



Walk for a Mattie Miracle

Date: Sunday, May 21, 2017

Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Location: 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria, VA

Goal: To raise \$80,000 to support the:

1. Funding of the Mattie Miracle child life position at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital,
2. Supplying of the Mattie Miracle Snack/Item Carts at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and Children's Hospital at Sinai in Baltimore,
3. Creation of the Mattie Miracle psychosocial evidence based grant program that will support the implementation of the [Psychosocial Standards of Care for Children with Cancer and their Families](#), and
4. Implementation phase of the Psychosocial Standards of Care project.

ALL WALK PROCEEDS go toward our programs, and not operational and administrative costs.

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO AT THE EVENT

1. Challenge Wall the first group to fill the wall with their team's cup color wins a prize.

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[CFC #59853](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21, 2017:
Mattie Miracle 8th Annual Walk & Family Festival
Alexandria, VA

August 17-19, 2017:
Concurrent Session & Town Hall @
APHON Annual Conference

October 2017:
Town Hall @
SIOP Conference

2. Corn Hole Tournament... Come compete! First prize is an iPad 2 Mini. [Register](#) for the Walk and Tournament to qualify.
3. 10 great raffle baskets... [Nats, Caps, Dining, Scout, Wine of the Month, and more.](#)
4. **NEW THIS YEAR**.... Featured Food Trucks: [DC Empanadas](#), [The Big Cheese](#), and [Scoops2U](#).
5. Lego Activities... thanks to [Play-Well TEKnologies](#), [WAMALUG](#), and [WamaLTC](#).
6. Music... thanks to DJ Serio at [Rack Impact Entertainment](#).
7. **NEW THIS YEAR**: Strike a pose in our photo booth thanks to [Beltway Bouncers](#).
8. Magic Show... featuring Bob Weiman and his 5th Graders at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.
9. **NEW THIS YEAR**: Inflatable Chaos Obstacle Course and Lawn Games.
10. Face Painting, featuring the artistic talents of [Kip](#), and **NEW THIS YEAR**..... a Butterfly Crafts Tent.

YOU CAN SUPPORT THE EVENT BY:

- registering as an [individual walker](#)
- [creating or joining](#) a walk team
- being a [virtual walker](#)
- buying [raffle tickets](#)
- making a [contribution](#)

Click below to learn more about the Walk.

[Walk Website](#)

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Chris Lantos
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Walk Sponsors

Mattie Miracle thanks our **16 Sponsors** of this year's Walk! We are deeply grateful to these organizations and individuals for believing in our mission and standing behind the Foundation's work. Thanks to their generosity, together they have contributed over \$19,000 to the Walk's overall financial goal!!!

Click on the box below to learn more about sponsorship.

[Become a Sponsor](#)



Psychosocial Miracles Can Happen

Mattie Miracle has funded a child life specialist position at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital since 2011. On average our Mattie Miracle child life specialist supports around 3,500 children and families a year. Child Life Specialists provide evidence-based, developmentally and psychosocially appropriate interventions including therapeutic play, preparation for procedures, and education to reduce fear, anxiety, and pain.

Meet the newest member of Georgetown's Child Life staff, Morganne Bovee. Morganne's position is funded by Mattie Miracle.

Message from Morganne:

To me, the importance of this role is encompassed by the fact that life doesn't stop for the weekends. Any parent knows that caring for children consumes 24 hours of the day, 7 days a week, and this remains the same inside of a hospital. New diagnoses, bereavement, and emergent procedures will not wait for our schedules to clear, so it is imperative to have psychosocial care available around the clock. I feel honored to be in a professional role that allows me to work so closely with children and families in what can be a stressful or traumatic period of time, knowing that the services I provide as a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) lessen the long and short-term effects of both stress and trauma. Everything from the simple task of pushing around the Mattie Miracle Snack/Item

Cart, to having big conversations that prepare siblings to visit their hospitalized brother or sister in the intensive care unit, are components of psychosocial support that can impact the family's ability to cope. During my first month at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital I have been able to help children gain a better understanding of procedures prior to undergoing them, facilitated therapeutic activities and visits from friends and family to normalize the hospital experience, and begun to build supportive relationships with many of our long-term families. Without a weekend CCLS, these needs could not be met and many opportunities to scaffold better coping skills for a patient may be missed. I'm excited to continue to establish this role and expand services by being present for our incredible families each weekend. ~ Morganne Bovee, CCLS

Feedback about Morganne:

Our Child Life Specialists do an amazing job helping our pediatric patients with sedated procedures. Fortunately, we do not perform many procedures on the weekend, but if we need to, it is an enormous advantage having a Child Life Specialist present. Recently, on a Saturday, I had to sedate a child who has had many procedures and has a difficult time just approaching our sedation room. The sedation and procedure went well because Morganne was there to distract the child, so that she was able to peacefully be sedated. ~ Dr. Heidi Appel, Pediatric Intensive Care Physician

This weekend we had a situation where a young patient (14 months) had to have a unexpected bedside procedure done involving having to pull a PICC line back 3 cm and re-suturing it in place with minimal sedation. This is something we try to always have done while the patient is under heavy sedation or anesthesia as it is very scary and painful for the patient, as well as hard for the parents to watch. Thankfully, Morganne was here and able to help the patient and mom through the procedure, making the procedure go much more smoothly and safely for everyone involved. I honestly do not know what/how we would have done it without her! This is a prime example of the numerous unexpected but necessary weekend events that need Child Life's presence at the bedside. ~ Kat Clark, PICU Nurse

To learn more about this position click below.

[Learn More](#)



Pediatric HEM/ONC Physicians Endorse the Standards

We are proud to announce that the American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (ASPHO) has endorsed the Psychosocial Standards of Care for Children with Cancer and their Families.

ASPHO is a multidisciplinary organization dedicated to promoting the optimal care of children, adolescents and young adults with blood disorders and cancer by advancing research, education, treatment, and professional practice. ASPHO is the only professional organization dedicated solely to the professional development and interest of pediatric hematologists and oncologists.

To date, the Psychosocial Standards of Care for Children with Cancer and their Families have been endorsed by [14 industry leading organizations](#). Such organizations include childhood cancer advocacy groups, child and adolescent psychiatrists, pediatric educational specialists, pediatric HEM/ONC nurses, pediatric hematologists and oncologists, pediatric psychologists, pediatric social workers, and psycho-oncologists.

To read ASPHO's Press Release, please click the box below.

Press Release



April's Item Drive was a Success

We want to thank our incredible supporters of our April Item Drive. This drive is held each April in honor of Mattie's birthday.

All donated toiletries were delivered to MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and they will be used to stock our Free Snack & Item Cart. This Cart services the pediatric units three times a week.

When living in a hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week and caring for a child who is battling cancer, 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 they need for their own daily care.

A Message from a Parent about the Mattie Miracle Snack/Item Cart:

Being in the hospital long term with a sick child can be emotionally and physically tolling. Food options can be limited and sometimes it can be hard to leave the room for snacks. We are thankful for the snack and item cart that comes around because it's nice to get treats and toiletry items. Thank you to Mattie Miracle for providing this service to parents. It is much appreciated!! ~ Mahreen

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