



## A \$45,000 Mattie Miracle

On July 26, the Foundation donated \$45,000 to Children's Hospital at Sinai (Baltimore, MD) to create an endowed Mattie Miracle Child Life Program Fund. This is our second endowed Fund that we have established, as the first was created in 2011, at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (Washington, DC). To date, we have contributed **over \$245,000** to these Funds to support children with cancer and their families.

The Mattie Miracle Child Life Program Fund directly pays the salary of a child life professional. Child life specialists are pediatric health care professionals who work with children and families in hospitals to help them cope with the challenges of hospitalization, illness, and disability. They provide children with age-appropriate preparation for medical procedures, pain management, coping strategies, and play and self-expression activities. In addition, these professionals provide information, support, and guidance to parents, siblings, and other family members.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "Child life services should be delivered as part of an integrated patient- and family-centered model of care and included as a quality indicator in the delivery of services for children and families in health care settings." We are honored to support Children's Hospital at Sinai and are proud to enhance their child life services so that children and families in treatment have access to these vital psychosocial care professionals.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 16, 2018**  
Curefest on the National Mall,  
Washington, DC

**October 1 & 2, 2018**  
Bright IDEAS Training, Dallas,  
TX

**November 5, 2018**  
Post Halloween Candy Drive  
to Stock Snack Carts



## A Tribute to an Amazing Woman

It is with great sadness that Mattie Miracle writes this memorial tribute to Dr. Andrea Patenaude, who died on January 29, 2018, after her own journey with cancer. The Foundation had the wonderful opportunity to work with Andrea for six years, as she was a key member of our Psychosocial Standards of Care core team. She was integral at helping us brainstorm, create, and publish the historic evidence-based Psychosocial Standards of Care for Children with Cancer and Their Families.

Andrea's accomplishments as a professional were vast. Here are some highlights:

- Andrea was a **clinical psychologist**, internationally renowned for her pioneering work on the psychosocial impact on people effected by cancer.
- Andrea was the **director of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) Pediatric Psychology Program** for 12 years. She provided psychosocial services to children with cancer, their parents, siblings, and survivors of pediatric cancer, and supervised countless multidisciplinary team members, which advanced that group's clinical and academic missions.
- Andrea developed the **psychosocial consultation model** for bone marrow transplant patients, and she consulted for more than a decade with bone marrow transplant patients and staff at Boston Children's Hospital and the Brigham and Women's Hospital.
- Andrea was the **Director of Psychology Research and Clinical Service**, in the Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention at DFCI where she developed a unique hereditary cancer psychosocial clinic to support and treat members of high-risk families.
- Andrea held leadership positions in many professional organizations, **lectured on every continent but Antarctica**, authored 2 books and over 70 peer-reviewed articles, and co-authored a handbook on pediatric psychosocial oncology and the Standards for the Psychosocial Care of Children with Cancer and Their Families.
- Andrea was the recipient of the Noemi Fisman Award for Lifetime Clinical Excellence from the International Psycho-Oncology Society (2013). For her research on psychosocial aspects of cancer genetics, she was the **recipient of prestigious awards**, including a Presidential Citation from the American Psychological Association, the Rosalee G. Weiss Award from the American Psychological Foundation (1999) and the 50th Anniversary Scholars in Medicine Award from Harvard Medical School (2000).

Though Mattie Miracle was in awe of Andrea's **40 years of service** to the cancer care community, what was and will always be memorable was Andrea, the person. Andrea was a soft spoken, gentle, and compassionate force who valued the importance of listening, connecting, and understanding the

thoughts and feelings of others. It was her deeply empathetic demeanor that immediately caught the attention of Mattie Miracle's co-founders, as Andrea wanted to learn about Mattie Brown and to hear about the family's cancer journey. Andrea stood behind Mattie Miracle's mission to develop Psychosocial Standards of Care for Children with Cancer and Their Families. Her passion, commitment, and focus on this project helped to produce evidence-based Standards. Standards which she knew would enhance comprehensive cancer care by ensuring access to optimal psychosocial care for children and their families from the time of diagnosis, throughout treatment, into survivorship, or end of life and bereavement care.

Andrea has left a major hole in the lives of those who knew and loved her, yet given her significant contributions to childhood cancer and the hundreds of patients and families she helped over the course of her career, she will never be forgotten. Thanks to Andrea's books, peer reviewed articles, mentoring students and early career psychologists, and the development of the Psychosocial Standards of Care, she will continue to impact and influence many generations of clinicians, patients, and families yet to come.

To learn more about Andrea's amazing life, click on the box below.

[Tribute to Andrea](#)



## Snacks & Items Come Rolling In

In September of 2015, Mattie Miracle launched a **Snack and Item Cart** at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (Washington, DC). The Cart's mission is to help meet the basic needs of families caring for children who are hospitalized and coping with cancer and other life threatening illnesses. Mattie Miracle's co-founders will always be thankful to their community support network who brought snacks, food, and gifts daily to them during Mattie's journey with cancer. Since these items made an enormous difference to the Browns, they decided to continue this tradition on a grander scale with the the Mattie Miracle Cart.

Due to the great success of the Georgetown Cart, in March of 2017, Mattie Miracle launched a **second Cart** at Children's Hospital at Sinai (Baltimore, MD). Both Carts stock candy, nutritional snacks, drinks, and toiletry items. The majority of the candy and toiletry on the Carts are donated items from our annual Post Halloween Candy Drive and our April Toiletry Drive.

When living in a hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week and caring for a child who is seriously ill,

receiving these items can feel like a gift. Families often rush to the hospital when their children are sick and are unable to pack basic items that are needed for daily care. The carts fulfill these vital needs.

Over the course of the last **four months** (February to May, 2018), these Carts have served **600 family members** caring for a child in the hospital. We want to thank our supporters for their incredible generosity during our annual drives. Together we are making the Mattie Miracles possible.

### Feedback from parents:

"We are extremely thankful for the Mattie Miracle Snack and Item Cart for so many reasons! Not only for the yummy treats there are to choose from, which goes without saying, but for the happiness it brings just anticipating its arrival. I can attest to the fact that my child knows the days of the week it comes around and it is truly something he looks forward to. Being in the hospital for weeks at a time, there are only a few moments these kids look forward to and the Mattie Miracle Cart has achieved just that! THANK YOU for all that you do to help make a very difficult time go away - if only for a moment!"  
~ Beth Sierra (Parent, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital)

"This is awesome. You just don't know!" ~ Brynlee (Parent, Children's Hospital at Sinai)

"Can you come every day? You can? This rocks." ~ Maria, (Parent, Children's Hospital at Sinai)

"So if we wanted to grab some for tomorrow? We can, seriously? This is crazy!" ~ Lesly, (Parent, Children's Hospital at Sinai)

"The experience is so much better here than the first hospital. Its amazing. Thanks for thinking of us!"  
(Parent, Children's Hospital at Sinai)

Click on the box below to participate in our Item Drives.

Participate in Item Drives



## Students team up with Mattie Miracle

In April, two Girl Scout troops contacted Mattie Miracle. The first troop was comprised of rising 9th graders at the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School in Alexandria, VA. **Maddy Carr, Mary V Carnell and Meghan McCue** are Girl Scout Cadettes working toward earning their Silver Award. This is the highest award a Cadette can earn. The Silver Award is granted to girls who complete a 50 hour project that will benefit the community in some way. These Cadettes chose to do their service hours helping children who are ill. Therefore, they reached out to Mattie Miracle in hopes of assisting us with our Annual Awareness Walk which was held on May 20, 2018.

The second troop who contacted us was comprised of elementary school students from The Claremont Immersion School in Arlington, VA. **Daisy Troop 5614**, is led by **Ali Sharkey Goldwater and Anna Colangelo**. The Daisies wanted to participate in a community based service project that would benefit Mattie Miracle.

Thanks to **Debbie Keefe** (Mattie Miracle's Children's Activity Coordinator of our Annual Walk), the Cadettes and the Daisies worked together on planning and creating a "Bugs and Blooms" craft activity tent at this year's Mattie Miracle Walk & Family Festival. It was wonderful to see the older girls helping the little ones and through team work and coordination they hosted a very fun, creative, and memorable craft experience for those attending our event.

Mattie Miracle wants to thank both Girl Scout troops for their wonderful volunteer service and for selecting the Foundation. It is our hope that we can continue our community partnership in helping children with cancer and their families.

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