



Cancer Support Community Helps Kids Too

Motherhood can be a mixed blessing of challenges and joy—none more heart breaking then when you learn your child has cancer. When Maddie was in 2nd grade, she was diagnosed with ALL: acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Her treatment included daily oral chemotherapy, monthly infusions through her port, and quarterly lumbar punctures under anesthesia, which she feared the most.

Maddie attended Kid's Support, a program that teaches kids about cancer, how to deal with the stress of cancer, and how to get support from other kids affected by cancer at the Gilda's Club location of Cancer Support Community (CSC) in Warminster. Both of Maddie's parents, Christine and Harry, attended the corresponding parent

support group to find support and resources. Her sisters (Abby 12 and Isabelle 7) attended summer camp along with Maddie to learn coping skills and ask questions about cancer. Her grandmother Bette (a longtime volunteer at CSC Greater Philadelphia) accompanied them to social functions like the annual holiday party.

When Maddie was in the hospital, her older sister Abby would often call her from school to find out how she was doing. Also, Maddie's teacher put a big stuffed monkey in her empty seat, which Maddie named Coconut, to help explain cancer to Maddie's young classmates.

Cancer Support Community offers professionally led support groups to children and teens directly in their school

during the normal school day to provide coping skills. This allows kids to meet others in the same situation and also to learn how to manage their fears and anxieties surrounding cancer.

At CSC, we pride ourselves on providing a warm, home-like environment for both children and adults. This welcoming environment is a hallmark of our program and allows people to feel comfortable the minute they walk through the front door at any of our 7 area locations.

We believe that cancer is a family disease. Cancer Support Community is here when you need us, providing support and education about your family's cancer journey and making sure that No one faces cancer alone.

For more information about Cancer Support Community, please call 215-441-3290, or visit www.cancersupportphiladelphia.org.

**CANCER SUPPORT
COMMUNITY.**
GREATER PHILADELPHIA

CSCGP
at Gilda's Club

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