

SERVICE PROJECTS ON CHILDHOOD CANCER

Direct Service

1. to Children with Cancer

- Record greetings from classmates and video school events to send to the child who is ill. Or students can write a weekly newsletter on the events in "Our Classroom" to send to the child who is ill.
- Students create games and record books on CD to send to the child who is ill.
- Create a "Welcome Back" bag (of notes, cards, artwork, stories of class events, etc.) to give to the child who is ill when s/he returns to school. These offerings should be created throughout the child's absence so that s/he knows that s/he was missed.
- After child who is ill returns to school, classmates can provide peer tutoring to help the child catch up on school work.
- Record books on CD for children in the oncology unit of the local hospital. Send the CDs along with copies of the books to the children in the hospital.

2. to Siblings of Children with Cancer

- Help coordinate childcare or transportation for siblings to their sports activities and lessons.
- Create SibPacks (for details, see www.mylion.org) for hospitals to distribute to siblings when they are waiting for the child who is ill in the hospital. The SibPacks can include games, art supplies, journals, books, comics, and a special card. Put suggested age range on each SibPack to facilitate their effective distribution.
- Offer games and special events at a local Ronald McDonald House.

3. to Families of Children with Cancer

- Assist with seasonal (raking leaves, snow shoveling) or regular (cleaning, grocery shopping) chores.
- Make and deliver a meal for the family. Students could also coordinate a schedule for meals to be provided on a regular basis.
- Organize and offer a Family Fun Day at school. Include games for a variety of ages, food, and time to socialize. Provide educational materials about childhood cancer, research efforts, and the effects of childhood cancer on children and their families.

Indirect Service

- Organize a book or toy drive for the Oncology Unit at the local hospital.
- Hold a fundraiser to contribute funds toward pediatric cancer research and/or financial assistance for a family who has a child who is ill (for example, lemonade stand, car wash, bake sale, movie night, etc.).
- Organize a local blood drive.
- Have a Benefit Dinner at the school with a menu in several courses, door prizes (donated by local merchants), live music, party favors, and placemats with information about childhood cancer made by the students.

- Sponsor a Silent Auction with items donated by local merchants. Again, contribute funds toward either pediatric cancer research or a family in need.
- Sell ALSF t-shirts and hats to raise money for pediatric cancer research.

Community Awareness/Advocacy

- Sponsor a "Bald and Beautiful" Day. Challenge school and local community celebrities to shave their heads. Encourage those with long hair to get a haircut and donate their hair to Locks of Love. Ask barbers and stylists to donate their services for the day.
- Publicize facts and information about childhood cancer through local radio announcements, public access TV, posters in community buildings, and/or letters to the Editor of the local newspaper.
- Create a website or blog about childhood cancer and the need for research funding. Include information about how to donate funds.
- Petition city officials to proclaim a "Childhood Cancer Awareness Day."
- Sponsor a public showing of the PBS movie, A Lion in the House, and donate admission fees to pediatric cancer research. (See www.lioninthehouse.org).