

ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation

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The ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation is Virginia FBLA's state service project. ASK is an association for children with cancer. The ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation's mission statement is "Making life better for children with cancer". ASK stands for Assistance, Support, and Kindness, which is what this program is dedicated to providing for children suffering from cancer and their families.

ASK was founded in 1975 by a group of pediatric cancer patients from a hospital in Richmond, VA, where they continue to operate out of today. Since 1982, Virginia FBLA has supported ASK as our state service project. Every year since then, we have collected donations in the form of gift cards, gas cards, toys, supplies, and snacks to donate to ASK. We have also raised money through various fundraisers. Overall, Virginia FBLA has donated over \$1,000,000 to ASK.

Today, ASK works out of the Pediatric Hematology/ Oncology Department at VCU Health Systems. The organization steps in at the point of diagnosis and continuously provides families with social, emotional, spiritual, and financial support. The support of Virginia FBLA helps ASK greatly in everything that they do, and our organization is continuously touched by the kindness shown by ASK across our community and state.

Want More Information?

Go to askweb.org to learn more about this service project.

Editor:
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What Does The ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation Do?

*Written By:
Ryan Apigian
Virginia State Reporter*

The ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation provides families with social, emotional, spiritual, and financial support. ASK also provides many of these services:

- Child life therapy program

Uses play, music, and art therapy as a means of helping children understand and cope with their illness.

- Provides psychological services

ASK understands the enormous strain these diseases place on families and offers emotional and psychological support to find the strength they need.

- Sponsored chaplain

Provides pastoral care and counseling services to children and families at all stages of treatment

- Direct financial aid

Ease the burdens of every day expenses allows families the ability to concentrate on their child's

- An educational consultant partner

Helps families and schools understand the effects of cancer treatment

- Ease the emotional stress and anxiety

Hospital social workers collaborate with ASK to create programs associated with dealing with life threatening illnesses.

- Funds support programs

Such as Family-to-Family which quickly matches families of newly diagnosed children with those who have already gone through the process

Who Does ASK Benefit?

Written By:

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The ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation provides direct support to over 1000 children with cancer and their families in Central Virginia on an annual basis. From the moment of diagnosis through treatment, ASK provides financial, spiritual, social and emotional support for children with cancer and their families. It is a very hard time not only emotionally, but financially when a loved one is diagnosed with cancer. From the treatments to constantly having to go back and forth between the home and doctors, the financial bills add up. ASK requests donations to free up the fund from the families and lessen some of the stress. Something as small as a \$5 gift card to target means a lot for the children and their families.

Here is the Wish list from ASK

- **Tissues**
- **Hand sanitizer**
- **Copier/printer paper**
- **Individually wrapped snacks that do not need spoons**
- **Juice boxes and bottled water**
- **New toys for our clinic toy chest that are valued at \$5 and under**
- **\$5 gift cards for teens to Target, Wal-Mart, Dick's Sporting Goods, GameStop, Bath & Body Works, Barnes & Noble, etc.**
- **\$15 gift cards for birthdays/end of treatment celebrations to Target, Wal-Mart, iTunes, GameStop, Bath & Body Works, Barnes & Noble, etc.**
- **\$20 gift cards to grocery stores**
- **\$25 gift cards for gas to Sheetz or Wawa**
- **Bigger toys/teen gifts that can be used for birthdays, end of treatment, and holidays**
- **White paper**
- **Markers**
- **Colored pencils**
- **Individually bagged art projects**
- **Headphones that can given out in clinic for kids to keep--NOT expensive ones, but from the dollar store or Five Below**
- **Xbox 360 games for all ages (no Mature games accepted; can be used games**
- **Google Play gift cards to purchase games for tablets in clinic**
- **BJ's and Costco wholesale club gift cards**

Why Get Involved With ASK?

Written By:

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State Corresponding Secretary

The ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation is a very important organization that helps support families in need of money for the cancer payments for their children. They raise money in gift cards or in other ways to make life easier for families who have a financial struggle. Being a supporter of Ask is a good way to help families who are in need of aid and to show your support for them, so that they know they're not alone. Spreading the word about this organization will help millions of people that sacrifice so much in their lives for their kids. Also, some people have so much in their lives, so this is a great opportunity to give back and help others. This also gets the word out about FBLA and helps show support for the organization that helps teach young adults about the business world and also how to help the community and the people around them.

Want to see what Virginia FBLA has done to help?

Click [here](#) to learn more about our partnership with ASK.