



Support Services Checklist

To help you navigate issues that arise while you are busy focusing on helping your child get healthy, we have provided you with a personalized checklist of various support organizations that offer services, resources and support that may be of benefit to your family.

<input type="checkbox"/>  American Cancer Society  Phone: 800-227-2345, #1 www.cancer.org	The American Cancer Society (ACS) is a nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information--cancer diagnoses and treatment options • Transportation--planning for radiation, chemotherapy and surgery appointments, including airline miles, if applicable • Lodging--reduced cost lodging (rates vary based on location) • Pain/Nausea Medication--assistance for those with no health insurance or no prescription coverage • Clinical Trials--matching services for various clinical trials aimed at developing improved treatments
<input type="checkbox"/>  Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation  Contact: Meg Krancic Phone: 312-214-1200, x25 mkrancic@bearnecessities.org www.bearnecessities.org	The mission of the Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation is to eliminate pediatric cancer and to provide hope and support to those who are touched by it. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bear Hugs--special experiences for pediatric cancer patients living and/or being treated in Illinois, ages 0-19 • Family Support Services--financial assistance for families struggling economically • Child/Family Events--Creative Collaborations/patient art day and various social events
<input type="checkbox"/>  Cancer Wellness Center  Contact: Stuart L. Pinkwater, Psy.D. Phone: 847-509-9595 spinkwater@cancerwellness.org www.cancerwellness.org	The Cancer Wellness Center (CWC), through psychosocial support and education, seeks to empower those affected by cancer to enhance the quality of their lives. The Center is located in Northbrook; there are also limited services offered in Grayslake or Waukegan. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education--information about cancer and how to cope, the physical and psychosocial effects of cancer, and how to talk to kids about cancer • Support--support groups, discussion groups, caregiver programming, and a short-term counseling program for individuals or families • Wellness--extensive programming including Yoga, Tai Chi Chin, Massage, Healing Touch, guided imagery, relaxation, etc. • Resource Center--books, CDs, and DVDs on a variety of topics • Community outreach--School re-entry program for children with cancer held at either CWC or at the school itself
<input type="checkbox"/>  Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  Contact: Molly A. Riley Phone: 312-236-4491, x106; 800-FIGHTCF mriley@cff.org www.cff.org	The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) is the leading organization committed to finding new therapies and ultimately a cure for CF, and to improving the lives of those with the disease. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CF Care Center Network--support and accreditation for more than 115 specialized treatment centers across the country • CF Patient Assistance--financial assistance for select FDA-approved medications and medical devices for CF lung disease • CF Services Pharmacy--personalized services, patient advocacy and reimbursement support • CF Tax Advice--how to deduct a portion of a CF patient's food expenses that exceed what healthy people spend on food • Services--CF Legal Hotline, Advocacy efforts and Clinical Trial participation information
<input type="checkbox"/>  The Cystic Fibrosis Institute  Contact: Lois A. Nelson Phone: 847-998-3434 lois@wecare4lungs.com www.cysticfibrosisinstitute.org	The Cystic Fibrosis Institute (CFI) supports those affected by cystic fibrosis in the Chicagoland area and tries to make a difference by being an active source of assistance and advocacy in dealing with the everyday challenge of cystic fibrosis. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Assistance--programs including mentoring, medication and supplement assistance, and contact information for services such as clinical care, genetic counselors, dietary consultation, exercise consultation and social services • Education--materials, newsletters and an annual conference aimed at educating patients, families and the public • Clinical Trials--hosting independent, federally sponsored NIH research, and pharmaceutical-based multi-center clinical research studies to test the latest treatments to help discover and develop new and more effective treatment strategies • Advocacy--support/involvement in local, regional and national advocacy efforts, including fundraising events, influencing public policy, and increasing awareness
<input type="checkbox"/>  Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation  Contact: Pat Tallungan Phone: 866-671-2623 info@cncfhope.org www.cncfhope.org	The Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation (CNCF) is a non-profit national health organization committed to finding a cure for neuroblastoma through research, education, awareness and advocacy. CNCF initiatives educate the public about a disease dramatically lacking in awareness and funding. It serves as an advocate for families, as well as a liaison between healthcare providers and families. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual conference--an educational program for parents and caregivers to discuss current treatment options, results of new research projects and to provide emotional support for children and families • Parent Handbook--a comprehensive guide written by parents to help maneuver through the world of neuroblastoma. • Community Awareness--help to increase awareness of neuroblastoma through fundraising events/marketing

<input type="checkbox"/>  Children's Oncology Services, Inc Contact: Jill Kulbok Carlson Phone: 312-235-6838 jkulbok@onestepcamp.org www.onestepcamp.org	Children's Oncology Services, Inc. (COSI) believes that a diagnosis of cancer should not prevent a child from experiencing the simple joys of childhood. Our programs offer fun, friendship and support in a safe and nurturing environment. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp—Summer Camp, Winter Camp, Sibling Camp, and Family Camp • Excursions—Utah Ski Trip, Dude Ranch, Whitewater Rafting and Outdoor Adventure, etc. • Education—advocacy programs (Springfield and Washington D.C.) • Scholarships—Tuition and Textbook Reimbursement scholarships for cancer patients and survivors
<input type="checkbox"/>  Gilda's Club Chicago Contact: Jamie Mazer, MA, LCPC Phone: 312-464-9900, x31 jamiemazer@gildasclubchicago.org www.gildasclubchicago.org	Gilda's Club Chicago is a community where men, women and children who are living with cancer and their families can find support and resources. The center is located in Chicago. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noogieland-- program for children and teens with cancer, with cancer in the family, or have lost a loved one to cancer • Kid Support--10-week group for children ages 4-12 to help learn to live with the stresses of cancer • Kids Bereavement--grief group for children ages 4-12 who have lost a loved one from cancer • Kids/Teen Camp--summer day-camp • Family Activities/Social Events—workshops, seasonal parties and outings for children, teens and their families • Psychosocial Support—wellness sessions/classes including yoga, meditation, journaling, massage, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>  Gilda's Club Quad Cities Contact: Melissa Wright Phone: 563-326-7504; 877-926-7504 melissa@gildasclubqc.org www.gildasclubqc.org	Gilda's Club Quad Cities is a cancer support community providing people living with cancer, and all who touch their lives, access to other people going through the same experience. The center is located in Davenport, IA (but also serves Illinois). Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noogieland--a program for children and teens with cancer, with cancer in the family, or have lost a loved one to cancer • Kid Support--10-week group for children ages 4-12 to help learn to live with the stresses of cancer • Family Activities/Social Events—workshops, seasonal parties and outings for children, teens and their families • Psychosocial Support—wellness sessions/classes including yoga, meditation, journaling, massage, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>  Greater Illinois Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition Contact: Kristin James Phone: 844-944-7722 kjames@gippcc.org www.gippcc.org	The Greater Illinois Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition is a group of organizations and individuals working to improve access to community-based support for Illinois children with serious illnesses and their families. Pediatric palliative care teams work in cooperation with a child's primary medical team to provide support within the home setting, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing Care--focus on pain and symptom management, under the guidance of a pediatrician • Counseling--services for children and family members provided by a social worker, chaplain and/or art/music therapists
<input type="checkbox"/>  Imerman Angels Contact: Rynell Cook Phone: 312.274.5529 x10 rynell@imermanangels.org www.imermanangels.org	The Imerman Angels mission is to provide personalized connections that enable one-on-one support among cancer fighters, survivors and caregivers. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-On-1 Cancer Support--a person fighting cancer is partnered with someone who beat the same diagnosis, providing the fighter the opportunity to receive encouragement and guidance from someone uniquely familiar with the situation • Caregiver Support--a caregiver of someone fighting cancer is partnered with a caregiver who relates to and can understand their situation
<input type="checkbox"/>  Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Contact: Susana Alvizuri Phone: 312.568.7715 susana.alvizuri@lls.org www.lls.org/il	The mission of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Services—diagnosis information, resources and support • Financial Support—assistance with medical costs/household finances, insurance issues, and employment rights • School Re-entry—facilitation of communication between physicians, parents, and school personnel to ease the transition of children/teens back to school
<input type="checkbox"/>  LivingWell Cancer Resource Center Contact: Jillian A. Smallwood Phone: 630-262-1111 jsmallwood@livingwellcrc.org www.livingwellcrc.org	LivingWell Cancer Resource Center is dedicated to providing people living with cancer and their loved ones the support and educational services they need when faced with a cancer diagnosis. The center is located in Geneva. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Groups—groups for children/teens with cancer, as well as for parents/guardians, siblings, relatives, and friends • Wellness—programs to promote mind, body and fitness for cancer patients and caregivers (ex--yoga, reiki, etc.) • Creative Arts Expression—art/recreation programs such as The Smile Within, Teen Art Studio, and Time Out • Education—programs for cancer patients and caregivers such as journaling, cooking, knitting, collage-making.
<input type="checkbox"/>  Make-A-Wish Foundation of IL Contact: Dina Thachet, CCLS Phone: 312-602-9435; 800-978-9474 thachet@wishes.org www.wishes.org	The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Illinois grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human spirit with hope, strength & joy. Eligibility requirements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age--children ages 2½ to 18 (referred prior to 18th birthday) who live in Illinois or who are here for treatment • Diagnosis—child is diagnosed at time of referral with a life-threatening medical condition; confirmed by physician • Previous wish--child may not have received a wish from any other wish-granting organization • Referral source--child can be referred by a parent/guardian, by the child, or a treating medical staff member
<input type="checkbox"/>  Normal Moments Contact: Patricia Fragen Phone: 630-888-8120 tricia@normalmoments.org www.normalmoments.org	Normal Moments, Inc. is devoted to supporting parents with critically ill children in the home, in the hospital, and via web resources so that they can spend as much time as possible sharing the most normal moments possible with their children. We help alleviate the home stresses while parents sit with their hospital-bound child. Services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional Support—connections to experienced resources to whom they can talk to either in person or by phone • Personal Assistance—professional/volunteer assistance with necessities; ex. housecleaning, lawn care, or meals • Resources--a consolidated location to research medications and treatment protocols via links to reputable websites and access to other service providers who can assist them with other associated needs

<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central IL</p>  <p>Contact: Kelly Thompson Phone: 217-528-3314 kthompson@rmhc-centralillinois.org www.rmhc-centralillinois.org</p>	<p>Our Ronald McDonald House provides a temporary "home away from home" for families whose child is receiving treatment for a serious illness at a medical facility in the Springfield area in an effort to reduce stress, keep the family intact, and enhance the quality of life for families. Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenient Location—located in the heart of Springfield's medical community • Comfortable Environment—private bedrooms, home-cooked meals and playrooms for children
<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana</p>  <p>Contact: Mary Agnes Laguatan Phone: 708-327-6003 mlaguatan@rmhccni.org www.rmhccni.org</p>	<p>Our Ronald McDonald Houses provide a "home away from home" for families of pediatric patients receiving treatment in Chicagoland hospitals in an effort to reduce stress, keep the family intact, and enhance the quality of life. Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenient Locations—near Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, near Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, near Loyola University Medical Center in Hines, and near University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital in Chicago • Comfortable Environment—private bedrooms, home-cooked meals and playrooms for children • Support--non-clinical support services, recreational activities, and sibling support services
<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Starlight Children's Foundation Midwest</p>  <p>Contact: Christy Lange, CCLS Phone: 312-251-7827, x10 clange@starlightmidwest.org www.starlight-midwest.org</p>	<p>The Starlight Children's Foundation helps seriously ill children and their families cope with their pain, fear and isolation through entertainment, education and family activities. The main program is called Great Escapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A program for children birth to 18 that provides families with a chance to spend recreational time together to relax, regroup and return home with a renewed sense of strength and hope • Family Activities including movie screenings, circus trips, mother-daughter makeovers, spa days, sporting events, picnics • Families have reported the program provides valuable connections with others facing similar challenges and "emotional companionship: for the journey, priceless family memories away from hospital or clinical settings, and rare opportunities for social and interpersonal interaction
<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Super Sibs!</p>  <p>Contact: Sandi Ring, M.S., CCLS Phone: 847-705-7427 sring@supersibs.org www.supersibs.org</p>	<p>Super Sibs! works to ensure that the siblings of children with cancer, ages 4 to 18, are honored, supported and recognized so they may face the future with strength, courage and hope. Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Comfort and Care Support Mailing—free, custom-designed, age-appropriate materials such as journals, guides, books, newsletters, trophies, sweet dreams pillowcase, t-shirts, etc., as well as grief support, if applicable • Scholarships—for High School Seniors who have (or have ever had) a sibling with cancer • Outreach/Education—communication tools, education materials, and resources for parents/guardians, family members, teachers, religious and spiritual leaders, and medical and psychosocial professionals in hospitals and organizations • Sibling Survivorship Care Plan for Teens and Parents
<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>The Cancer Support Center</p>  <p>Contact: Lisa Schneider, MS, LCPC Phone: 708-798-9171 lschneider@cancersupportcenter.org www.CancerSupportCenter.org</p>	<p>The mission of the Cancer Support Center is to provide free, comprehensive resources that help people affected by cancer and their family's process through their experience in a way that is as supportive and healing as possible to achieve the highest quality of life. The center serves south Chicagoland and has two convenient locations--in Homewood and Mokena. Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections/Family Support—programs including diagnosis information, individual and family counseling, support and networking groups, caregiver support, and grief/bereavement programs for all ages • Resources—library with information and resources on types of cancer, treatment options, grief/bereavement, caregiver resources, guided imagery, relaxation, children's resources, etc., that may be checked out for three weeks at a time • Wellness—programs including survivorship celebrations, yoga, massage, Reiki, tai chi, meditation and crocheting
<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Wellness House</p>  <p>Contact: Azizi Marshall Phone: 630-654-5118 amarshall@wellnesshouse.org www.wellnesshouse.org</p>	<p>Wellness House offers psychosocial support and information as a complement to medical treatment to improve the quality of life and to provide comfort and community so those affected by cancer feel less alone and more empowered. The center is located in Hinsdale. Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information/Education--classes, workshops, and speakers about various effects of cancer and ways to cope with the challenges presented by a cancer diagnosis (ex.—'How to answer kids' questions about cancer') • Family Matters--educational and supportive program to normalize and validate the feelings that children and teens have • Support/Networking--support groups to express thoughts/feelings, and to meet others in similar situations
<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Wellness Place</p>  <p>Contact: Lori Mackey, MA, ATR-BC, CCLS Phone: 847-241-5970 lori.mackey@wellnessplace.org www.Wellnessplace.org</p>	<p>The mission of Wellness Place is to provide individualized education, support and understanding to those affected by cancer as a complement to medical treatment. The center is located in Palatine. Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling/Support/Networking—group or individual support or counseling, social networks, Art therapy, medical play for the cancer patient, family, siblings, etc. • School Re-entry--support and education for the child, parents and school personnel to ease the transition back to school • Education—information about cancer, treatment options, resources, events, etc. for cancer patients and families • Integrative services--massage, Reiki, Healing touch, and expressive arts for pediatric patients and families

This checklist is provided by the Pieces of the Puzzle CollaborativeSM, an alliance of various non-profit organizations partnering together to minimize/eliminate obstacles to service and to facilitate increased access to quality psychosocial, supportive care for all children with life-threatening medical conditions, as well as for their parents/guardians and siblings.

The CollaborativeSM and the Support Services Checklist were created by Dina Thachet, CCLS, Medical Outreach Manager of The Make-A-Wish Foundation[®] of Illinois. To request changes, updates or permission to reprint, contact Dina at Thachet@wishes.org.