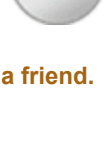
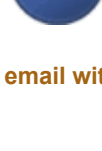




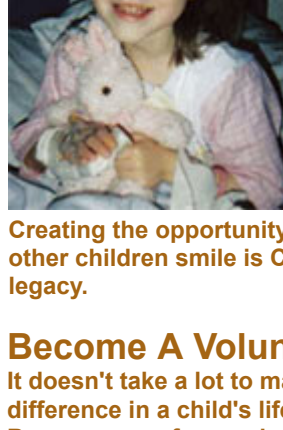
# Thank You, Volunteers!

**Share With A Friend**



Share this email with a friend.

**Caitlin**



Creating the opportunity to make other children smile is Caitlin's legacy.

**Become A Volunteer**

It doesn't take a lot to make a big difference in a child's life. Become one of our volunteers today. Join now!

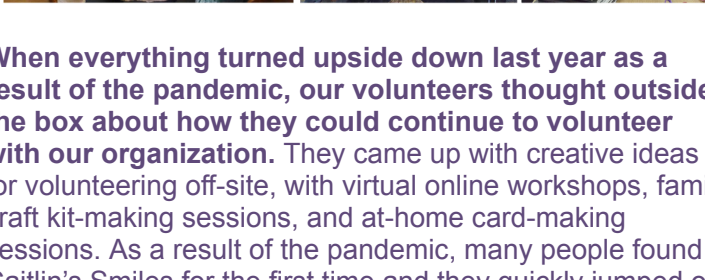
**Make A Donation**

Help a child smile today by donating to Caitlin's Smiles through PayPal. Thanks for your support.



**National Volunteer Month is a major celebration for Caitlin's Smiles every year, and this year is no different!**

It is an opportunity to recognize and thank our incredibly passionate volunteers who help keep Caitlin's Smiles up and running. Our volunteers transform the world by spreading their smiles. Their smiles go out to children (and their families) treated in area hospitals, specialty pediatric clinics, and emergency departments, and those staying in Ronald McDonald Houses. Smiles are on the faces of our volunteers as they perform volunteer tasks ranging from decorating cards to writing grants, assembling craft kits to delivering hospital orders, and everything in between. We are shining a light on people who inspire us to do more. We thank all our volunteers who lend their time, talent, and voice to make a difference in their communities.



**When everything turned upside down last year as a result of the pandemic, our volunteers thought outside the box about how they could continue to volunteer with our organization.** They came up with creative ideas for volunteering off-site, with virtual online workshops, family craft kit-making sessions, and at-home card-making sessions. As a result of the pandemic, many people found Caitlin's Smiles for the first time and they quickly jumped on board to help with our mission.

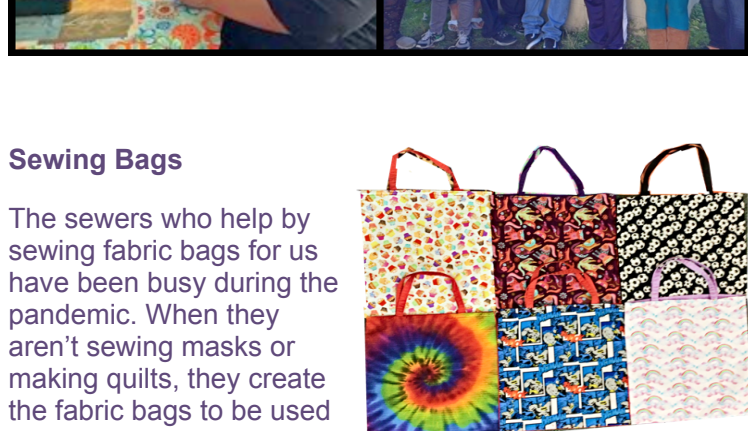
[Martha Stewart's website](#) listed Caitlin's Smiles as a charity that their readers could create cards for and donate supplies to. From this exposure, we have received thousands of cards from across the country from families who want to help.

Our volunteer opportunities were given another national boost by being listed on the Inaugural Day of Service website. This was held in conjunction with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service in January. Over 200 new volunteers registered to help create greeting cards that would eventually be placed into our Bags of Smiles and Coping Kits. We are also listed on the international VolunteerMatch website for opportunities for virtual card-making and craft kit assembly. To learn about our card-making guidelines, [visit our card-making video on YouTube here](#).



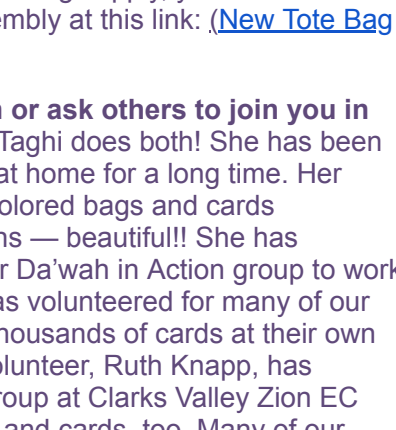
In past years, our Have A Heart Volunteer Day has been our biggest single volunteer day every year. Normally, 250 volunteers would join together to create cards, assemble kits, and decorate bags. This year, the event needed to be virtual. Volunteers were encouraged to purchase supplies and do Have A Heart Volunteer Day at home. Some volunteers needed hours of service for National Honor Society, confirmation, or other reasons, and we happily signed off on their volunteer hours for their respective organizations. Sydnee (pictured) has volunteered at several Have A Heart Days, and this year she continued her streak virtually — at home. A sense of community still existed, as participants shared photos with us through Facebook and email. It was encouraging to see the numerous boxes and envelopes filled with cards, kits, and bags filtering into the office during the days following this at-home volunteering opportunity. Would you like to assemble craft kits at home like Sydnee and our other volunteers? [Visit our YouTube channel to view videos on how to assemble kits](#).

**Volunteering at home goes beyond MLK Day and Have A Heart Day.** Many of our volunteers who regularly volunteered at our office prior to the pandemic have been working on projects at home. Margaret and Dawn Snow (pictured) have spent the last 14 months decorating bags and creating cards at home. They decorated thousands of bags, and most of them include matching cards. Margaret, who was one of Caitlin's babysitters, has been a volunteer with Caitlin's Smiles for 17 years. The Heart Haven group (pictured) has been assembling craft kits offsite for years. Every few months, they show up with a load containing thousands of kits for our kids. Lori Brulo, of East Shore Bikers, has decorated thousands of cards with her friends and family. [Click here to view our video about decorating paper bags for Bags of Smiles](#).



**Sewing Bags**

The sewers who help by sewing fabric bags for us have been busy during the pandemic. When they aren't sewing masks or making quilts, they create the fabric bags to be used as Bags of Smiles. Carol Kreiser has put in over 900 hours sewing bags and assembling journals for teens. If you like to sew and would like to help out with our fabric bag supply, you can view the directions for Tote Bag assembly at this link: [\(New Tote Bag Directions.pdf \(google.com\)\)](#)



**You can help on your own or ask others to join you in sending smiles.** Kareema Taghi does both! She has been decorating cards and bags at home for a long time. Her specialty items are darker colored bags and cards decorated with neon gel pens — beautiful!! She has encouraged members of her Da'wah in Action group to work on cards, too. This group has volunteered for many of our events and has decorated thousands of cards at their own events. Another longtime volunteer, Ruth Knapp, has enlisted her church youth group at Clarks Valley Zion EC Church to work on craft kits and cards, too. Many of our regulars who used to come to our monthly craft nights, or for group sessions during the day at the office, have been making kits at home. Craft kit assembly, bag decorating, and card creating can all be done wherever you find yourself. Visit the [Help From Home](#) page on our [website](#) to learn more about how you can assist Caitlin's Smiles from anywhere.



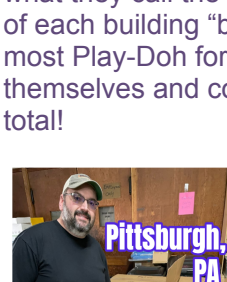
**Central Penn AAA has collected supplies and assembled coping kits for the second year in a row.** These coping kits will go to local

Emergency Departments and Specialty Clinics. In addition to their volunteer work, AAA features Caitlin's Smiles on the Community section of their website and encourages its members to create cards for hospitalized children served by our organization. You can visit that link here: [AAA Teams with Caitlin's Smiles | AAA Central Penn](#)

**Other volunteers help by holding supply drives and by asking for donations.** Supply drives are a great way to collect items needed to complete Bags of Smiles. Helpers of all ages can pitch in to gather supplies. Cub Scout troops have collected coloring books, and churches — like The Church of Latter-Day Saints in Mechanicsburg (pictured) — helped by having a supply drive and craft kit assembly day among its members. Judy King, a volunteer with Highmark, conducted an arts & crafts supply collection herself. She spread the word about her supply drive through social media and received a terrific response from her friends. Meanwhile, Carrie Lewis helps by visiting businesses on our behalf to ask for donations of gift cards and products to be utilized at our special events.



**And then there are our friends at Amazon!** Amazon employees from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Ohio held what they call the "Battle of the Buildings." The associates of each building "battled" to be the building collecting the most Play-Doh for Caitlin's Smiles. This year, they outdid themselves and collected over 66,000 cans of Play-Doh in total!



**You don't have to collect 66,000 cans of doh to help!** Any type or number of supplies will help send smiles to hospitalized kids. To learn about conducting a supply drive, visit our [Help from Home](#) page. Also, you can view our [regular Wish List](#) and our [Amazon Wish List](#).

**Thanks for our Caitlin's Smiles team at Pavone!** The staff at Pavone has donated their time and services to market Caitlin's Smiles. They create our logos and publications, distribute our e-blasts, our design and maintain our website. (A new website is coming very soon!) Plus, they have supported, attended, and volunteered at many of our fundraisers.



Brent

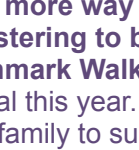
Courtney

Doug

Kendra

Kira

Last, but certainly not least, a special thanks to our leadership teams. These are the folks who keep things running behind the scenes. These are the people who make up our Board, Arts Auction, and Golf Tournament committees, as well as the volunteers who pack hospital orders. Our order packers are the people who double-check everything to make sure that kids and hospitals are being sent the supplies they need. Caitlin's Smiles would not be in existence without each and every one of our volunteers. Thanks so much!!



HIGHMARK.



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**One more way you can help from home is by registering to be a walker for Caitlin's Smiles in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community.** The event is virtual this year. All you do is register to walk, ask friends and family to support your efforts for Caitlin's Smiles with a donation, and pick your own time and place to walk. Highmark provides you with a free fundraising website that you can share through social media and email. [Walkers can register online at this link](#). Be sure to invite your friends to join you!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!  
Friday, September 17: [A Round of Smiles Golf Tournament](#) at Sportsman's Golf Club, Harrisburg.  
Sunday, October 3: [A Night of Smiles Art Auction](#). A virtual and limited in-person event.

Sponsors are needed for both of these events. Donations of original artwork, gift cards, and other items are needed for A Night of Smiles.

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Caitlin's Smiles is a 501 (c)3 organization. The official registration and financial information of Caitlin's Smiles may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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