

Things to know about Pennies for Patients and Olive Garden's Pasta for Pennies:

- The programs benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Donations come back to the state of WI to support local patients and our researcher in Madison. Our Madison researcher is specifically focusing on leukemia, the most prevalent cancer in children under 20. We provide WI patients with co-pay assistance, financial aid, support groups and education programs, including educational programs for schools and their families in the cancer treatment process.
- The program aims to teach students philanthropy along with the 6 character pillars.
- Students are truly able to make a difference with their small change and really feel empowered. Older students can take ownership and run the program themselves.
- The program can be run anytime during the school year, for any length of time. Schools typically run the program January-March, for three weeks.
- The program can be run however a school would like. Most schools run the program as a change collection or change war with the addition of fun dollar days or community events.
- A free website is provided to all participating schools. Each high school student will receive their own online donation page and each elementary and middle school classroom will receive their own page. Donors can credit a class, teacher or student when they donate online.
- Free material is provided to all participating schools. Our materials include classroom collection boxes, individual collection boxes, letters to take home, DVDs, stickers, paper pennies, posters and a step-by-step guide to running the program.
- Lesson plans are also provided for the program. These lesson plans were designed by educators and meet McRel standards. Lesson plans are provided for all ages and cover the subject areas science, math, social studies, language arts and art.
- Incentives are also provided to schools that complete the program. Incentives vary by area and amount raised.
- LLS provides full support to all schools. We facilitate planning meetings, student group meetings and assemblies. Our student group meetings and assemblies are both educational and motivational. During these presentations we talk about blood cancer and teach students what blood cancer is through a skit conducted at their age level. We also talk about our honored heroes and how their donations help local research and families.
- Our honored heroes are students in WI going through treatment for blood cancer. There have been several heroes in your area which is why the students connect and can truly help others in their own community.
- Last year LLS was able to help 940 patients through our patient aid program, totaling \$94,000.
- Last year LLS supported 574 WI patients through our co-pay assistance program, totaling \$1,295,752.03.
- LLS research funding has developed drugs that help patients with rheumatoid arthritis and are being tested on autoimmune diseases, preventing rejection from organ transplants, and patients with breast, prostate, bladder, brain, ovarian, lung and pancreatic cancers.