



News & Updates

March 2025 | Volume 16 - Number 3

Upcoming Activities

April 7
Annual Drive

May 18
Virtual Awareness Walk

About Us
Spreading Hope
Through
Psychosocial
Support SM

[Learn](#)

Support
Help Make The
Miracles Possible

[Donate](#)

CFC #59853

[Giving](#)



Activities, Trips, Items & Memories

In 2021, Mattie Miracle launched its M&M (Margy & Mattie) Wishes program in memory of our board member, Margy Jost. M&M Wishes offer families a grant of up to **\$1,000** to support a fun activity, trip, or a wish list item for a child (5 years and above) with cancer. These Wishes enable families to create memories outside of the hospital experience.

To date, Mattie Miracle has granted **\$40,000 worth of M&M Wishes, in 19 States, 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.

Reflections from Wish Recipients

- My daughter is going to be through the roof and into the clouds for months when she hears that she will be seeing the musical, Beetlejuice! You and your team are literally the kindest group of people I've ever met! I told my daughter yesterday that if there were angels on earth living as regular people, you and your team are those angels! No words can

**It's not just about
the medicine!SM**



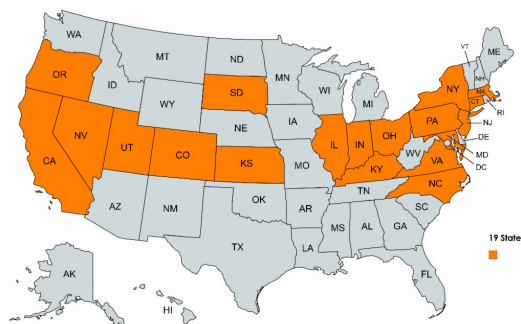
15th Anniversary Video

truly express the happiness we all felt these past few days thanks to all your kindness and generosity! Please don't ever stop making wishes! M&M Wishes provide immeasurable amount of happiness to children and their families! The ripple effect is real, and you all are making WAVES of joy right now.

~ **Family in Wilmington, NC**

- I really want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. This Christmas is going to be different than any of us have had before, but what we will always remember is being able to choose our new tree together. Every year when we take the tree out to celebrate our favorite holiday, we will remember that the reason we were able to have such a beautiful tree is because of the generosity of Mattie Miracle and the big heart of our daughter. ~ **Family in Cincinnati, OH**
- I just wanted to thank you and Mattie Miracle for the incredible gift of concert tickets for my patient and his family. He died today, surrounded by his family. He told us all that the concert was one of the best days of his life. Your M&M Wish helped to make this happen. ~ **Social Worker in Bethesda, MD**
- Thank you for the gift cards. I appreciate the generous gift. It felt like Christmas when I received my food and clothes. My favorite part was being able to order food from Door Dash instead of eating the hospital food. I also love the purple wig I ordered. ~ **Patient in Baltimore, MD**
- Thank you for taking the time to respond and granting this wish for my daughter. This is a blessing for her and will fulfill her last wish. ~ **Family in Deerfield, KS**
- Thank you for loving our son in this way. He is so excited to get an iPad! Thank you doesn't seem to be enough for this generosity. ~ **Family in Sioux Falls, SD**
- GOD bless you always and your organization. ~ **Family in North Bergen, NJ**
- This M&M Wish is amazing...praise God. ~ **Family in Hanover, PA**
- Thank you so much! There is something healing about being at the beach. ~ **Family in Downers Grove, IL**
- Wow! I have tears in my eyes and no words to say that would express what this M&M Wish for a beach trip means to my daughter. ~ **Family in Berea, KY**

Click on the map for our M&M Wish application.





Child Life Corner with Adina Levitan, CCLS

Granting Dreams Beyond Hospital Walls

When a child is diagnosed with cancer, **all sense of normalcy evaporates**. Going to school, playing with friends, family gatherings, and the small daily routines in between are suddenly replaced with doctor's appointments, unexpected trips to the emergency room, and middle-of-the-night worries about fevers and medication doses. The overwhelming fear of the unknown hangs over everything. **The cost of treatment can be staggering**, and the emotional toll affects marriages, jobs, and the health of other family members. In short, having a child diagnosed with cancer turns a family's world upside down.

As a child life specialist, **my role is to provide holistic support and interventions to families in the hospital setting**. Child life services address the psychosocial needs of the child, parents, siblings, and even extended family and friends. *How do we explain this setback? How can we prepare our child for that procedure?* These are the questions families face every day. I learn a lot about the families I work with. **Hospital staff, nurses, social workers, and child life specialists become deeply aware of family dynamics and the struggles that come with having a child with cancer.**

Caregivers often can not think beyond the next day, the next week, or the next month. Their focus narrows to the immediate task of getting their child through treatment, one day at a time. It's hard to consider anything beyond the hospital walls.

When Mattie Miracle's President introduced me to M&M Wishes, I immediately knew it could help my patients and their families shift from the day-to-day grind of clinic visits and chemotherapy to something brighter — something to look forward to.

Fred was four years old when he was diagnosed with cancer. Not long after, his twin brother Blake was diagnosed as well. The family had spent weeks in the hospital, missing Christmas and other holidays at home, struggling to balance the needs of the twins with their younger sister. **They needed an infusion — not of chemotherapy, but of fun.**

Fred and Blake's mom and I talked about what the boys wished for and what would benefit the whole family. The boys had been asking to go to Great Wolf Lodge for months, and we knew that was the wish we wanted to make happen. **Mattie Miracle worked closely with me and the hospital to arrange the trip with as little stress as possible for the family. We booked them a multi-day retreat with all the bells and whistles. The family had an incredible time — soaking up the fun and freedom from the hospital. They came back with photos and memories to cherish.**

Another patient of mine needed something different. Jake's family wanted to create as many "normal" memories as possible with their three-year-old son. His prognosis was poor, and his illness left him tired and weak. M&M Wishes granted them a membership to the aquarium and zoo. Jake loved animals, and they knew he would enjoy cruising around in a wagon, exploring the exhibits at his own pace. **The membership tickets gave them the opportunity to spend time together, no matter the weather — and always close enough to the hospital if they needed to return quickly.**

M&M Wishes are vital to a child's healing. **These grants give families the chance to dream beyond the hospital walls — to create moments of joy, connection, and happiness.** Childhood cancer takes so much away. M&M Wishes helps give some of it back.

14th Annual Item Drive



In honor of Mattie's 23rd birthday, we will be hosting our **14th annual item drive**. All donated toiletries stock our **Mattie Miracle Snack & Item Carts** for pediatric families at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (Washington, DC), Samuelson Children's Hospital at Sinai (Baltimore, MD), and the Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD).

When living in a hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week and caring for a child with cancer or other life-threatening illness, **receiving these items can feel like a gift**. Families often rush to the hospital when their children are ill and are unable to pack basic items that are needed for their daily care. **The Carts fulfill these basic psychosocial needs and provide items free of charge to families.**

Check out our Amazon wish list below and help us keep our Mattie Miracle Carts stocked to support families caring for children with cancer. **Our Carts support over 2,500 families a year. We ask that all items be received by April 7, 2025.**

Walk with Us on May 18



Walk, Snap & Post

Our Virtual Awareness Walk will be held on **Sunday, May 18, from 10am to Noon** (in your time zone). You can participate wherever you are and help us turn your community **ORANGE!** Our Annual Awareness Walk raises **90% of the funds we need to directly support our psychosocial programs** and initiatives which help children with cancer and their families.

Date: Sunday, May 18th

Time: 10am to 12pm (in your time zone)

Where: Mattie Miracle Facebook Page

Goal: Awareness Event -- to raise over \$50,000

Great prizes for walkers with the greatest number of steps!

Check out our Wish List.



Register, purchase
raffle tickets, and donate to our
Awareness Walk.



Miracle Makers

Sponsors enable us to make the Mattie Miracles possible. We are grateful for our long term sponsors, who are committed to our psychosocial mission. **We invite your business, organization, club, or group to become a partner in our work.** All sponsorships fund our psychosocial programs and initiatives to support children with cancer and their families.



Sponsorships directly fund:

- Full-time salary of a child life specialist
- Innovative research grants
- Snack & Item Carts at hospitals
- M&M Wishes
- Therapy Support Grants

Click on Partner with Us to learn more.

PARTNER WITH US!



Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation
is a GuideStar PLATINUM
Participant Charity



Find us on:
BlogSpot®

MATTIE MIRACLE CANCER FOUNDATION | PO Box 6485 | Arlington, VA 22206 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!