



Hope for Henry Foundation

live well and laugh hard

Hope for Henry Reads Transports Young Patients Into a World Filled with Excitement, Hope & Laughter

Hope for Henry's first-ever hospital party took place in July 2005, with Hope for Henry "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" parties on the day the book was released to the public. Featuring fresh-off-the-presses copies of the new books for each kid, trivia contests, chocolate covered frogs, and Bertie Botts jelly beans, these parties were covered nationally by CNN, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal as well as on local television news and in local newspapers. In July 2007, when "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the final book in the Harry Potter series was published, we were back at the hospitals celebrating its arrival by hosting another series of fabulous parties.

Now we've made this program a part of what we do throughout the year. Hope for Henry Reads delivers – and replenishes year-round – a large selection of brand-new books for children of all ages who are in the hospital fighting cancer and other serious illnesses. In addition, we host in-hospital readings and book signings by well-known children's authors. In April 2011, at Georgetown Hospital's Lombardi Cancer Center we hosted our first author, Katy Kelly, the acclaimed writer of the "Melonhead" and "Lucy Rose" book series. Hope for Henry gave each child copies of Katy's books which she signed after reading excerpts from her hilarious books. Events like this bring laughter and joy to our area's sickest children. In addition to entertaining these young patients, Hope for Henry Reads provides therapeutic benefits including stress reduction, fear abatement, and distraction from pain, all of which aid the children as they fight to get better.

Hope for Henry will offer its "Reads" program to all the children being treated for cancer and blood disease at Washington, DC's Georgetown University Hospital and Children's National Medical Center. We expect to serve more than 250 patients, ages 1-21 through this program in its inaugural year.

If you want to join Hope for Henry in bringing the pleasure of a great book to a child in the hospital, you can:

- 1 Collect and donate brand-new books for children of all ages.
- 2 Introduce us to authors you know who might be interested in sharing their books with kids in the hospital.
- 3 Sponsor a Hope for Henry Reads Book Party for \$1000, or make a donation of any size to help us purchase books for kids.

Kids living with serious, long-term illnesses spend days, weeks, months, even years, moving in and out of the hospital as they undergo critical medical procedures and life saving treatment. As their immune systems recover from bone marrow transplants and chemotherapy, they are vulnerable to infection and are unable to attend school, and to participate in activities like sports, music lessons, ballet or other fun activities. Hope for Henry hosts parties throughout the year to ensure that they do not miss out on some of the best things about being a kid.

Hope for Henry (HFH) improves the lives of kids with cancer and other serious illnesses by providing carefully chosen gifts and specially-designed programs to entertain and promote comfort, care and recovery. HFH brings smiles and laughter, hope and magic into the lives of these children and their families.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Hope for Henry Executive Director Laurie Strongin at laurie@hopeforhenry.org or (202) 277-2710.

