8. Therapeutic Play - 3%
9. Diagnosis Education - 1%
10. Sibling Support - 1%
11. Memory Making/Legacy - 1%
12. Bereavement/End of Life - 1%

We invite you to read the Association of Child Life Professionals' full scientific report on the importance of child life specialists.

Save the Date

Walk virtually with us on **Sunday, May 16, 2021** from 10am to noon (in your time zone). Walkers with the greatest number of steps win prizes!

It's as easy as **Walk, Snap** (a photo), and **Post** (on social media). Stay tuned for more information!

[Walk 2020 Highlights](#)



Snack & Item Cart



Individual Pieces



575 Families Supported

Mattie Miracle launched its **Snack & Item Cart** at Children's Hospital at Sinai in Baltimore, MD in March of 2017. The Cart offers free snacks, drinks, and toiletry items to all inpatient families caring for children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. It is difficult for parents and caregivers to leave their child's bedside to get their basic needs met, therefore the Cart provides this important psychosocial service. On average, Mattie Miracle donates over \$10,000 worth of items to our Carts per year and the Carts are supported by **110 individual donors, 35 schools, and 40 businesses and organizations.**

From July to December 2020, the Mattie Miracle Snack & Item Cart provided:
1) **846** snacks, 2) **11,343** pieces of candy, and 3) **373** toiletry items to **575 pediatric families** at Children's Hospital at Sinai.

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Keep Our Carts Rolling

Our **Toiletry Drive** is an annual event that we host in memory of Mattie Brown's April birthday. The Drive helps to stock our Snack and Item carts at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (Washington, DC) and Children's Hospital at Sinai (Baltimore, MD).

Our Carts provide **free candy, nutritious snacks, drinks, and toiletries** to families caring for children with cancer or other life-threatening illnesses. Annually we:

- serve 2,500 families
- distribute over 55,000 pieces of candy
- provide 1,500 toiletries

For your convenience, we have created an on-line wishlist and we request that all items be received by the Foundation on or before **April 12th**.



Thank you for your help!

[Our Wishlist](#)

Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation
www.mattiemiracle.com



Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation
is a GuideStar PLATINUM
Participant Charity

