

# Sparrow Children's Center Hair-a-Thon FAQs

## What is the Sparrow Children's Center Hair-a-Thon?

The Hair-a-Thon is a fun, high-energy, feel-good, annual event held in September to coincide with Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Women, men, and children can donate eight or more inches of hair to organizations that provide wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment or other causes.

## When and Where is the Hair-a-Thon taking place?

The 7th Annual Children's Center Hair-a-Thon is on **Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021** from **9 a.m. to noon** at the **Sparrow Plaza Building**, 1140 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

## Do I need an appointment?

Yes, if you want to get your hair cut on site, you will need an appointment this year. This is a change from past years and will allow for increased physical distancing and community safety. Please visit [Sparrow.org/HairAThon](https://www.sparrow.org/HairAThon) to make an appointment. Masks are required regardless of vaccination status. Free parking is available in Parking Ramp B on the south side of Michigan Avenue. Ramp B is attached to the Plaza Building.

## Is there a cost for the haircut?

There is no cost for those with appointments to get their hair cut on site. Our licensed stylists from around the community are volunteering their time to benefit the children and teens who will ultimately receive the hair donations.

## What if I can't make an appointment at the Hair-a-Thon?

Volunteers will be in front of the Sparrow Plaza Building to collect pre-cut ponytails and braids on the day of the event from 9 a.m. to noon. Please see **What if I can't come to the event?** for more hair donation options.

## Where should I park?

Free parking is available in Parking Ramp B on the south side of Michigan Avenue. Ramp B is attached to the Plaza Building.

## Where do the hair donations go?

Hair donations go to **Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan** or **Children With Hair Loss**, both Michigan-based organizations that provide FREE wigs and services for children suffering the trauma of hair loss.

## How long does my hair have to be?

Because many children and teens desire wigs with a longer style, the longer, the better! The organizations prefer donations of eight or more inches whenever possible.

## Is dyed or gray hair acceptable?

Yes, chemically treated and gray hair can be donated to **Children With Hair Loss**.

## Will my hair be restyled after it is cut?

For those with appointments to get their hair cut at the Hair-a-Thon, the volunteer stylists will do some basic restyling or layering to even up the hair's perimeter after cutting it for donation. They cannot provide full salon services, however, since they are not in a salon setting.

## What if I can't come to the event?

No problem! We are happy to accept hair donations at Sparrow or they can be mailed directly to one of the charitable organizations below. Please follow the directions in the answer above to prepare hair for donation. To receive acknowledgment of your generosity, please include a hair donation form.

Review the **donation criteria** for **Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan**. A copy of **W4K's donation form** can be printed and included with your donation.

Review the **donation criteria** for **Children With Hair Loss**. A copy of **CWHL's donation form** can be printed and included with your donation.

Hair donations may be dropped off or mailed to Sparrow Hospital at Sparrow Children's Center, Attn. Cindy Meteyer  
1215 E. Michigan Ave., Room 510, 5 South, Lansing, MI 48912

## What if my hair is not long enough to donate this year?

Our event is held every year in September. We'd love to have you keep growing your hair out until one of our next donation events, but it is also an option to have it cut and donated at a different time of year. Please see the answer to the question above about how to submit hair donations. We collect them and mail them in year-round at the hospital!

## What if I can't donate hair but still want to help?

The hair donations are wonderfully helpful to the organizations that provide free wigs to children, but the wigs themselves are very expensive to make and cost the organizations hundreds of dollars per wig, plus many hours of labor. Therefore, donations of money are tremendously appreciated! Those donations can be made directly through the organizations' websites or can be deposited in our collection box at the Hair-a-Thon.

**Monetary donation - Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan**

**Monetary donation - Children With Hair Loss**

## Can kids donate?

Yes! Many of our hair donors are children. They often feel a sense of pride by helping out other children in such a unique and generous way.

## How are the hair donations made into wigs?

Wigs 4 Kids has some informative details on their website under the heading "**Hair Donation FAQ's**" (toward the bottom of the page).

## What if I have more questions about the Sparrow Children's Center Hair-a-Thon?

Please contact the event coordinator, Cindy Meteyer, at [Cindy.Meteyer@Sparrow.org](mailto:Cindy.Meteyer@Sparrow.org) or 517.364.2022.



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