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January 2014


Five Years Strong

Mattie Miracle celebrates its fifth year of helping to meet the psychosocial needs of children and families with cancer! On behalf of Mattie Miracle's board of directors we want to thank our supporters for making this possible!

Save The Date!

**Please join us on May 18th, for our
5th Anniversary Walk & Family Festival in Alexandria, VA!**

ABOUT MATTIE MIRACLE

Meet Our Psychosocial Dream Team

In March of 2012, Mattie Miracle hosted the first ever Psychosocial Childhood Cancer Symposium on Capitol Hill. This was a very successful event with congressional members, staffers, and mental health professionals from 12 different states in attendance. The event highlighted



The [Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation](#) is a 501(c)(3)



hot topics in psychosocial care, cutting edge research, and a call to action to develop a national psychosocial standard of care.

The energy from the Symposium set the stage for the creation of our Psychosocial Dream Team. This team of five leaders is comprised of [Dr. Lori Wiener](#), [Dr. Mary Jo Kupst](#), [Dr. Anne Kazak](#), [Dr. Andrea Patenaude](#), and [Dr. Bob Noll](#).

Bob Noll. Spearheading this team is Dr. Wiener who reached out to Mattie Miracle to host a psychosocial think tank at the American Psychosocial Oncology Society conference in Huntington Beach, CA, in February 2013. As a result of the think tank, around 40 professionals representing the fields of psychology, psychiatry, social work, nursing, and oncology have joined forces to research, write, and review a national standard of care for childhood cancer. These professionals represent various cancer institutions and professional organizations from around the Country, Canada, and the Netherlands.

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](#).

Uniting Clinicians & Researchers Together for Childhood Cancer



On February 13, 2014, the Foundation will be hosting its second think tank at the [American Psychosocial Oncology Society](#) conference in Tampa, FL. At this event, a draft of the Psychosocial Standards of Care for Childhood Cancer will be reviewed and next steps will be discussed. Within a two year time period, Mattie Miracle has had the opportunity to see its call to action unfold into a tangible standards document, guided by both evidence based research and clinical consensus.

Mattie Miracle is honored to be working with our dream team, who have successfully united the health care community together to draft what the Foundation had envisioned. It is recognized that psychosocial care is an essential aspect of the care of children and teens with cancer, however, there are no U.S. standards of care for these critical services. Standards of care define the minimum types of services which should be available to children and teens with cancer and their family members, no matter where in the U.S. cancer care is received.

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.



Distinguished Psycho-Oncologist Joins Mattie Miracle

In October of 2013, Mattie Miracle had the opportunity to hire Dr. Mary Jo Kupst to assist in the development of the Psychosocial Standards of Care for Childhood Cancer. Mary Jo works closely with Mattie Miracle's co-founders and is a vital part of our dream team. We welcome Mary Jo aboard and are thankful for the expertise she brings to this project and the Foundation.

Mary Jo is Emerita Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She received her Ph.D. at Loyola University Chicago and was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Community Psychology at the University of Illinois School of Medicine.

Prior to MCW, she was Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Northwestern University School of Medicine, and Research Psychologist at the Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. Mary Jo has worked in the area of pediatric psycho-oncology for most of her professional life, combining clinical work with children and families and psychosocial research. Her primary area of research over the past 30 years has been in the longitudinal study of coping and adjustment in children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer and blood diseases.

Mary Jo has also conducted longitudinal studies of cognitive and psychosocial functioning of children undergoing bone marrow transplantation. She has been primary investigator or co-investigator of grants from NIH, American Cancer Society, National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, and several foundations and has authored over 60 articles, chapters, and books, mostly related to psychological aspects of childhood cancer. She has served as President of the Society of Pediatric Psychology (Division 54, APA), Vice Chair of the Behavioral Science Discipline of the Children's Oncology group, and co-chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer.

CONTRIBUTE

Making Miracles Together!



Mattie Miracle Welcomes Great Addition to The Board

Brett Thompson is no stranger to Mattie Miracle. In May of 2010, Brett donated a case of his **Pork Barrel BBQ** sauce to the Mattie Miracle Raffle. When the

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Foundation's co-founders met Brett to thank him for his contribution, they learned that Brett was not only the co-founder of Pork Barrel BBQ sauce but he is also a lobbyist. A lobbyist who believes in Mattie Miracle's mission and in 2010, took the Foundation on as a pro-bono client. Through Brett's support, guidance, and skills, Mattie Miracle created a House Resolution addressing psychosocial issues for childhood cancer, added psychosocial language to two bills in Congress, and with encouragement hosted a Symposium on Capitol Hill in 2012. Mattie Miracle is thrilled to have such a professional and supporter like Brett serving on the board of directors.

More Details to Follow

Brett is a Partner at **[Banner Public Affairs](#)**. Prior to founding Banner, Brett served as a legislative director in the U.S. Senate. In this capacity, he oversaw the passage of over 30 bipartisan pieces of legislation into law, including the Combat Meth Act, 7.5 billion gallon Renewable Fuels Standard, \$15 billion Highway Infrastructure Bonds, Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Act, Service members Anti-Predatory Lending Protection Act, E-85 Tax Credit Legislation, Minority Business Fairness Act and Military Health Readiness Act.

Active in campaigns for the past 15 years, Brett has served as policy director in federal and state campaigns and has managed races at the local level. In these roles, he created and implemented policy platforms, directed grassroots outreach efforts, built and managed coalitions, and developed television and radio commercials.



In addition to his campaign work, Brett was an associate at the law firm of Lewis, Rice and Fingersh, LC. As a part of their corporate and trademark practice groups, he participated in large-scale mergers and acquisitions and initial public offerings.

Brett received a degree in Public Policy Analysis from the College of William and Mary and holds a law degree from Washington University School of Law where he received the F. Hodge O'Neal Corporate Law Prize. The John C. Stennis Center for Public Service appointed Brett as a Stennis Congressional Staff Fellow for the 109th Congress.

Upcoming Activities

- **January 29, 2014** -- Guest Lecturer at the George Washington University.
- **February 13, 2014** -- Mattie Miracle's Second Psychosocial Think Tank at the **[APOS conference](#)** in Tampa, FL.
- **March 21, 2014** -- Guest Lecturer at the Georgetown University.
- **April 2014** -- Third Annual Item Drive for Georgetown University Hospital in honor of Mattie's 12th Birthday.
- **May 1, 2014** -- Mattie Miracle Co-Founders will deliver the keynote address at the upcoming **[APHOES conference](#)** in Columbus, Ohio.
- **May 18, 2014** -- Mattie Miracle's Fifth Anniversary Awareness Walk in Alexandria, VA.

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