

HERE FOR SUPPORT

The mission of Gilda's Club Chicago is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. Our innovative programming is an essential complement to medical care, and one of the hallmarks is Noogieland, our unique resource for supporting children and teens touched by cancer.

Free cancer support
for the **whole** family
the **whole** time

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND TEENS AT GCC

Within Noogieland, we offer a wide variety of FREE activities for children and teens:

- Kids Support Group
- Noogie Days Arts and Crafts
- Teen Essay Contest for High School Students
- Noogiefest Halloween Party
- A Very Noogie Holiday Party
- Summer Camps
- Special outings and workshops for teens

Walk through
our Red Door
and try our **FREE**
program at:

Main Clubhouse
537 N. Wells Street
312.464.9900
www.gildasclubchicago.org



*Students can enhance their experience
by participating in other activities at Gilda's Club Chicago.*



HOSPITAL LOCATIONS:

- Advocate Christ Medical Center and Advocate Children's Hospital – Oak Lawn
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
- Mt. Sinai Hospital
- Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University
- Rush University Medical Center



FREE school-based educational and support program for students with cancer or with cancer in the family — customized for elementary, middle and high school students.

Support for students and educators touched by cancer.

Our goal is to foster peer support through understanding of a cancer diagnosis and its impact on the classroom. Classrooms will participate in activities that give students the ability to express their feelings about cancer. Discussions focus on daily issues faced by students who have a loved one with cancer or who are living with a cancer diagnosis themselves. Students work together to identify ways to help.

For those diagnosed, our program provides guidance for a smooth transition from treatment back to the classroom – and can serve as an outlet for expressing feelings through conversation and art.

For those educators looking to enhance their health and wellness curriculum, we can deliver a general presentation geared toward all audiences.



Noogieland is a special space within the Clubhouse for kids and teens to gather, participate in programs and activities, and just be themselves.



Bringing a supportive environment to the classroom

CUSTOMIZED BY AGE

Presentations are specially tailored to fit the needs of each age group of students and can be customized for any classroom situation. Each curriculum is designed to provide a supportive classroom environment and to complement grade-level learning.

- **Elementary school presentations** focus on what cancer is, identify the myths that surround it, and address fears that children may have about cancer. Craft activities and picture books help children develop sensitivity to fellow students with a cancer diagnosis or cancer in the family.
- **Middle school presentations** put a greater emphasis on the science and medicine related to cancer and what adolescents can do to support their peers with cancer. The program includes a workbook to help adolescents explore their feelings about cancer and brainstorm ways they can welcome a classmate with cancer back into the classroom. They also discuss ways to support a classmate outside their classroom, within their community.
- **High school presentations** encourage teens to adopt behaviors that can promote cancer prevention and introduce issues that teens with cancer in their lives face through multimedia and discussions. Teens work together to identify ways to support classmates at school as well as within the greater community.

EXPANDING OUR REACH

School professionals

Gilda's Club can provide in-service programs for educational professionals to help them:

- Understand how students react to illness and loss
- Recognize when students need additional resources and support
- Create a welcoming environment when students return to the classroom after treatment
- Understand the impact of a cancer diagnosis within their workplace

Community groups

We are committed to helping communities by:

- Hosting parent/teacher in-services for community youth organizations impacted by cancer
- Connecting members of the community with each other, including parents, teachers, and health professionals

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

If you are interested in arranging a classroom or community presentation, please contact us.

Gilda's Club Chicago:
312.494.9900
www.gildasclubchicago.org

