MID-YEAR COMMUNITY UPDATE

BUILDING MOMENTUM

In late September 2021, a group of three Chicagoland families, the Smiths, Hlavaceks, and Agnews, all of whom were navigating a parent's cancer diagnosis, launched Pickles Group. Since then, with your support, our organization has been working hard to make their vision and our mission a reality by providing free peer-to-peer support and resources to kids affected by their parent or caregiver’s cancer.

Since then, we’ve developed and grown our flagship in-person program in Chicago’s North Shore where Pickles kids strengthen resilience, have fun with friends who get them, and heal along the way.

We’re proud to share our progress with you and our next steps to support more families in 2022!

OUR GROWING IMPACT

- Youth enrolled in the program: **76**
- Chicagoland hospital partners: **10**
- Community volunteers: **67**
- Pickles Group sessions completed as of August 2022: **20**
- Pickles Family Support kits distributed to help families facing a parent’s cancer diagnosis: **1,500**

100% of Pickles Group parents and caregivers said they are very likely to recommend Pickles Group to another family facing a parent cancer diagnosis.
WHAT WE'RE HEARING FROM PARENTS

“Pickles gave her a place where she wasn’t the 'kid whose mom has cancer.' At Pickles she finally felt that someone understood even though her friends had tried their best.”

“"The kids have loved the activities and meeting others kids in the community setting. We have been going to dinner as a family after the meetings to discuss what they’ve learned which has become a nice way for them to bring up questions."

"When we were walking out of the event, our son was telling us all about the new friend that he made at the event. It was also the first time that we have heard him use the word "cancer" when talking about the illness. A big breakthrough for us."

"It is amazing to have a group in our own backyard where kids can meet each other and they don't have to explain "my mom has cancer," and all that means to everyone."

"Pickles make it easy to meet and connect with people who are facing the similar circumstances."

CREATING SAFE, SUPPORTIVE PEER SPACES

Our evidence-based curriculum, designed by our chief clinical program officer, uses art and play to create safe, supportive peer spaces where kids can ask questions, share feelings, and connect with friends who really get them. During the first half of 2022 Pickles kids' top feedback was that the "had fun" and "feel safe". 
During the fall of 2022 we’re excited to build on our existing program success in Chicago’s North Shore community by expanding our programming nation-wide through a virtual cohort program launching in September 2022 to serve kids across the country. We’re also partnering with new families and community partners in new Chicago metro neighborhoods to host a series of community open houses to establish our presence in 1-2 new communities where we aim to offer our program starting in 2022. We will also continue to offer and develop new resources for families by distributing our Pickles Family Support kits, offering webinars to help families talk about cancer with their kids, and by providing tools and guides for families to help them normalize talking about cancer and grief, providing ways to help their kids cope at home, and offering tools to extend the benefits of peer support to kids facing a parent’s cancer diagnosis. Through it all, we continue to focus on collaborative partnerships with other cancer support organizations, hospitals, nonprofits, schools, and other community partners.

### FALL 2022 PROGRAMMING

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<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
<th>WAYS TO HELP</th>
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<tr>
<td>North Shore Anchor Program</td>
<td>80+ youth served via monthly drop-in programming.</td>
<td>• Refer new families and volunteers</td>
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<td>Nationwide Virtual Program</td>
<td>36 youth served via bi-weekly virtual program.</td>
<td>• Volunteer as a facilitator</td>
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<td>New Community Open Houses</td>
<td>50 new families engaged in new Chicago-area communities.</td>
<td>• Become a Pickles ambassador</td>
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<td>Family Resources</td>
<td>Webinars, support kids, and guides.</td>
<td>• Share resources on social media</td>
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<td>• Connect us with hospitals, oncology care providers, schools and nonprofits in your network</td>
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None of this would be possible without you.

Thank you for being a founding donor and supporter.