Cellie Coping Kit for Sickle Cell Disease Debuts at SCDAA

At CHOP, medical teams aim to provide patients and families with optimal physical care, as well as emotional support. With this in mind, CHOP developed The Cellie Coping Kit for Sickle Cell Disease to help children use healthy coping strategies in managing this lifelong disease.

Launched on October 1, 2014, the kit is made up of Cellie, the hallmark stuffed toy included in all Coping Kits, in addition to coping cards and a caregiver’s book. The cards contain various stressors commonly faced by children living with sickle cell disease and multiple coping strategies for overcoming these stressors. The caregiver’s book also includes the coping cards, as well as tips to help caregivers take care of themselves and the entire family.

The kits debuted at the 42nd annual Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Convention in October 2014. Meghan Marsac, PhD. presented research results on how children and families benefitted from using the Cellie Coping Kit for Sickle Cell Disease. During this presentation, Dr. Marsac discussed the lack of available coping resources for children living with this disease and how the kit can aid in supporting children and their families. Congratulations to Adebola Benjamin for winning the free kit at the conference! To view the presentation slides, click here.

Thanks to donations, over 50 children with sickle cell disease have been given the Cellie Coping Kit at CHOP. CHOP continues to raise money to provide kits to patients. To make a donation, please email cellie@email.chop.edu.

Information on how to purchase a Cellie Coping Kit for Sickle Cell Disease can be found at www.celliecopingkit.org.
Beyond Cancer 2014

The sixth annual Beyond Cancer event was held on September 7, 2014 in the Abramson Research Center. The day began with a patient speaker and included various presentations by representatives of the Cancer Center.

September’s event boasted a crowd of over 450 individuals, making this year’s Beyond Cancer the largest one to date. The event included fun games, food, and the company of other CHOP patients.

Since launching the Kit in February 2013, a total of 525 kits have been distributed to children with cancer.

¡Hola! ¿Comó Estás?

In an effort to make coping tools more widely available to children in need, the Cellie Cancer Coping Kit was successfully translated into Spanish. The Spanish kit was released on October 15th.

The kits are also in the process of being translated into various other languages, such as Croatian. Although the process requires ample time and resources, our goal is to reach as many children as possible.

To order the Cellie Cancer Coping Kit in Spanish, visit www.celliecopingkit.org.

The Blue Tag Gala

The 24th annual Blue Tag Gala was held on October 25th benefiting the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at CHOP. The event boasted over 350 attendees and raised over $200,000 for the Center.

The gala got its token name after the “blue tag” option when donating blood. Due to the significant need that sickle cell patients have for blood transfusions, maintaining ample blood supply is important for treatment. Individuals donating can ask for the “blue tag,” which alerts American Red Cross lab professionals that the blood is intended for the sickle cell program.

The Cellie Coping Kit made an appearance at the event to help raise funding to provide kits to CHOP patients.
Where in the World is Cellie?

From its origins in Philadelphia, PA, the Cellie Coping Kit has been distributed to 16 states across the country including California, Texas, Florida, Wisconsin, Maine, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, and more! Globally, Cellie has travelled to Australia, Switzerland, The United Kingdom, The Netherlands, and Canada.

Featured Funder:

The Coach Wags Memorial Foundation

The Coach Wags Memorial Foundation began in 2010 with the mission of raising funds and awareness for pediatric cancer. John Wagner, an acclaimed football coach at St. Joe’s Prep, had his own battle with cancer ending in 2008. Coach Wags continues to impact the community through the foundation created in his memory.

The foundation has provided multiple generous donations to CHOP in support of the Cellie Cancer Coping Kit. Thanks to The Coach Wags Foundation, numerous children with cancer now have additional support and coping tools to aid them through diagnoses and treatment.

To learn more about The Coach Wags Memorial Foundation, visit www.thecoachwagsmemorialfoundation.org.