



# THE BROOKDALE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

One Brookdale Plaza • Brooklyn, New York 11212-3198 • (718) 240-5000 • Fax (718) 240-5042 • www.brookdalehosp.com

Dial Direct # (718) 240-\_\_\_\_\_

Affiliated with  
State University of New York  
Health Science Center of Brooklyn  
New York University of Dentistry

June 13, 2013

Mary Zitwer Millman  
President  
The Eugene Zitwer Foundation  
50 Court Street, Suite # 702  
Brooklyn, NY 11201-4859

Dear Mrs. Millman,

As always, thank you so much for enhancing our program and the lives of young children.

As you are aware, we provide comprehensive care to children with cancer and sickle cell disease. Sickle cell disease is a life-long chronic illness characterized by severe anemia, episodes of excruciating pain and potential for organ damage. Children with cancer go through hospitalizations and treatments that are physically and mentally challenging, not only for the patient, but for the family as well.

We are again requesting partial funding to enable us to continue to have our Child Life Specialist to work with our children. The Child Life Specialist works directly with the child through art, music and play, especially when the parents work and the child is alone in the hospital.

Child life therapy is a well-documented intervention, for positively influencing outcomes in chronic illness. To complement the excellent medical care that we give, we wish to continue to enhance the child life therapy program. Our Child Life Specialist, Janis Atty, who began in September 2010 has been doing an amazing job with our patients.

We look forward to continuing the work that we began with the Child Life Program over the past three years. Once again we have obtained funding from Starlight Foundation for a part of the funds needed. **The balance needed is \$13,860 per year.** We are grateful to you for your significant contribution last year. Any contribution toward the balance will be appreciated.

We appreciate all your past assistance and look forward to your support in improving the lives of our children. I have attached a report for you.

Sincerely,

Kusum Viswanathan, M.D.  
Acting Chair, Department of Pediatrics  
Director, Division of Pediatric Hem/Onc

Attached Proposal: Brookdale Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
Report for the year

**Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center**  
**Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology**

**Proposal 2013**

As you know our pediatric program has been around for decades and we are looking to expand the resources that are able to offer our patients. With your assistance we have added a child life therapy program to enhance the service to our patients. Child life therapy is an important non-medical aspect of care, which significantly enhances the quality of life of the chronically ill child. This form of therapy, through art, music, or play is a well-documented intervention, for positively influencing outcomes in chronic illness. It helps children express difficult emotions related to their illness, in a creative but positive manner.

Forms of recreational and child life therapy strive to reduce the impact of stressful or traumatic events and situations which affect the development, health and well-being of infants, children youth and families.

According to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, some of the goals of recreation therapy are:

- To make hospitalization a positive, meaningful experience
- To reduce the strangeness of the medical environment through familiar toys and activities
- To serve as a role model and resource for parents
- To provide opportunities for children to experience success, control, creativity and self expression
- To serve as a resource to health professionals regarding play, development, and adjustment to illness, medical treatment and/or hospitalization.

**Position:**

We would like to continue funding our Child Life Specialist, who works in the following areas:

**Inpatient**

- The Central Recreational Room – patients and family members are encouraged to participate in free play, as well as structured activities.
- Bedside activity – Therapist will assess patient need and provide activities.
- Therapist will assess need for and distribution of hand held games and portable DVD player to patients, as part of their adjustment to being away from home.

**Outpatient**

- Pre-hospitalization, Clinic – Child Life Specialist will conduct activities and /or preparation for hospitalization and/or medical procedures.
- Child Life Specialist will be an educational as well as a recreational resource.

**BUDGET**

Child Life Specialist's salary is based on an hourly wage of **\$ 24 per hour**. We have a full time person. **We have funding for part of the salary and need a balance of \$ 13,860 for the year.** Any contribution toward this will be appreciated.