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Mattie Miracle
CANCER FOUNDATION
Spreading hope through psychosocial support

Volume 5/Number 6 **June 2014**

5th Anniversary Walk was a $55,000 Success!

The Fifth Annual Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation Walk was held on May 18, 2014, at the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes upper school campus in Alexandria, VA. Thanks to all our sponsors, contributors, and over **400 participants**, the Foundation exceeded its $50,000 goal!

Mattie Miracle is committed to contributing $25,000 of its 2014 Walk funds to the MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's **Mattie Miracle Child Life Program Fund**. This fund

supports a child life specialist who assists over 3,500 children and families a year! Since 2011, Mattie Miracle has contributed over $100,000 to MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, which is in addition to funding various other projects and numerous gift in kind contributions. These contributions keep the free snack cart stocked and supplied year round for pediatric in-patient families.

Mattie Miracle is committed to supporting the psychosocial needs of children with cancer and their families on the local and national levels. Walk funds are not used for overhead or administrative costs associated with the Foundation. In addition to the $25,000 contribution to the Hospital, we will be using the remainder of the Walk funds to support the continued development of a **National Psychosocial Standard of Care** for Childhood Cancer, a project which is well underway with an amazing team of 50 multidisciplinary health care professionals from around the Country, Canada, and the Netherlands. These professionals are working on refining, evaluating, and eventually reviewing the document that has been generated using evidence based research and consensus since the Mattie Miracle 2013 think tank in Huntington Beach, CA.

A Special Thank You to our Platinum & Gold Sponsors

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Molecule Salon
Play-Well Teknologies
St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School
Together We Bake
WAMALUG & **WAMALTC**

Zumba by Jenny

Thank You to our featured Walk Musicians & Bands

Charley Montroll
Fuse Box
Keira Moran
Lizzie & Sita
Neon Laces
Spork

Relay Teams raise $6,426!

Mattie Miracle launched the concept of adult zany relay teams last year at the Walk and it was a hit! Teams raise funds for the foundation and then on the day of the Walk they come and participate in fun and zany relay races. The races are geared to build team work, bonding, and most importantly to have fun! Naturally there is a bit of inter-team competition that naturally arises, which is always lively and entertaining to watch, and this year's teams did not disappoint! We want to thank our four great teams for their energy, enthusiasm, and financial support of the Foundation!

Team Chris (top left), with team captain Ilona Lantos. Team Chris won a trophy for **#1 Fundraising Team.**

Team Foxy Voxy (top right), with team captains Rana Alarapon, Martha Herbig, and Marty Salvi. Team Foxy Voxy won the **Go Team Award** for Outstanding Team Creativity and Team Work.

ABOUT MATTIE MIRACLE

The **Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity (EIN: 27-1238358), founded by Peter and Victoria Brown, in the loving memory of Mattie, their seven year-old son who passed away in 2009 after a 14 month battle with multi-focal osteosarcoma.

Mattie Miracle is dedicated to addressing the psychosocial needs of children and families living with childhood cancer as well as educating health care providers on the impact of such a diagnosis on children and their families.

To learn more about Mattie's life and his parent's grief process visit the **Mattie Blog**.

Team Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB) (bottom left), with team captain Lindsay Handelsman. Team HMHB won the **Super Star Award** for Outstanding Audience participation, cheers, and support.

Team RCC Moms Group (bottom right), with team captain Ann Henshaw. Team RCC Moms Group won the **#1 Award** for winning the most relay races.

The Walk

Pictured Above: Alexandria City Mayor William Euille, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Head of School Joan Holden, Themed Characters, Childhood Cancer Survivors, and our energized supporters!

Highlights from this year's Walk included a greeting from **Alexandria City's Mayor**, William Euille and an acknowledgement of **Joan Holden**, who just retired as the Head of School from the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School after 30 years of service. Mattie Miracle acknowledged Joan for her incredible generosity, kindness, compassion, and devotion to Mattie Brown and his memory.

Mattie attended Joan's School for only one year, yet even after his death, Joan continues to reach out to the Founders of Mattie Miracle on Mattie's birthday and on the anniversary of his death. Joan never forgets and as she often says, "Mattie will always be a Saint," which is the School's mascot! Joan has hosted the Mattie Miracle Walks on her campus for five years even though Mattie is no longer at her School. For this and so much more, Mattie Miracle acknowledged Joan on May 18, with a leadership award. She will be missed at our Walks and we will always be grateful for allowing us to be a part of her School community.

New this year to the Mattie Miracle Walk was **themed characters**! We

MATTIE MIRACLE CORE OBJECTIVES

To advocate, educate, and enhance awareness of the psychosocial needs of children with cancer and their families.

To provide direct psychosocial support services to children with cancer and their families.

To create and implement a national psychosocial standard of care.

CONTRIBUTE

Making Miracles Together!

had Sponge Bob, a huge Cockroach (in honor of Mattie Brown, our bug enthusiast), and a Squirrel! We are very grateful to the brave dads who wore these costumes and paraded around with the kids.... they certainly added entertainment value!

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Though our event tends to provide fun and entertainment, we are cognizant that **survivors of childhood cancer** as well as parents who lost children to cancer attend our Walks. We are very proud of this fact because a great deal can be learned from survivors and **bereaved parents**. Ultimately it is important for members of the community to have these opportunities to interact with cancer survivors and bereaved parents in order to gain a better understanding for the significance and relevance of their own financial contributions to Mattie Miracle.

Clyde's Food and Cancer Facts

For the fourth year in a row, Mattie Miracle has teamed up with **Becca Fischer**, the Executive Chef at **Clyde's at Tysons Corner**. Becca not only donates all the food to the Walk but she also comes to the event, cooks all the food on site, serves it, greets all of our participants, and helps the Foundation meet City code and health inspections. Becca is a true Mattie Miracle worker! This year Becca brought her husband, Greg, their daughter, Rachel, and her father-in-law, Jim to the Walk! It was a real family affair, producing fabulous tasty treats!

Situated near the food this year were several poster displays. The posters contained **childhood cancer facts** as well as collages which highlighted various Foundation accomplishments throughout our five year history. The Walk is an awareness event and therefore providing information and facts about childhood cancer, the psychosocial impact of the disease, and the specific objectives and ways Mattie Miracle is trying to address these needs

is important.

A Special Thank You To.....

Tanja Mayer Harding for assisting Becca and her team so diligently two years in a row.

Ann Henshaw (for coordination and logistics) **and our supporters** who donated water, soda, juices, candy, and other food items to our Walk..... A HUGE THANK YOU!!! Your generosity does not go unnoticed.

Patricia and Bernie Tilch for coordinating the set up, serving, and selling of food at the Mattie Miracle Walk six years in row.

Marisa and Denise Tordella for raising funds and hosting a bake sale at the Mattie Miracle Walk five years in a row.

Second Annual Kid Trots

Kid Trots were extremely well attended this year!!! **Charley Montroll**, one of the busiest children's entertainers in the Washington, DC area was on hand doing warm ups with the children! He energized them with his guitar and great songs! There were five different trot groups determined by the age of the child. Children, three to 12 years of age, competed and had a great time. Upon completion of each trot, every child received a participation medal and the actual winner of each trot won a great prize such as a week long summer camp experience at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School or admission passes to miniature golf or Six Flags.

Mattie Miracle thanks **Top Golf**, **St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School's**

Summer Program Office, and **Six Flags** for their very generous gifts in kind!!! Apparently the kid trots were SO popular this year that teens have asked us to extend the participation age range next year to include them!

Most Successful Raffle Yet

The Mattie Miracle raffle was a great success with **1758 raffle tickets** sold! For those of you who are interested, our top sellers were the iPad basket and the dining around town basket. We want to thank our 14 community raffle donors and our seven individual raffle donors for making wonderful item contributions to the Foundation. A special acknowledgment and great appreciation of thanks goes to **Carolyn McFadden**, our raffle chair for five years in a row.

An Activity for Everyone

There is so much to do and see at the Mattie Miracle Walk & Family Festival! This photo collage highlights the day! Everything from a moonbounce, a rock climbing wall, games, crafts, music, nail art by **Molecule Salon**, kid and adult races, **Zumba by Jenny**, a magic show hosted by Bob Weiman (Assistant Head of the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School), a lacrosse clinic hosted by Brian Will from Georgetown University, Lego building by **Play Well Teknologies**, wonderful Lego cityscapes and train displays hosted by the **WAMALUG** and the **WAMALTC**, and of course the actual Walk!

There are numerous activities to keep children busy and entertained and we are very grateful to the talented lady working behind the scenes helping us!!! A special acknowledgment of thanks goes to **Debbie Keefe**, our children's activity coordinator six years in a row.

Happy Faces

For three years in a row, we have featured the creativity and hand made products of children and teens. This year's teens spent their own time and money to hand design products to sell at the Walk. All sale proceeds were donated to the Foundation. We congratulate **Ellie and her friends, Sofia and Franceska**, for being our top teen vendors this year!

A special thank you to all our teens
for their hard work, creativity, and fundraising efforts!

Ellie Coker... the creator of Bands for Hope
Faye Greenberg... the creator of Rainbow Loom Creations
Annie Holm.... the creator of Annie's Designs

With a day filled with all sorts of activities, wonderful food, teen bands playing music to raise money and awareness for childhood cancer, and a glorious weather day on a beautiful tree lined campus, it is not surprising that the end result was HAPPY FACES! Thank you for joining us and making our fifth anniversary Walk a day to remember! We appreciate your continued support and look forward to another great year of making Mattie Miracles together.

A Special Thank You To.....

Christine Cooper for her five years of incredible service to Mattie Miracle as our Registration Chair. We thank her for her outstanding logistical and organizational support prior to each event and her incredible efficiency and care she provides to all our attendees on the day of the Walk.

Tina Lytle for coordinating teen bands at the Walk two years in a row. The teens bring happiness, energy, community spirit, and joy to the event through their music.

A BIG Mattie Miracle THANK YOU!

Victoria Sardi-Brown, Mattie Miracle's Walk Chair, would like to thank our steadfast volunteers who selflessly give of their time and energy on the day of the Walk to make it a very successful, fun, and memorable event! Many of our volunteers have served with us for five years and their devotion to us does not go unnoticed. Thank you for helping us spread sunshine and Mattie Miracles!

The Mattie Miracle 2014 Walk Planning Committee

Heidi Anderson
Tamra Bentsen (Hospitality Chair)
Christine Cooper (Registration Chair)
Mary Doane (Flyer Chair)
Karen Fischer (Volunteer Co-Chair)
Junko Funahashi (Volunteer Co-Chair)
Dawnee Giammittorio (Finance Chair)
Ann Henshaw (Kid Trots Chair)
Dave Holm
Larry Jenney
Debbie Keefe (Children's Activity Chair)
Tina Lytle (Publicity Co-Chair and Teen Band Chair)
Katie Magnuson
Tanja Mayer Harding
Carolyn McFadden (Raffle Chair)
Don McFadden (Logistics Chair)
Jane Pisano (Publicity Co-Chair)
Johnny Rivera
Mary Rivera
Patricia Tilch (Food and Beverage Chair)
Dave Tordella
Denise Tordella
Marisa Tordella (Bake Sale Chair)

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Upcoming Events

October 22, 2014 - PRESENTATION: When tragedy inspires hope: A parents' call to action to create and implement a psychosocial standard of care for childhood cancer [**Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP)**, Toronto, Canada]
October 25, 2014 - PRESENTATION: Why Quality of Life guides the development of the National Psychosocial Standard of Care for Childhood Cancer Project [**Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP)**, Toronto, Canada]
October 31, 2014 - Fourth Annual Post Halloween Candy Drive
November 22, 2014 - Presenters at **Speciallove** for children with cancer's parent getaway weekend, George Washington Inn, Winchester, VA

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