

University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Children's Center Hair-a-Thon FAQs

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

The Hair-a-Thon is a fun, high-energy, feel-good event held annually in September to coincide with Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. At the Hair-a-Thon, women, men and children who have eight or more inches of hair to donate can come and have their hair cut by a professional stylist, where it is then sent to organizations that provide wigs to children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment or other causes.

When is it taking place?

The 10th Annual Children's Center Hair-a-Thon is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024.

Where is the event held?

The Hair-a-Thon is held in the first floor lobby of the UM Health-Sparrow Herbert-Herman Cancer Center, 1140 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, which is across the street from the hospital.

Is there a cost for the haircut?

No, the Hair-a-Thon is a free event. Licensed stylists from around the community volunteer their time to benefit the children and teens who will ultimately receive the hair donations.

Do I need an appointment?

It is not necessary to have an appointment. There are stylists available to take walk-ins and the wait is typically short. As the event nears, however, a limited number of appointments will be available at UofMHealthSparrow.org/HairAThon.

For those who prefer, volunteers will be in front of the UM Health-Sparrow Herbert-Herman Cancer Center during the Hair-a-Thon to collect pre-cut ponytails and braids on a drive-up basis.

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 UM Health-Sparrow Herbert-Herman Cancer Center.

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! Donations of eight or more inches are preferred.

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?

The volunteer stylists do basic restyling or layering to even the hair's perimeter after cutting it for donation. Full salon services are not available since the event does not take place in a salon setting.

What if I can't come to the event or want my own stylist to cut my hair?

No problem! We are happy to accept previously cut hair, which can be sent to us at UM Health-Sparrow Lansing or mailed directly to one of the charitable organizations below. Please secure the hair in a ponytail or a braid before it is cut to ensure that it is all going in one direction. To receive acknowledgement 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:

UM Health-Sparrow Lansing 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 actually 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 do the hair donations get 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 UM Health-Sparrow Children's Center Hair-a-Thon?

Please contact the event coordinator, Cindy Meteyer, at Cindy.Meteyer@UMHSparrow.org or [517-364-2022](tel:517-364-2022).