

Dance Marathon

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Dear Adopt-a-Family participants,

The Board of Directors along with the Captains of Dance Marathon 2008 would like to thank you and your organization for your involvement in the Adopt-a-Family program. This program would not exist without your ongoing support for the families. They appreciate your positive attitudes and uplifting visits to the hospital and clinic more than you know!

We realize that it may be difficult to get a large part of your organization to participate in this program to the extent that we all hope for. Here are some suggestions to get more members involved in this wonderful program. Please bring this newsletter to your next meeting and read it aloud, or forward it to your organization for them to read themselves.

- Incorporate the Adopt-a-Family program into your existing organizational programming. For example, does your group ever go to the movies or bowling together? Invite your child's family to come along too!
- Plan a birthday party for your child. He or she will never feel more special or excited!
- Get your organization familiar with your child. At your next meeting, have some members that are active in the program talk about him/her. Each member of your organization should know your child as more than just a name.
- Have your liaison make regular reports regarding your child's status.
- A themed visit to the hospital or clinic will get your child and organization excited. Some examples include "Monopoly Day" or a "Ninja Turtle Party". This is especially good for members who have not visited before, giving them an opportunity to play games with the child, making the visit more comfortable.
- Make your organization feel more invested in the cause. Hold a fundraiser for Dance Marathon and invite your families! Fundraisers are a great reminder of how you can give back and contribute on a larger scale.

Some ideas for activities:

- At your next visit, bring magazines and make a collage of your child's favorite things to get to know them better.
- Have your organization make a photo-journal for your child to help him/her get to know your group better! (Also, a great gift idea!)
- Have a movie night/sports night at your organization's house (or if your organization does not have a house, ask one of your members to have it at their house!)

Of course, these are some basic tips, but what will work best for your organization is dependent on its specific dynamic. Thank you again for participating in the program!