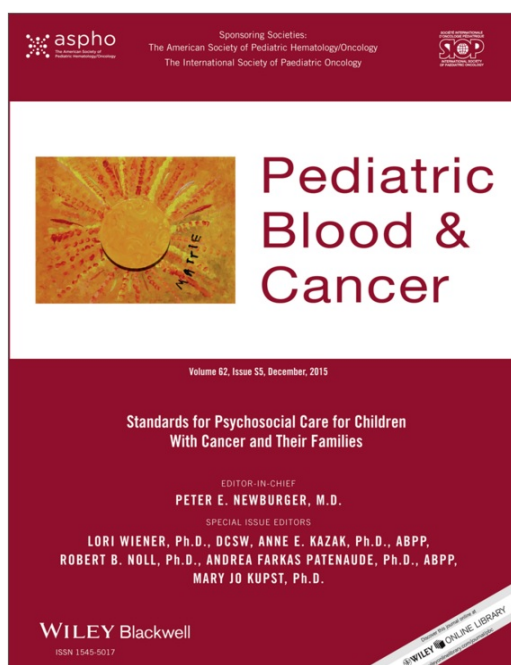




A Historic Psychosocial Publication Funded by Mattie Miracle

Psychosocial Standards of Care for Children with Cancer and Their Families was published on December 23, 2015, in a special issue of *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*. The three year long, international project, involved 85 health care professionals from 44 institutions across the U.S., Canada, and the Netherlands. The project resulted in the largest and most comprehensive psychosocial standards research study to date in which 1,217 journal articles were reviewed. These historic evidence-based standards define what children with cancer and their families must receive to effectively support their psychosocial needs from the time of diagnosis, through survivorship, or end of life and bereavement care. The Standards have been endorsed by five

About Us



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.

professional organizations: 1) Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON), 2) Society of Pediatric Psychology (SPP; Division 54 of the American Psychological Association), 3) Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers (APOSW), 4) American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), and 5) American Psychosocial Oncology Society (APOS).

Mattie Miracle is grateful to the authors of the Psychosocial Standards of Care who shared their time, energy, skills, and knowledge without compensation. These are true psychosocial heroes who make a difference in the lives of children with cancer and their families on a daily basis. Mattie Miracle may have had the vision to create psychosocial standards of care in 2012, but it was under the amazing leadership of a core group of professionals ([Lori Wiener](#), Ph.D.; [Mary Jo Kupst](#), Ph.D.; [Anne Kazak](#), Ph.D.; [Robert B. Noll](#), Ph.D.; and [Andrea Farkas Patenaude](#), Ph.D.) that the Standards were developed.

The Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation learned firsthand during Mattie's treatment and end of life care that childhood cancer is not just about the medicine. Children and their families need appropriate support as a complement to the medical care provided. The development of the Psychosocial Standards of Care is a major step forward in addressing the needs of children with cancer and their families. The integration of psychosocial care along with disease-directed treatment improves the quality of life across the cancer trajectory. Depression and other psychosocial concerns can affect adherence to treatment regimens and decrease coping abilities. Therefore, making psychosocial care part of standard treatment maximizes positive treatment outcomes.

We stand behind the Psychosocial Standards of Care and have funded open access to the Standards on an indefinite basis. Please download your copy here:



To learn more about Mattie's life and his parent's grief process visit the [Mattie Blog](#).

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.



MATTIE MIRACLE
CANCER
FOUNDATION is a



Washington Post Covers the Psychosocial Standards of Care

In the Fall of 2015, the co-founders of Mattie Miracle had the opportunity to be interviewed several times by [Brady Dennis](#), a National Reporter for *The Washington Post*, focusing on food, drug, and health issues. After our initial interview, Brady and Bill O'Leary (a staff photographer for *The Washington Post*) visited our home to see how Mattie's bedroom was transformed into the headquarters of Mattie Miracle. Throughout the interview, the co-founders shared stories about Mattie's life, our experiences coping with childhood cancer, and provided the groundwork to understand why the Foundation is passionate about the psychosocial needs and care of children with cancer and their families.

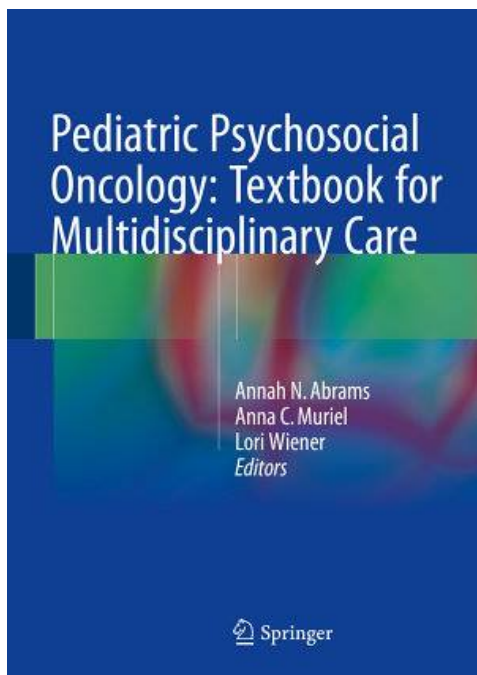
On December 29, 2015, *The Post* published the article, **"How one couple's loss led to a push for psychological care for kids with cancer."** The article highlights the vision for the Standards that led to an incredible three year long psychosocial standards project which culminated in a historic publication in *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*. As Dr. Mary Jo Kupst (a co-leader of the Standards project) stated, "There are beautiful, well-written summaries and guidelines out there, but none of them were based entirely on evidence. Nobody had really done this kind of rigorous evaluation of the evidence out there for psychosocial care."



**Designate Mattie
Miracle as your 2015
CFC Charity!**
CFC # 59853

CONTRIBUTE

**Making Miracles
Together!**



Contributed a parents' voice to Psychosocial Oncology publication

Mattie Miracle was invited by leaders in the psychosocial oncology field to contribute Chapter 22, **Parents' perspective on the role of psychosocial care in pediatric oncology**, to the first edition of *Pediatric Psychosocial Oncology: Textbook for Multidisciplinary Care*. This textbook details the psychosocial issues and challenges faced by children and adolescents with cancer and their families. Through a developmental lens, the book provides guidance and resources that will enable clinicians to understand the physical and emotional impact of the disease from diagnosis onward, to work with families in distress, and to diagnose and treat a range of behavioral, psychological, and psychiatric issues.

Chapter 22 highlights the importance of psychosocial care for childhood cancer families and shares the perspective of Mattie Miracle's co-founders who have lived the cancer journey as they cared for their son Mattie, who courageously battled osteosarcoma. As a result of their experiences they share their conversations and approaches with psychosocial providers and also discuss their vision that inspired the national project to develop Psychosocial Standards of Care for Children with Cancer and Their Families.

For more information about this textbook, go to:

LEARN MORE



Come Walk with Us

Mattie Miracle's 7th Annual Walk & Family Festival will be held on **Sunday, May 15, 2016** in Alexandria, VA. Stay tuned for more details.

Learn the benefits of becoming a Corporate Walk Sponsor.

Contact [Vicki](#).



Sign up for
April's
Item Drive

In honor of Mattie's 14th birthday, the Foundation will be hosting its fifth annual item drive. All donated toiletries will stock the Free Snack & Item Cart that the Foundation offers to in-patient pediatric families at The MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. Keurig Cups are highly sought after!

In-patient families look forward to seeing the snack & item cart rotate around the units three times a week and families greet the cart with excitement, appreciation, and thanks. When living in a hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week and caring for a child who is sick, receiving such items can feel like a gift.

The items requested are listed below. All items are needed by **April 11**. We thank our community groups who have already signed up to help us!!! If you are interested in participating in this drive, please contact [Vicki](#).

Requested Items by April 11th:

1. Keurig Cups (preferably caffeinated coffee or any kind of Starbucks flavored coffee)
2. Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
3. Travel Size Shampoo/Conditioner
4. Travel Size Lotion
5. Travel Size Body Wash Soap
6. Deodorant
7. Kid Themed Band-Aids
8. Emery boards
9. Lip Balm
10. Eye Masks for sleeping



Contact Information

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Co-Founder and CEO

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Upcoming Events

February 23, 2016 - Presentation on Surviving the Loss of a Child to Cancer at The George Washington University, Washington, DC

April 2016 - 5th Annual Toiletry Item Drive

April 15, 2016 - Professional Presentation at the [Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Work Conference](#), Providence, RI

May 15, 2016 - 7th Annual Mattie Miracle Walk & Family Festival, Alexandria, VA