



A NOTE FROM CHERYL

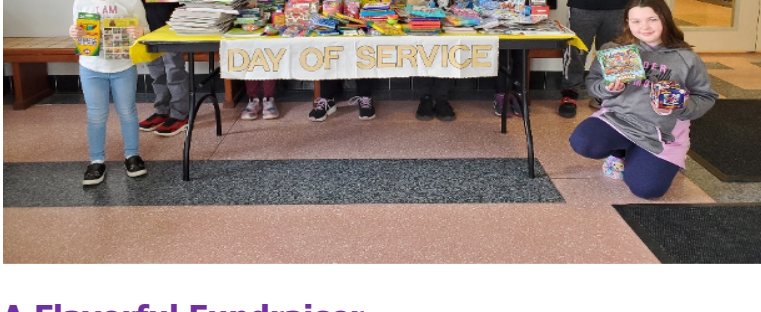
The past month has been a very busy time for Caitlin's Smiles. We've been busy trying to keep up with requests for groups and individuals to come volunteer; working with virtual volunteers to handle questions on card-making and craft kit assembly; trying to keep stocked up with key craft supplies that have been affected by the supply chain; working with businesses and groups for off-site collections, fundraisers and events; and keeping up with ever-changing hospital orders and their COVID donation restrictions.

Our biggest hospital change has been requests for special Bags of Smiles for hospital behavioral health units. We are now making and donating special bags with no handles that are filled with: coloring books with no staples, notebooks with no spiral metal binding, crayons (not pencils or markers), PlayDoh, composition books, and craft kits with no plastic bags or beads/lacing. Mental health crises are on the rise for children. From March 2020 to October 2020, mental health-related emergency department visits increased 24% for children ages 5 to 11 and 31% for those ages 12 to 17, compared with 2019 emergency department visits, according to CDC data (Leeb, R.T., et al., *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Vol. 69, No. 45, 2020).

Listed below are some of the fun off-site fundraisers this past month coordinated by area schools, businesses, and civic organizations! If your group is looking to get involved with a charity, we'd love your help! Email us at caitlinssmiles@comcast.net.

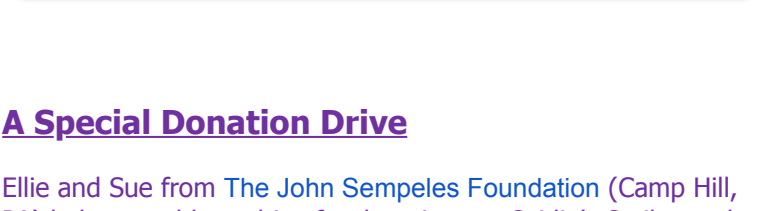
Brecknock Day of Service 2022

Brecknock Elementary School (Denver, PA) held its 13th annual Day of Service. Each year this day is planned to remember former Brecknock teacher Mrs. Lisa Horning, who encouraged her students to show compassion for others by supporting organizations that help people in need. All students at the school made a card and assembled a craft kit. The school-wide drive lasted for two weeks.



A Flavorful Fundraiser

Our friends at the [Brownstone Lounge](#) (Harrisburg, PA) have just completed their second fundraiser for Caitlin's Smiles. In February, they hosted their Great Soup/Stew Challenge. Several entrants competed for the coveted title of creating the best soup or stew! Contestant James won with his delicious Tortellini Soup! He raised the most money for Caitlin's Smiles. Overall, participants raised \$1,200 to help send arts & crafts activities to kids in hospitals. Last October, the folks at Brownstone had a Chili Cook-off fundraiser that raised over \$1,000. That's a lot of smiles!



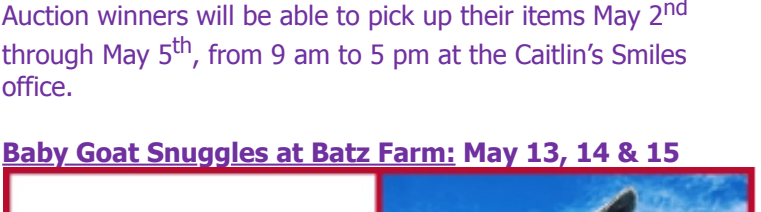
A Special Donation Drive

Ellie and Sue from [The John Sempeles Foundation](#) (Camp Hill, PA) led a monthlong drive for donations to Caitlin's Smiles and, as Sue put it, "People have been very generous." They were so generous that mother and daughter made two deliveries of supplies a couple of weeks apart. [Read more about their donation drive on our website.](#) If you are interested in hosting a donation drive, click [here](#) to see our wish list. Our main needs are coloring books for all ages and journals/diaries.



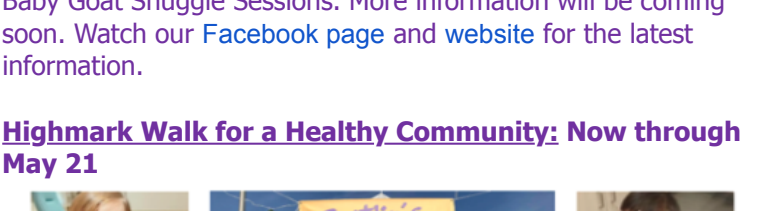
Upcoming Fundraisers

Spring Smiles Online Silent Auction: April 24–May 1



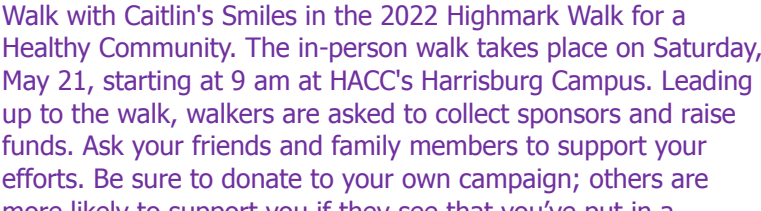
Donations are coming in for our [Spring Smiles Silent Auction](#). This is an online-only auction. Auction items will be available for preview at our auction site in early April. We're hoping to mainly offer gift cards as prizes. Stay tuned for more information! Auction winners will be able to pick up their items May 2nd through May 5th, from 9 am to 5 pm at the Caitlin's Smiles office.

Baby Goat Snuggles at Batz Farm: May 13, 14 & 15



The response to last year's event was so great that we had to do it again! We've teamed with [Batz Farm](#) again this year to offer Baby Goat Snuggle Sessions. More information will be coming soon. Watch our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for the latest information.

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community: Now through May 21



Walk with Caitlin's Smiles in the 2022 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. The in-person walk takes place on Saturday, May 21, starting at 9 am at HACC's Harrisburg Campus. Leading up to the walk, walkers are asked to collect sponsors and raise funds. Ask your friends and family members to support your efforts. Be sure to donate to your own campaign; others are more likely to support you if they see that you've put in a donation yourself. Highmark organizes and sponsors the walk. They provide every walker with a secure online fundraising website that makes it easy for you to share on social media and through email. All donations on your behalf can be collected through your personal fundraising website. To register or donate, visit the [CAITLIN'S SMILES HIGHMARK WALK WEBSITE HERE](#). Walkers who raise at least \$30 earn a Highmark Walk T-shirt. Plus, walkers who raise at least \$100 also receive a Caitlin's Smiles T-shirt. Additionally, there are raffles and prizes for walkers through Highmark and our organization. If you are unable to participate, please support our walkers with a donation.

A Round of Smiles Golf Tournament: September 16

Our annual 2022 golf tournament will be held on Friday, September 16, at the Sportsmen's Golf Course in Harrisburg. Registration begins at noon, followed by a shotgun start at 1, with dinner immediately afterwards. Sponsorship opportunities are available. More information will be available soon.

A Night of Smiles Art Auction: October 9

A Night of Smiles Art Auction is on the calendar for Sunday, October 9, at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel. We have begun to reach out to businesses and attractions for donations to our silent auction. Creations of original artwork are always needed, as well. If you create photography, paintings, fabric arts, pottery, or other artwork, please consider donating to this great yearly event. To view and download our art donation form, [please click here](#). If you aren't an artsy person but would like to donate an item or basket for the silent auction, [please use this form](#).

Thrivent Choice Campaign

Caitlin's Smiles participates in the Thrivent Choice Campaign. Through Thrivent Choice, you can contribute to organizations and causes you care about — and influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funding. For more information, contact your Thrivent representative or go [here](#).

AmazonSmile instead of Amazon

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Caitlin's Smiles every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Caitlin's Smiles. It's small, but it adds up! For more information and to sign up, go to smile.amazon.com.

February Smiles

Last month our outreach benefited **12,161** children in medical facilities, thanks to our donors and volunteers!

985 Bags of Smiles for kids staying overnight in hospitals.

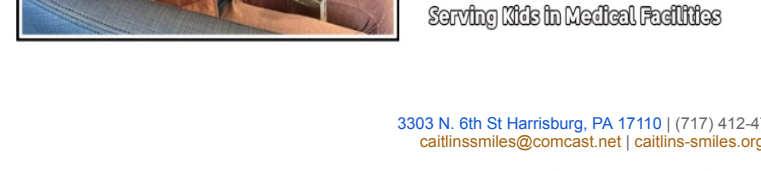
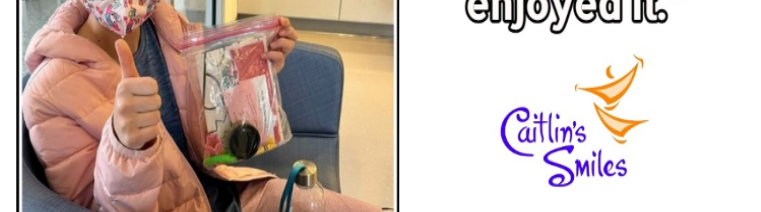
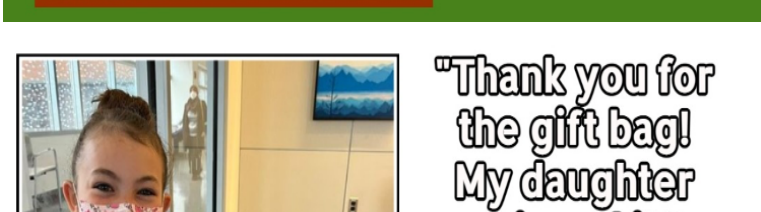
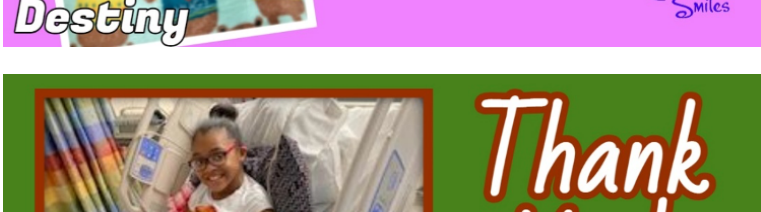
7,150 craft kits for children in a variety of medical facilities.

2,237 Coping Kits for children in emergency departments and day clinics.

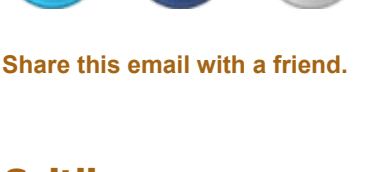
1,789 toys for kids in hospitals, emergency rooms, and other medical offices.

To see a map of all the medical facilities where we send our arts & crafts activities, [click here](#).

Thank You Notes!

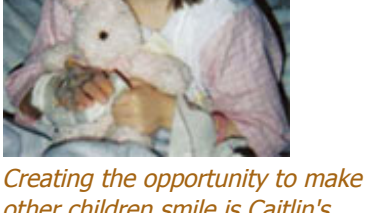


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Caitlin



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.

