

# September National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month



## Childhood Cancer Information

- There are 12 different types of Childhood Cancers.
- Cancer remains the number one disease killer of America's children – more than asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, and pediatric HIV/AIDS combined.
- Each school day, 46 children are diagnosed with cancer.
- Each day 7 children will die.
- One in 285 children will develop cancer by age 20.
- Research shows that on average 1 in every 4 elementary schools have a child with cancer and the average high school has 2 students who are either current or former cancer patients.
- Each year in the U.S. over 11,630 children under the age of 15 are diagnosed with cancer.
- 80% of children have metastatic disease at time of diagnosis as compared to only 20% of adults.
- Although the 5-year survival rate is steadily increasing, approximately one quarter of children diagnosed with cancer will die 5 years from the time of diagnosis.
- The rate and frequency of the more invasive Childhood Cancers has steadily increased over the recent years.

## Things to discuss with young children about children with cancer:

- Cancer is not contagious.
- Children with cancer usually have no hair due to their treatments, but yes, it will grow back.
- Children with cancer may not come to school often because they are receiving treatments.
- Children with cancer can become very shy around other kids because they feel “different”, encourage children to interact and treat the child the same as others if they meet a child with cancer.

## Things to discuss with adolescents and teenagers who are usually more understanding of peers with cancer:

- Teach the scientific basis for the disease.
- Teach students about chemotherapy and radiation and how they work to combat cancer.
- Teach students the need for continued research for Childhood Cancer.

## Suggested Activities for September

- Students can make cards or posters for children in the hospital. Also, hat, toy and blanket collections (must be new) are always needed and greatly appreciated for our kids in the hospital. Students 14 and older are welcome to volunteer at various events held monthly. Contact Silvia Dominguez Vanni, Co-Founder, Executive Director, Mystic Force Foundation, at 305-726-1155 or [silvia@mysticforcefoundation.com](mailto:silvia@mysticforcefoundation.com) for drop-off or volunteer information.
- Students can make cards, posters or knit hats for children with hair loss to be placed in We Care Kits. Contact Gisenia L. Reyes, Co-Founder/AML Cancer Survivor, We Care Chemo Kits, at 305-403-9507 or [info@wecarechemokits.org](mailto:info@wecarechemokits.org).
- Make banners and posters to place in their buildings or yards.
- Wear a gold ribbon every day in September.
- Wear gold on Thursdays in September.

**Awareness education and activities are highly encouraged but voluntary.**