

Cancer support changes lives at Gilda's

HOW TO GIVE

The mission of Gilda's Club is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community.



Thanks to Gilda's Club Madison, Myriah does not have to face cancer alone.

INDIVIDUALS: Every dollar and volunteer hour matters to Gilda's Club. We couldn't serve thousands of children and adults impacted by cancer without the help of volunteers and financial donations. Dollars raised here stay local and are used to support families that are dealing with cancer today. To give, please visit www.gildasclubmadison.org.

CORPORATIONS: Corporate support of Gilda's Club through employee volunteerism or event, conference and program sponsorships is important to the work we do in the community. For information contact Susan Grigsby at susan@gildasclubmadisonclub.org.

Gilda's is a community for cancer patients, families

Each year, more than 33,000 Wisconsin residents hear the words, "You have cancer."

This diagnosis can be devastating to not only the patient, but also an entire circle of family and friends. Gilda's Club Madison was created as part of the legacy of the late comedian and actress, Gilda Radner, to help ensure that no one has to face cancer alone. They are now one of 50 independent affiliates in the United States, Israel, Canada, and Japan in association with the international Cancer Support Community. Gilda's Club provides a unique place with opportunities for every man, woman, teen, and child affected by cancer.

"Once you walk through our red doors, you enter a special community where living with cancer is the common denominator, and you can choose how you would like to participate," says Susan Grigsby, director of events and corporate partnerships for Gilda's Club Madison.

From the beginning, Gilda's Club was created as a place for people to come together to find emotional and social support during their cancer journey. Today the local organization offers personalized emotional support; information and education about living with and beyond cancer, its treatment, and relevant life issues; increased awareness and skill building around healthy living and wellness; and a robust social network. Membership and all programs are offered at no cost.

The critical financial support Gilda's Club receives allows them to provide cancer support to more than 3,000 members, which has been shown to significantly improve cancer treatment outcomes. Here is one of many success stories from Gilda's Club Madison:

When Myriah was diagnosed with cancer, friends and medical professionals suggested she check out Gilda's Club Madison, but she said she wasn't interested in joining a club for people who were affected by



The clubhouse of Gilda's Club Madison, identifiable to cancer patients by its red doors, invites patients and their families to share emotional and social support during their cancer journey.

cancer. When she stumbled upon the clubhouse by mistake the day before the annual Midwest Young Adult Cancer Conference, though, she reluctantly attended the conference.

"I haven't looked back," she says today. "Gilda's has been here for me and my whole family. It has become such an important part of our life that it's like a second home. I can't imagine having to go through cancer without it."

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