

FOR FAMILIES LIVING WITH CHILDHOOD CANCER

Some common concerns of families living with childhood cancer include:

- Late effects from treatment which may include physical and emotional changes.
- Family dynamics during and after treatment.
- Behavioral issues involving children with cancer as well as other family members.
- Young-adult concerns such as employer and insurance disclosure, college applications and intimate relationships.

Laurie A. Weiss, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
(Licensed in both Virginia and Maryland)

Laurie was privileged to meet Patti just before her sister died. She walked with Patti early in her grief journey. Patti taught her there was and continues to be a gap in support for families after the initial diagnosis and treatment.

Laurie received her Master of Social Work degree from Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University in 1984. For over 23 years, she has committed herself to helping others through various social work organizations. Her primary focus is helping families and children in the greater Washington, DC area. She is presently employed as a Grief Counselor for Capital Hospice, working with individuals, groups and families living with the loss of their loved ones. As part of her work at Capital Hospice, she facilitates children's groups at their annual Point of Hope Grief Camp. Previously, Laurie worked for INOVA Fairfax Hospital from 1992-1999 as their first Pediatric Oncology Social Worker, assisting families living with childhood cancer. She facilitates groups for C.O.P.S. Kids, an organization dedicated to helping children who have experienced the death of a loved one that served in Law Enforcement Agencies in the U.S. Laurie is proud to be an active Board Member of the DC Chapter of Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation of the DC Metro area.

Patti's Place

*Supportive Counseling for Families that
have been touched by Childhood Cancer*



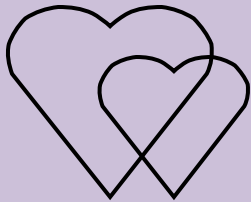
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*Learning How to Live with a
Childhood Cancer Diagnosis*

ABOUT PATTI

Patti's Place was founded in honor of a young woman named Patti, whose sister was diagnosed in the 1980's with childhood cancer at age 16. Patti was 15 at the time of her sister's diagnosis. Patti and her family supported her sister through her treatment, and later through four other cancer diagnoses. Patti's sister married and became the mother of two beautiful, healthy children. Sadly, Patti's sister was diagnosed with breast cancer and died in 2004.

Patti stood with her sister through all of her treatments, helping care for her niece and nephew. Like her sister, Patti's life was forever changed by childhood cancer. She remains a strong supporter of research to cure cancer.



WHO WE SERVE

Patti's Place is open to young people who are currently off treatment as well as their brothers, sisters, parents and extended family members.

Patti's Place provides:

- Counseling for young people of all ages. There is no time limit for how long someone has been off treatment.
- Counseling for young people living with relapse.
- Supportive counseling for immediate and extended family members.
- Grief counseling for families who have experienced the death of a person from childhood cancer, subsequent cancer diagnoses or other related illnesses.

OUR POLICY

- Patti's Place has no fee for service.
- Services are offered by licensed social workers or counselors.

OUR GOALS

Patti's Place encourages interaction and mutual support between families in the DC Metro area. We are committed to assisting families by sharing links with other programs and organizations connected with the treatment of childhood cancer.

