

## Children, Teens & Families at Gilda's Club Westchester Summer 2011

### SPRING HIGHLIGHTS...

#### Teen Essay Contest

On May 2nd, teens and their families joined together at the annual teen essay contest reception that celebrates and honors those who wrote essays about their personal experiences with cancer. Congratulations to Elisabeth, Emma, Nicole, Lauren and Alana for receiving awards for their unique and deeply moving essays. A special thanks goes to our judges, sponsors, and all of the teens who submitted essays this year and shared their impactful stories.



Left to right: Brian Conybeare (judge), Nicole Suozzo (3rd place winner), Elisabeth Lefer (1st place winner), Lauren Ciubotaru (runner up), Emma Adler (2nd place winner), Michael Bram (judge)

#### Kid Support - Creating a Community

This spring, 10 children participated in Kid Support, a 7 week peer support group for children who have or had cancer as well as children who have a family member living with cancer. Through art projects like murals and mobiles, games that dispel myths about cancer, and poems that express ones fears and worries about cancer, this group built new friendships, shared experiences and learned about cancer.

#### Youth Committee - A Group that Gives Back

This year's Youth Committee was comprised of 45 teen volunteers from 18 high schools around the area. This dedicated group worked together to raise awareness of Gilda's Club Westchester in their schools, among their peers and in the community through bake sales, black and red days, smoothie sales, sporting events and singing competitions! For the first time, they also set a fundraising goal of \$5000 that will be used to help create an area just

for teens in the clubhouse. Not only did they reach their goal, but they surpassed it! The Youth Committee raised over \$6,000 for GCW. Thank you to all of the Youth Committee members who have shown such enthusiasm and passion for spreading the mission of GCW. For any high school students who are interested in joining next year's Youth Committee, please contact Gilda's Club Westchester this summer to receive an application.



### NEW THIS SUMMER...

As the school year wraps up, Gilda's Club is unrolling some new activities and groups for children and teens. As you begin to see changes on the CTF calendar, please do not hesitate to contact the Children, Teens and Families Manager, Jen Scully: [Jscully@gildasclubwestchester.org](mailto:Jscully@gildasclubwestchester.org) or (914)644-8844. Please see the listing below of the activities and groups being offered.

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES...

*Please see the CTF calendar for NEW dates & times.*

**Noogie Nights** - An activity based group for children, ages 5-12, impacted by cancer in anyway.

**Kids Connect NEW** - An ongoing peer support group for children, ages 5-12, who either have a family member living with cancer or have cancer themselves.

**Kids' Bereavement Group NEW** - An ongoing peer support group for children, ages 5-12, who have had someone in their life die from cancer.

**Noogie Kicks** - A karate class for kids, ages 5-13.

**Teens Connect** - A monthly activity based group for teens impacted by cancer in anyway.

**Youth Committee** - A volunteer group of high school students (September-May). Applications accepted over the summer.

*\*Registration is required for all groups/activities.*