

Gildagram



For Friends of Gilda's Club Chicago • Summer 2001 *Living with cancer?
Come as you are.*

A Message From The President—

This issue highlights one of Gilda's Club Chicago's most unique programs, Noogieland. Noogieland is rooted in the philosophy that Gilda's Club is for people with cancer and their entire families. Children affected by cancer deserve a program that addresses their specific needs. Noogieland does just that. Its name, a humorous reference to one of Gilda Radner's skits, is just silly enough to make perfect sense to children, whether they know about Gilda or not.

Noogieland is for children touched by cancer – whether the child has cancer, has a family member or friend with cancer or is the survivor of someone with cancer. Children love Noogieland. It is a warm, supportive play environment that fills important needs and allays children's fears by making the appearance of cancer part of ordinary life. Noogieland is filled with stimulating toys and art supplies, complete with customized play and support activities. A rich array of separate activities for children and parents is scheduled concurrently for convenience. Family involvement is encouraged.

Gilda's Club fills a void by providing an important resource to those experiencing cancer. We are based on the belief that people with cancer, and their families and friends, can best learn from one another. The goal of Noogieland is the same for the entire Gilda's Club program – help people learn to live with cancer. We are proud of the program we have created for our youngest members, and invite you to learn more through this issue of Gildagram.

Thank you for your support.

—Steven F. Molo

Gilda's Summer Camps Rate Four Stars

by Pat Morrison

There was a flurry of activity at Gilda's Club Chicago during July. The Club kicked off the month hosting teens from "Camp One Step at a Time". Everyone had many options to choose from...building boats and safes provided by Home Depot, makeovers, manicures, and hand-painted "tattoos", even an on-camera audition session. After a great lunch, the campers headed off to a boat tour of Chicago capping off a full day of events.

But the action didn't stop there. Gilda's Club Chicago hosted two separate camps for Noogieland kids and teens. Teens were treated to tattoos and pizza before heading to see the first place Chicago Cubs battle it out against their arch-rival, the St. Louis Cardinals. With the added support of Gilda's Cub fans, the Cubs defeated the Cards 4 to 3, retaining their first place status!

While the teens were enjoying Wrigley Field, our little "Noogielanders" had a fantastic day at Camp Gilda. The day started with building projects from Home Depot. Judging from the results, Home Depot might want to hire some of our kids as consultants!!! The Chicago Police Bike and Car Units provided an informative safety lecture as well as a great thrill for all of our campers...experiencing what it's like to ride in a police car.

Just when they thought they couldn't have anymore fun, our campers glazed tiles and glasses. And each child couldn't have been more creative...from patterns to painting techniques to color selection...everyone created a truly unique piece of art. After a pizza lunch, The Second City supervised an improv session and our stars had a great time. Last, but certainly not least, the Lincoln Park Zoo capped off a wonderful day bringing a number of small animals for the children to observe and learn about. A late snack of Ben & Jerry's ice cream added to a perfect day.

Our thanks to all the volunteers and especially each and every child and teen who made the camp days so special.



Featured Members: *The children of Noogieland*

by Joyce Szymanski

Noogieland at Gilda's Club Chicago is not just a place, but the offering of an abundance of activities geared to children of all ages. Programs such as "Small Talk" and "Teen Talk" are support groups that allow the children to socialize as well as discuss the impact of cancer on their lives.

The smallest members of Gilda's Club Chicago reap the benefits of Noogieland.

Patrick and Felicia Lawrence are members of Gilda's Club Chicago who recently lost their father to cancer. Both agree it is the volunteers and staff of Gilda's Club that make Noogieland an enjoyable place to be. "The adults at Noogieland help you and make you feel comfortable," Patrick, 14, said. "They are friendly and helpful." His sister, Felicia, 10, agreed. "I really like the people who are there and the other kids too." Patrick said that prior to their father being diagnosed, the family went out to dinner, went fishing and took part in other activities. But after the diagnosis, "We did a lot of the same things until my dad was physically unable," he said.

Noogieland has helped both to learn to cope with their father's death. "I've learned it's o.k. to talk about my Dad's death and I feel comfortable talking about it because other people at Noogieland have the same problems," Felicia said.

Burke and Beatrice Hanson are coping with their mother's cancer. "Before my Mom had cancer, she played a lot of games with us and snuggled with us," Burke, 7, said. "After cancer," said Burke's sister Beatrice, "Mommy couldn't hold us. She had stitches and a scar on her back." The Hanson children enjoy the arts and crafts classes offered through Noogieland. Beatrice, 5, really enjoys the jungle gym, slide and snacks. "We also talk about how we felt before and after my Mom's cancer," Burke said. Burke has learned through Noogieland that "you can tell people how you feel about having cancer or about someone in your family having cancer."

Riley Prichard, 7, had a brain tumor from Ependymoma. He and younger brother Lucas, 4, are Noogieland regulars who enjoy the jungle gym. "I like to pretend the slide on the jungle gym is a cannon and I shoot myself out," Riley said. Riley said the changes in his life since his diagnosis are that "now I have a brother and I get more shots than before." Both have taken lessons from Noogieland. Lucas has learned that "fighting is not nice" while Riley said, "I've learned to share my ideas."

While each child has an individual learning experience in Noogieland, most all wish for the same— a cure for cancer.

Summer Camp Fun!!



(top) Campers enjoy seeing, petting, and learning about different animals from Lincoln Park Zoo.

(center) Gilda Camper enjoying a "ride" from the Chicago Police Department.

(bottom) The girls of Gilda's painting and decorating ceramic tiles and cups.



Donations Made Easy Through Payroll Giving

Did you know that there is an easy and convenient way to support Gilda's Club Chicago? It is through payroll deductions in workplace giving campaigns at companies throughout the Chicagoland area. There are three ways you can give:

Some companies--like Sears, Roebuck and Co.--include Gilda's Club Chicago in their workplace giving campaigns. All you have to do is look over your payroll giving form to find Gilda's Club Chicago.

Gilda's Club Chicago is also a member of the Illinois Women's Funding Federation. Again, look over your payroll giving form to find Gilda's Club Chicago and IWWF.

Another option is if your company allows "open choice", whereby employees can designate specific charities not covered in campaign materials as the recipient of deductions. If you have questions, consult your company's campaign coordinator.

If you would like further information on how to include Gilda's Club Chicago in your workplace giving campaign, please call the club at 312.464.9900.

Featured Volunteer: Beth Metke

by Amy Johnson



Volunteer Beth Metke first learned of Gilda's Club Chicago through a public service announcement on the radio almost four years ago. With more than 10 years of child care work and a Master's of Science in family and consumer science from Eastern Illinois University in 1997, she was naturally drawn to the Noogieland program.

"I have always loved to work with children," Metke said. "Volunteering was something that I liked to do. My family has been so supportive of me that I wanted to give back something to the community."

Noogieland was a well-suited match for Beth's talents and interests. Currently a referral director for CPA Group, a worklife consulting firm, she facilitates child care and elder care referrals for families. After first receiving her Master's degree, Beth was also a school age director for a YMCA on the south side of the city, coordinating an after-school activities program for children ages five to 12. She is back in school again, working on a teaching certificate from Northern Illinois University.

Noogieland is a playroom for children with cancer or children who have a family member with cancer. Just like adults, Noogieland members come together for support, learning and sharing in a childlike environment of toys, games and fun activities that allows for individual or group play. Noogieland also meets federal daycare hygiene standards to ensure a safe environment for children with cancer.

While volunteering for Noogieland, Beth was approached by Noogieland Coordinator Terra Johnson for a new arts and crafts program for children called "Noogienights". Scheduled for a Thursday night time slot, the Noogienights program welcomes children of all ages to participate in structured arts and crafts projects. These projects are derived from teaching resource books and networking with child care professionals and agencies.

The most satisfying experience that Beth gets from being a volunteer at Gilda's Club Chicago is the appreciation received from members and parents. "They always thank every volunteer in Noogieland," she said. "You always feel great—even with the simplest job. People take that extra step here—and the respect and appreciation is rewarding. Even the staff lets you know how much you are appreciated."

What has Beth gained from volunteering at Gilda's Club Chicago? Friendships. Being at the club week after week, many of the children have bonded with her. She will see them in different venues in the Chicagoland area and their families will associate her with Gilda's Club Chicago. She feels that Gilda's Club Chicago offers support and bonding. "Everyone is so friendly and very open with each other at the club," she said.

Beth feels this sense of community—friendships, networking and support—created at the club is one of the best reasons for coming to Gilda's Club Chicago. "Just being able to meet with different people is important," she said. "We are Gilda's Club and that draws people here."

Gilda's Goings On

★ Thanks to our dedicated core of **outreach volunteers** who have been very busy helping to spread the word about everything Gilda's Club Chicago has to offer. Recent events have included the American Brain Tumor Association's Family Conference, Hispanocare, Cancer Survivors Day, and Women Who Love Women. If you'd like to help, contact club outreach coordinator Kathleen Hanks.

★ Welcome to **Graciela Killner**, LCPC, CEAP, Gilda's Club Chicago's bi-lingual part-time employee. Graciela has started a weekly Spanish speaking wellness/family group at the club. We are thrilled to have her on board.

★ Thanks to our **Sears volunteers**, the club has a fresh coat of paint! Store associates and management spent a beautiful June weekend indoors painting the club – check out Noogieland next time you're here!

★ Events around town benefiting Gilda's Club ... the **Chicago Improv Festival** raised \$1,500; the **Chicago Yacht Club Women's Committee Polo/Ralph Lauren** luncheon raised \$1,055; the **Chicago White Sox Wives** annual cookbook will support the club; we received a \$20,000 grant from the **Louis R. Lurie Foundation** in support of our Noogieland program; the fifth annual **Sears Home Fashions Golf Outing** raised \$170,000 for the Gilda's Club affiliate network.

★ Our annual "**Cancer and the Workplace**" seminar was held in May. Human resource and employee assistance professionals from various companies, private practice and consulting organizations were in attendance.

★ Gilda's Club Worldwide welcomes new CEO, **Diane Perlmutter**, and **Betsy Burton**, new development staff member. Betsy is the former co-chair of the Northwestern University Dance Marathon.

★ **Gilda's Goes Electronic** – we need volunteers and members to help with both the development and maintenance of our website (gildasclubchicago.org), and to identify useful cancer and health related links to place on our site. Much of this work can be done from your own home computer. Contact Andrea Karoff at the club for more information.

Governing Board
 Seven Molo, *President*
 Michael Hall, *Secretary/Treasurer*
 William Adams
 Andrew Alexander
 Monroe Anderson
 Sally Buckles
 Elaine Campbell
 Steve Carver
 Pamela Church
 Sharon Erikson
 Terri Hanson
 Bradley Holden
 John Howard
 Anne Libera
 Edward Michael
 Roger Millard
 Sherman Reynolds
 Joanne Smith, M.D.
 Sara Stassen
 Irving Stenn, Jr.
 Jacene Terzoff
 Gayle Tilles
 Judy York
 Honorary Board
 Maggie Daley
 Christina Gidwitz
 Superintendent Terry Hillard
 Bonnie Hunt
 Holly Hunt
 Jeffrey Jacobs
 Roy Leonard
 Larry Levy
 Harold Rams
 Hon. Jim Ryan
 Shirley Ryan
 Terry Vavage
 Hon. John Stroger, Jr.
 Margaret Travolta
 George Wendt
 Hon. Corinne Wood

Medical Advisory Board
 Nancy Anderson, BSN
 Northwestern Memorial Hospital
 David Cella, Ph.D.
 Evanston Northwestern Hospital
 John Franklin, MD
 Northwestern University
 Ronald Hoffman, MD
 University of Illinois at Chicago
 Jandran D. Khandekar, MD
 Evanston Northwestern Healthcare
 Mark Kozloff, MD
 Columbia/Michael Reese Hospital
 Mary Lou Mark, LCSW
 Sharon B. Murphy, MD
 Children's Memorial Hospital
 Harvey D. Preisler, MD
 Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center
 Steven T. Rosen, MD
 The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer
 Center of Northwestern University
 Richard L. Schilsky, MD
 University of Chicago Cancer Center
 Gail Shomoto, MD
 Cook County Hospital
 Suzanne Yellen, Ph.D.
 Staff
 LauraJane Hyde, Executive Director
 Torrey Wilson, Ph.D., Program Director
 Kathleen Hanks, Program Coordinator
 Terra Johnson, Program Coordinator
 Andrea Karoff, Program Coordinator
 Jill Deller, Volunteer Coordinator
 Lyvonne Page, Program Administrator
 Sondra Winice, Receptionist

Mission Statement
 The mission of Gilda's Club Chicago is to provide a meeting place where people with cancer and their families and friends can join with others to build social and emotional support as a supplement to medical care. Free of charge, Gilda's Club Chicago offers support and networking groups, lectures, workshops, and social events in a conveniently located, homelike setting.

Living with cancer?
 Come as you are.™



Gilda's Club Chicago
 Newsletter Committee
 Anna Driver
 Kevin Grzyb
 Amy Johnson
 Lisa Jusick
 Pat Morrison
 Jean Sheridan
 Joyce Szymanski
 Maria Verrese
 PRINTING COURTESY OF
 MCKAY PRINTING/
 KEN KELLY

Gilda's Club Chicago
 537 North Wells Street
 Chicago, Illinois 60610
 (312) 464-9900

NONPROFIT
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 CHICAGO, IL
 PERMIT NO. 3209



Living with cancer?
 Come as you are.™