

# The Matthews Foundation



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The mission of The Matthews Foundation is to provide financial aid and support to help children of Maryland who are dealing with the diagnosis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL).

We provide financial assistance to the family to cope with the burden of financial hardship during the initial treatment phase. Also, we provide resources and support services that are available to patients and their families.



# A 501(c)3 Public Charity

### The Founders

The Matthews Foundation was formed in 2008 by Jennifer Daly, John Valenti and Lisa Russell. In 2006, Jennifer's son Matthew was diagnosed with (ALL) Leukemia. During Matthew's journey, his family made lifelong friends with the Valenti's. Our co-founder, John Valenti's son, Matthew, was also diagnosed with ALL and the families (and the two Matthews) met in the playroom at Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Both of the Matthews treatments will last until 2010 and hopefully they will be cancer free. Our last co-founder, Lisa Russell, watched as her father-in-law lost his battle with Leukemia. Our experiences have compelled us to act; we formed The Matthews Foundation to give back to the community by helping children in the same situation.

TMF is a non-profit 501(c)3 public charity which relies on donations from the public who want to make a difference in their communities and in the lives of those around them. We know first hand how difficult it is to cope with the financial burdens of caring for a critically ill child. No one should have to choose between paying their mortgage or saving their child's life.

Our foundation has a strict application process and criteria that our Selection Committee will be required to follow to select applicants. The foundation and its dedicated members want to make a difference. In order to do so, we need your help.

# How you can help

Donate Donate directly to The Matthews Foundation by mail, email

through PayPal, or through the website.

Participate Participate in upcoming events: Annual Gala, Sponsored din-

ners, Annual Golf Outing

Volunteer One person can make a difference. Volunteers play a crucial

role in helping The Matthews Foundation run day to day operations and without them, we wouldn't get much accom-

plished.

**Partner** Partner with us to sponsor an event or to help a child.



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# What is ALL Leukemia?

ALL is the most common form of childhood cancer. It affects lymphocytes, a class of white blood cells. ALL is a rapidly progressing disease that results in the accumulation of immature, functionless cells in the marrow and blood. The marrow often can no longer produce enough normal red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Leukemic cells accumulate in the bone marrow, replace normal blood cells and spread to the lymph nodes, central nervous system, and vital organs. If left untreated, the disease is fatal.

#### Facts:

- Leukemia is not contagious; childhood cancer is either environmental or from cells in the body that malfunction during the child's early growth.
- Each school day in the U.S., 46 children are diagnosed with ALL and about one in 300 children will develop cancer before the age of 20.
- Cancer remains the number one disease killer of America's children more than Cystic Fibrosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Asthma and AIDS combined.
- Although the 5 year survival rate is steadily increasing, one quarter of children will die 5 years from the time of diagnosis.
- 66% of the children who are diagnosed and treated for childhood cancers will have longterm side effects or late effects from either the cancer or, more likely, from the treatment.
- Many of these kids will be diagnosed with a secondary cancer by the time they reach the age of 45.

#### **Treatment**

The use of chemotherapy, or anti-cancer drugs, usually in combinations of two or more drugs, is largely responsible for the dramatic improvement in managing leukemia and lymphoma. Approximately 50 different drugs are now being used in the treatment of these diseases. Patients with leukemia, myeloma or lymphoma are usually treated with chemotherapy. Some patients with localized lymphoma may be treated with radiation therapy. Patients with ALL, or with large areas of lymphoma accumulation, or with special complications that are amenable to radiation therapy, may receive both primary chemotherapy and ancillary radiation therapy.

<sup>\*\*</sup>This information has been provided courtesy of Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Childhood Cancer Foundation and the National Cancer Institute.



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### Vision

To be recognized as the charity in the Maryland area dedicated to helping families of children diagnosed with (ALL) Leukemia by implementing best practices in fund-raising, grant-making, support, and operations. Our goal is to strive to fundraise adhering to the principles set within this strategic plan that will allow us to expand our programs to a national level. The Matthews Foundation will strive to fulfill our mission in a manner that best meets the needs of the families by focusing its efforts through hard work, strategic goals, ongoing assessment and continuous quality improvement.

#### Need

The Matthews Foundation was formed to meet the needs that exist within our community. There are no specific charities or programs in Maryland that will assist families to cover living expenses while their child is in a treatment program or to provide comprehensive overview of programs available through complementary charities.

# **Board Members**

#### **Executive Board Members:**

Jennifer Daly, President, CEO | John Valenti, Vice President, Treasurer | Lisa Russell, Vice President, Executive Secretary

#### **Board Members:**

Brian Daly, Selection Committee Chair | Bridgid Nesbit, Fund Raising Committee Chair | Bill Russell, Board Member | Barbara Daly, Board Member | Jennifer Wolsin, Board Member | Erin Fuller, Board Member

# Get Involved

#### Donate

Donate directly to The Matthews Foundation by mail, email through PayPal, or through the website.

Mail: Email:

The Matthews Foundation donations@matthewsfoundation.org

2029 Mardic Drive Website:

www.matthewsfoundation.org Forest Hill, MD 21050

#### **Participate**

Participate in upcoming events: Annual Gala, Sponsored dinners, Annual Golf Outing To find out more about our upcoming events, email <u>info@matthewsfoundation.org</u> or check our website under events.

One person can make a difference. Volunteers play a crucial role in helping The Matthew Foundation run day to day operations and without them, we wouldn't get much accomplished.

#### Volunteer

Donor Development - we need help soliciting donations

Corporate sponsorships – we need help soliciting corporate sponsors

Family support groups - we need volunteers to help with questions, monitor forums, and to lead discussions

Administrative and office help

Planning events - All events will need help with registration, raffle sales, set-up and breakdown.

Share your expertise - advise us in your expertise in public relations, marketing, fundraising and event planning.

#### Partner

Sponsor a family - Help a child in need by sponsoring their family during their treatment phase.

Sponsor an Event - Sponsor an event at your restaurant or venue.

#### Duestions

All questions can be directed to:

info@matthewsfoundation.org Email: The Matthews Foundation Mail:

2029 Mardic Drive Forest Hill, MD 21050