

NEWS & UPDATES

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Spreading 10,000 Pounds of Candy Cheer

This Thanksgiving Season, Mattie Miracle pauses to thank our incredible supporters for uniting behind our psychosocial mission to assist children with cancer and their families. We realize your contributions come in all forms... CANDY included! Try 10,000 pounds or 5 tons of candy to be exact! This is double the amount collected last year.

Mattie Miracle funds a free snack and item cart at both MedStar Georgetown University Hospital and Children's Hospital at Sinai in Baltimore. The MedStar Georgetown cart services over **2,500 families a year** and provides sweet treats, nutritional snacks, drinks, and toiletry items to families caring for children who are hospitalized. Families find it impossible to meet their own basic needs when caring for their children who are sick, therefore this cart is vital in helping families feel supported and appreciated.

Thank you for making these sweet psychosocial miracles possible!!!

OUR CANDY RECIPIENTS:

- · Children's Inn at NIH, Bethesda, MD
- Children's Hospital at Sinai in Baltimore, MD
- Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC
- DC Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation, Washington, DC
- Growing Hope, Fairfax Station, VA
- Hackerman Patz House at Sinai Hospital, Baltimore, MD
- HSC Pediatric Center, Washington, DC

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ABOUT US

CFC #59853

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 24, 2017: Psychosocial Round Table, Capitol HIII Washington, DC

February 2017:
APOS Conference
Orlando, FL
Psychosocial Town Hall

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

- MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC
- Ronald McDonald House, Baltimore, MD
- Ronald McDonald House, Greater Washington DC
- Ronald McDonald House, Falls Church, VA
- Special Love for Children with Cancer, Winchester, VA
- Covenant House, Washington, DC
- Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Reston, VA

Mattie Miracle Workers



Mattie Miracle hosted its first Post-Halloween Candy Drive in 2011, in which we collected about 500 pounds of candy. With each year the Candy Drive grows exponentially, which enables us to spread our psychosocial message around the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

When candy is donated to us it comes in all sorts of bags and typically chocolate is mixed in with non-chocolate candy. Many people ask us why we sort and bag the donated candy? We do this for several reasons. First sorting the candy helps us eliminate any inappropriate items. Second, separating the candy by type enables the candy to remain fresher longer and prevents it from all tasting the same when stored over a long period of time. Finally, sorting and bagging the candy makes restocking our snack carts easier for hospital personnel.

Collecting, sorting, and delivering 10,000 pounds of candy are challenging tasks. Mattie Miracle is able to run such a large candy operation thanks to our lead coordinators (Heidi Anderson, Peggy Elkind, Leslie Greenberg, Ann Henshaw, Tina Lytle, and Jane Pisano) and hundreds of dedicated volunteers. To each and every volunteer who collected and sorted candy, WE THANK YOU!!!

Click LEARN MORE to read about our community.

LEARN MORE

Where does the candy come from?



We are very grateful to have the support of **22 schools**, **26 businesses and community groups**, **and hundreds of individual donors** who contributed to our 6th Annual Post Halloween Candy Drive. This year many of the groups who donated candy also held their own candy sorting parties in which students, colleagues, and friends gathered together to sort the candy into Ziploc bags. This was an enormous help to Mattie Miracle volunteers who were inundated by our region's candy kindness.

A huge thank you to the **St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School** (SSSAS) in Alexandria, VA. SSSAS was instrumental in collecting candy, sorting it at a school wide event, storing it, and helping Mattie Miracle deliver the candy around town.

Click LEARN MORE to see a listing of our amazing candy contributors.

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Professional Endorsement of Psychosocial Standards of Care



Mattie Miracle is proud to announce that the Psychosocial Standards of Care for Children with Cancer and Their Families have been endorsed by the Cancer Support Community (CSC). CSC is the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, and it is dedicated to ensuring that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community.

Vicki Kennedy (LCSW, Vice President of Program Development and Delivery at the Cancer Support Community) stated, "Social and emotional support are just as important as medical care in the face of a cancer diagnosis. We support these new Psychosocial Standards of Care and share with The Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation the goal of ensuring that children with cancer and their families have access to comprehensive cancer care that includes quality psychosocial support."

Click LEARN MORE to read the Press Release.

Snack & Item Cart Makes the Rounds

On November 29, Victoria Sardi-Brown and Ann Henshaw (Mattie Miracle Board Members) had the opportunity to push the Mattie Miracle Snack & Item Cart around the pediatric units of MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. The Mattie Miracle Board believes it is vital to personally push the cart in order to assess the cart's effectiveness and to interact with the families supported by the cart.

Mattie Miracle's co-founder volunteers monthly to push the cart at the Hospital and encourages all adult supporters who wish to get involved to join her. Come volunteer you helped us collect the candy, now see how the candy is used and appreciated.

Click VOLUNTEER to get involved.



VOLUNTEER

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