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## News & Updates

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February 2022 | Volume 13 - Number 2

### Upcoming Activities

February 25, 2022

Ice Skating  
Fundraiser at  
[Skatequest](#)

March 10, 2022

Invited Symposia  
at [APOS](#)  
[Conference](#)

April, 2022

11th Annual  
Toiletry Drive  
[Wish List](#)

May 15, 2022

13th Annual  
[Virtual Walk](#)

### About Us

Spreading Hope  
Through  
Psychosocial  
Support <sup>SM</sup>

[Learn](#)



## Teens Making a Difference

Mattie Miracle is grateful to have the support of teenagers who stand or **SKATE** behind our mission, to meet the psychosocial needs of children with cancer and their families. **Susan Rotherham** is a sophomore at **Meridian High School** in Falls Church, VA and has selected Mattie Miracle for her community service project. Susan is an ice hockey player at her school and is combining her passion for skating with raising funds for childhood cancer.

### Susan shared this reflection with us:

*Childhood cancer matters to me. My father does the Pan-Mass Challenge, a 192-mile bike ride to raise funds for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. My dad is a 10-year rider and has raised more than \$200,000 for Dana-Farber, where his father was treated. I have gone with my dad to this ride most years and among the things I hear about are stories of parents who have lost their children to cancer.*

*Their stories have always touched me. When learning about the graduation requirement at my school to do a personal community project, I wanted to focus on something I cared about. After learning about the Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation and its mission and work, I knew this was a good fit. I want to fundraise in a way that is unique to me, and as an ice hockey player I can't think of a better way than*

## Support

Help Make The  
Miracles Possible

Donate

CFC #59853

Giving

*hosting an open skate event.*

## Come Skate with Us!

**Event:** Ice Skate Against Childhood Cancer

**Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022

**Time:** 7:30pm to 9:30pm

**Location:** Skatequest (1800 Michael Faraday Ct, Reston, VA 20190)

**Admission fee:** \$15 (100% of proceeds go to the Foundation)

[Click on the skate to learn more.](#)



**It's Not Just About The Medicine.** SM



## Launching a 4th Cart

Mattie Miracle's Snack & Item Carts offer free snacks, toiletries, and other comfort items free of charge to families in hospitals who are caring for a child with cancer or other life threatening illness.

It was originally brought to the Foundation's attention that the outpatient clinic at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (Washington, DC) is in need of a Snack & Item Cart. In fact, the nurse manager, Ashley Reeves, of the outpatient clinic started her own cart organically to help meet the needs of her patients and families. We are inspired by Ashley and have decided to support her efforts by bringing a Mattie Miracle Snack & Item Cart to the outpatient HEM/ONC clinic, making this our **4th hospital Snack and Item Cart** in operation.

**A reflection from Ashley Reeves**, Nurse Manager at the Pediatric HEM/ONC outpatient clinic at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital:

*I have been in the role of nurse manager of*

*the clinic since October 2021 and recognized a need for a variety of food options for our patients. Our dietary department does supply a few boxed lunches, but it has limited variety. I began offering a small basket of extra snacks brought from home and I received great feedback from our patients and families. It provides them a quick snack or treat to make their stay with us more palatable.*

*Our oncology service is steadily growing and we attempt to treat our patients on an outpatient basis, if at all possible, to prevent the stress and anxiety of an inpatient stay during these times of COVID with so many restrictions in place. This means very long days of outpatient treatment and in some circumstances, treatment Monday through Friday. **The benefit of the Snack Cart may seem simple but it has added an impact of normalcy and comfort.** A warm bowl of Mac n Cheese or Cup of Noodles, cookies and/or chips can hit the spot on those long days.*

With four (4) Carts in circulation, Mattie Miracle needs the help of our supporters to keep these Carts stocked. **Check out our April Drive item wish list.** Donating is quick and easy and your items make a huge difference in the lives of families.

April Drive

## Supporting Adherence

Mattie Miracle is proud to support innovative psychosocial research that supports children with cancer and helps to implement the Psychosocial Standards of Care. **Alexandra Psihogios** is a psychologist and behavioral scientist at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Alex, with the help of a Mattie Miracle grant, developed an initiative to support adolescents and young adults (AYA) with cancer adhere to taking their oral medications.

Missing medications, even with the best of intentions, is not uncommon. Especially for adolescents and young adults who are learning how to be independent with medications for the first time, or want their lives to be as normal and medication-free as possible. There are many barriers to medication adherence such as forgetting, difficulties swallowing pills, not liking the taste of medications, and undesirable medication side effects.



Adolescents and young adults gravitate to technology and social media. Therefore, Alex developed [adherence video clips](#) with the help of Tik Tok, a video-focused social networking service. The five Tik Tok videos that were created can be used in: 1) clinical care (providers can share the videos at the start of maintenance therapy), 2) as a component of app-based adherence promotion interventions, and 3) disseminated widely to other cancer centers via Twitter.

[Read More](#)



## Wellness on Wheels

In October of 2021, Mattie Miracle launched a Snack and Item Cart, *Wellness on Wheels*, at the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Clinical Center (Bethesda, MD). As a research facility, only patients with the precise kind or stage of illness under investigation are admitted for treatment. Of the 1,600 active protocols at the NIH Clinical Center 35% include children and pediatrics accounts for approximately 13% of Clinical Center patient activity.

Mattie Brown, the inspiration for the Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation, would be turning **20 years old** on April 4. Each year, in **memory of Mattie**, the Foundation hosts its annual Item Drive. Please help us stock our four hospital Carts that support families caring for children with cancer and other life threatening illnesses.

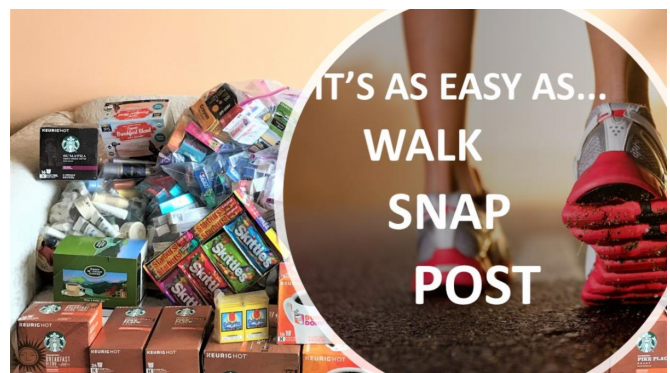
[Wish List](#)

## Get Involved

Looking for ways to support Mattie Miracle? Get involved in our **two upcoming VIRTUAL Community Events**:

- 1) Toiletry Item Drive (April 11, 2022)
- 2) Virtual Walk Challenge (May 15, 2022)

Our April Toiletry Drive helps to stock our **free snack and item carts** at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (Washington, DC), Children's Hospital at Sinai (Baltimore, MD) and The Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health (NIH, Bethesda, MD). Participating in our



Annual Drive is easy. Check out our Amazon Wish List for specifics,

Don't miss our **13th Annual Virtual Walk!** The Walk raises funds to support our psychosocial programs and initiatives which assist children with cancer and their families. Want more information? [Contact us!](#)

**Click on the image below for our Wish List.**



Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation  
[www.mattiemiracle.com](http://www.mattiemiracle.com)



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