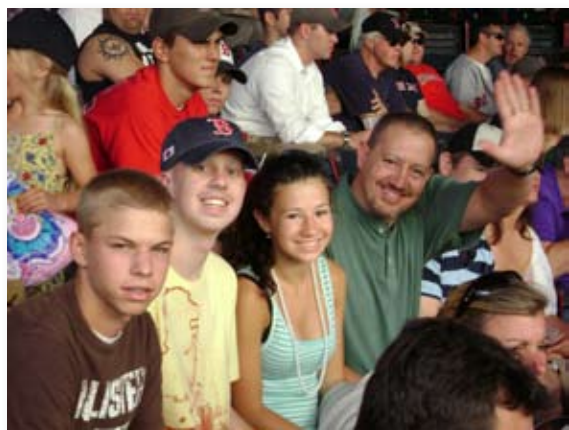

"It's difficult and stressful to be in a strange city, sometimes as a single parent with a sick child. Medical insurance covers treatment but unfortunately none of the out of pocket costs for food, lodging and transportation. Having a welcoming, attractive place to stay, close to the MassGeneral Hospital for Children makes a huge difference. Our families who have stayed at the Christopher's Haven apartment are thrilled and so grateful for the opportunity given to them. They have 'spread the word' and Christopher's Haven is receiving calls from incoming parents inquiring about the possibility of staying at Christopher's Haven. There is definitely a need."

*— Evelyn H. Malkin, LICSW
Oncology Social Worker in Pediatric Radiation
Francis H. Burr Proton Therapy Center
MassGeneral Hospital for Children*



Jerry, a dedicated Mets fan (center in cap) celebrated his 16th birthday with his family while in Boston for treatment-- at a Red Sox game - of course!

"I received an email from the family we met during our last trip to Boston. They are almost done with protons but were unable to get housing so they are staying 100 miles away and have to commute everyday to get him to treatments. This family came from Wisconsin. It is so important that Christopher's Haven raise more money so they can achieve their goal of a place to house more families in need, so they don't have to go through this."

— A Christopher's Haven Parent

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Host a family:

\$120 for a day

\$840 for a week

\$3,600 for a month

\$6,000 for a full stay

You can also help families directly by donating gift cards to shops in the Charles River Park area: Whole Foods, CVS, Stop & Shop (Peapod), Cold Stone Creamery, Au Bon Pain.

Christopher's Haven is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization which is supported by donations from individuals, foundations and corporations. Your donation is tax deductible.

Federal Tax ID # 04-3582395

Please visit our website at:

www.ChristophersHaven.org

or call us at **(508) 358-7353**

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Christopher's Haven
A home for kids when cancer hits home.™



Jill with her 2-year old twins, Gabby and Ellie, stayed at Christopher's Haven during Gabby's treatment.

CHRISTOPHER'S HAVEN is a home away from home for children being treated for cancer at the MassGeneral Hospital for Children in Boston, MA. Patients and their families come from all over the country for six to eight weeks of specialized outpatient proton radiation therapy. 85% of the pediatric cancer patients receiving this treatment are from out of state.

Our Mission

Our mission is to make a tangible difference in the day-to-day lives of children and their families by creating and operating a home away from home for children being treated for cancer at the MassGeneral Hospital *for* Children, and the parents who are staying here for extended periods to support them. The family needs to focus on the well-being of their child — we will help them with the rest.

The need for families and children to have access to affordable accommodations has increased significantly over the past ten years. Of the over 500 hospital hospitality houses worldwide, almost all operate at 98% occupancy and at any given time, 40% are working on expansion efforts to accommodate long waiting lists.*

“We know it is hard for everyone to understand because they are not in our shoes, but that apartment did so much for our family, emotionally. Not to mention the financial stress was drastically lessened. It is also important for these children who receive radiation treatment, and some who are getting chemo at the same time, to have a clean environment! Imagine keeping an ill child in a hotel for two months.”

— Jennie, mother of Noah (16 mos.)



Noah, 16 months, with his mom, Jennie. They traveled to Boston from Indiana with big brother Adam (3), and their dad, Ben.

*National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses (www.NAHHH.org)

A Unique Therapy

Most of the children who stay at Christopher's Haven are receiving daily outpatient proton radiation. This therapy is particularly effective for children with some brain tumors and other forms of cancer because it precisely targets tumors. Unlike conventional radiation, there is no exit dose, so it spares surrounding healthy tissue, bone and organs. Presently the only proton facility available in the Northeast is at the Massachusetts General Hospital/MassGeneral Hospital *for* Children.



Lynnea -- with laser lights getting ready for treatment.

“Christopher's Haven provides a wonderful kid-friendly setting. The new apartments will be next door to each other, and there will be a central room so that kids and parents can gather to play and share stories. This experience has been life-changing for Lynnea and I, and it has all revolved around a cozy apartment that we have called home for the past 6 weeks. Christopher's Haven is making a difference one family at a time.”

— Melanie
mother of Lynnea (7)
from California

Growing to Meet Unmet Need

Christopher's Haven is located in Boston's west end, adjacent to the hospital. The goal for 2008 is to expand to seven apartments and a common area to meet the needs of families coming for their child's treatment. Since Christopher's Haven opened the first apartment in 2006, dozens of families have benefited from the opportunity to stay in a comfortable, clean and beautifully furnished apartment. The location – just steps from the hospital has been highly valued by guest families.

“It was great to be so near the hospital because it gave us a lot more flexibility with the kids and activities that go on for them at the hospital like art and music therapy and I felt A LOT safer being close to her doctors while she is having the vocal cord dysfunction concerns.”

— Laura
mother of McKenna (3) from Oregon



Dan Olsen, Christopher's Haven founder, with Sky (r) and her siblings, Chyra and Davin. The family came from Georgia and were pleased that their grandmother was able to stay with them.