



## Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia at Gilda's Club Announces Annual Teen Contests

Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia (CSCGP) is pleased to announce the annual Ben Strauss Youth Program activities for 2023. The Ben Strauss Youth Program is named in memory of the late Ben Strauss, Philadelphia-area philanthropist who was a longtime supporter of children's programs across the region.

This program began in 2016 and has provided hundreds of middle school and high school students the opportunity to share their experiences with cancer through creative writing.

Experts have long recognized the importance of creative expression in dealing with trauma and grief. Having a cancer diagnosis in the family can be isolating for children and often affects their performance in school as well as their relationships with their peers. Those who have participated in the program have reported that they found sharing their feelings and challenges to be helpful in their healing journey.

The essay contest is for both middle and high school students. Participants are encouraged to submit essays about their experience with either their own or a family member or friend's cancer and how this has impacted them. Essays will be reviewed by a panel of judges from the community. The winners will receive cash prizes and will be honored at a reception for applicants and their families on May 16, 2023 at 7 pm at the Cancer Support Community at Gilda's Club in Warminster. Gift cards will be provided for those receiving honorable mention recognition.

For those who enjoy expressing themselves through various forms of art, CSCGP is also sponsoring an art program. These submissions will be on display at various events throughout the year. This program will include a variety of art programs featuring instruction in different art modalities. The community is welcome to attend these programs, and CSCGP is also looking for artists who are willing to provide instruction in their preferred art form.

For information on the Ben Strauss art contest or essay contest, please contact Children and Teen Coordinator Christina Wise at 215-441-3290, ext. 115 or at [Christina@cancersupportphiladelphia.org](mailto:Christina@cancersupportphiladelphia.org).




**CANCER SUPPORT  
COMMUNITY™**

GREATER PHILADELPHIA

**CSCGP**  
*at Gilda's Club*

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