

Sparrow Children's Center Hair-a-Thon FAQs

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

The Hair-a-Thon is an 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. The event usually occurs in person with local stylists on-site, but due to the ongoing pandemic and risk of virus transmission, we are transitioning to a drop-off only event this year. Donors can have their hair cut by a stylist of their choosing and can then drop off the hair or mail it on their own. More information about both options is below.

Please continue to read for important details about the process of preparing hair for donation.

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

We are collecting for a cause this year. Volunteers will be outside in front of the **Sparrow Plaza Building** on **Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, from 9 a.m. until noon** to collect pre-cut donations. The Sparrow Plaza building is located at 1140 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, across the street from Sparrow Hospital. All drive-up donors will receive a certificate of recognition and will not need to leave their vehicles.

Is there a cost for the haircut?

We regret that we are unable to safely arrange for volunteer stylists this year, so any costs charged by stylists in their salons must be paid by the donors. We hope to be able to hold an in-person event with free cuts again in 2022.

Do I need an appointment?

Please arrange an appointment to have your hair cut with a stylist of your choosing. There is no need to schedule an appointment to drop off your donation at the Hair-a-Thon drive-up event on Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. to noon.

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.

What is the process to prepare hair for donation?

1. While longer is preferred, hair should be at least eight inches. Hair donations of 12 inches or more are greatly appreciated! The organizations will take as little as seven inches to make a short wig for a boy or girl (from top of ponytail to end), but the longer, the better, as many children prefer longer styles.
2. Hair needs to be clean and dry. Please bundle hair into one or more ponytails or braids before having it cut. After securing the hair, have it cut one inch ABOVE the rubber band to keep the strands bundled together. This keeps the hair going in one direction, which is critical for the wig-making process.
3. Layered hair is acceptable and may be divided into multiple ponytails and then cut.
4. You may pull curly hair straight to measure the length.
5. Make sure hair is thoroughly dry before placing it in a bag or envelope so that it doesn't mildew.
6. **Children With Hair Loss** will accept gray hair and chemically-treated hair in good condition.
7. Hair that was cut more than two years ago or swept off the floor is not usable.
8. NEW human or synthetic wigs and extensions are accepted by **Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan**.

9. NOTE: Anyone may cut your hair as long as the guidelines are followed.

10. To receive acknowledgment of your generosity from the recipient organizations, please include a hair donation form (see links below). If you are unable to print a donation form, we will have them available during the drop-off event on Sept. 18.

Hair donation form - Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan

Hair donation form - Children With Hair Loss

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 (see links below).

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** or **517.364.2022**.



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