

Beyond the Patient

A Child Life Specialists
approach to Palliative Care

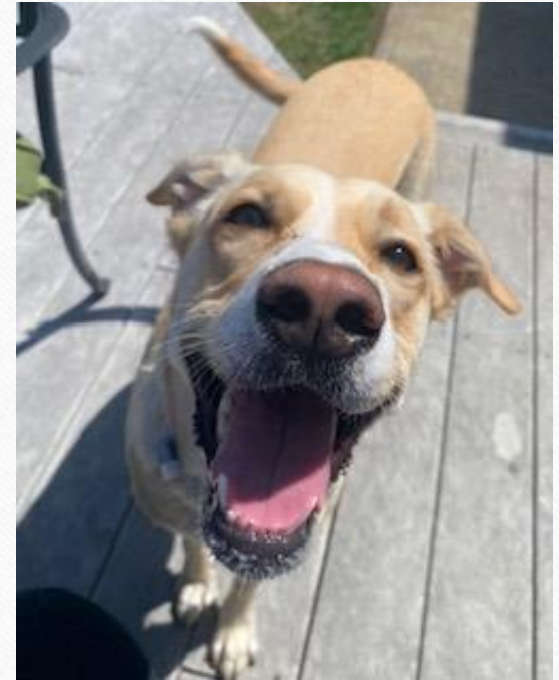
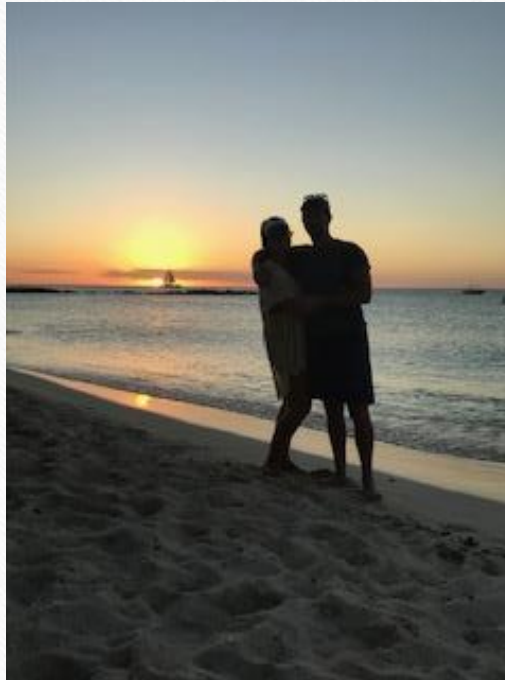
Caitlin Ridge, BA

Child Life Coordinator, Outpatient Services

Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center

Caitlin Ridge

- Educational Background
- Professional Experience



Child Life Specialist

What I am not

- Doctor
- Nurse
- Therapist
- Counselor

What I am

- Specialist in Child & Human Development
- Advocate
- Active Listener
- Consistent presence
- Multidisciplinary team member
- Resource into the community

A Child Life Specialist

“Certified child life specialist are professionals who provide evidence-based, developmentally appropriate interventions including therapeutic play, preparation and education that reduce fear, anxiety, and pain for infants, children, and youth. They are educated and trained in the developmental impact of illness and injury. Their role helps improve patient and family care, satisfaction and overall experience”

The Role of Child Life Specialists in Healthcare

- Preparation for Procedures
- Diversional Support
- Education of any illness or new diagnosis
- Emotional Support
- Therapeutic Interventions
- Play
- Normalization
- Bereavement / End of Life Support
- Legacy Building



My Why

What Palliative Care Means to Me

Appropriate Child Life Referrals Within the Palliative Care Setting

- Pediatric patient at time of diagnosis
- Infant in the NICU
- Pediatric patient
- Young adults
- Adult patients with Children
- Special Needs Adults

Child Life Referral Sources at Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center

- Any Member of the Multidisciplinary Team
 - Adult Oncology
 - Intensive Care Unit
 - Cardiac Care Unit
 - Family Request

The First Bedside Meeting

- Introduction
- Rapport Building
- Identify Support System
- Learn history

Beyond the Patient

Who are we taking care of?

The Patient

What we see & hear as providers

- A previously healthy 45 year old female with a brain tumor
- Multiple Surgeries over the last 3 months
 - On ventilator in ICU
 - No longer candidate for curative treatments

The Person

Who she is outside the medical center

- Wife
- Mother
- Sister
- Daughter
- Best Friend
- Co-Worker
- Church Member
- Class Mom
- Girl Scout Troop Leader
- Softball Coach – Team Taxi
- The woman who orders coffee at 11am each day

A Parent's Perspective

Angelica Angeles

Devoted Mother

Family Faculty Member, Children's Specialized Hospital

Amerie



**We can't change
the outcome but we
can affect the
journey.**

Ann Richardson



Questions?

Thank you