

Bags of Brightness



COURTESY OF LORRAINE ELLIS

get involved by donating items for the Bags of Brightness,” Madison says. “Coloring books, crayons, markers, new books, activity boards and playing cards are all great items to include.”

According to **Jill Mondry**, director of volunteer services at Nemours, children are already benefiting greatly from the time and effort given by Madison. “We are inspired by Madison’s acts of kindness, and we’re grateful that she has thought of such a unique way to cheer up our young patients,” says Mondry. “She is setting such a great example to those around her. We hope Madison receives plenty of community support so she can continue to brighten up our kids’ days!”

In addition to the items needed to stock the bags, time and funding are also critical components to keep this program up and running. Madison and Lorraine have set up shop in the kitchen of their own home to put the bags together. “I would say supplies are the most needed, so that we can put the bags together and deliver them to the hospital,” Lorraine says. Community involvement is always helpful in gathering the needed items to continue to make a difference. Madison loves to encourage people to help those less fortunate. “Everything helps, however small it is,” she says.

Aside from her time spent working with her mom and alongside volunteers putting together gift bags and boxes for cancer patients, Madison also keeps busy with school, friends, family and extracurricular activities. “In my spare time, I do choir at school and take part in the school play,” says Madison. “I also do gymnastics.” Madison tries to encourage other young people to follow their dreams and to come up with ways to help people. “I love putting a smile on kids’ faces; it makes me very happy and proud of what I do.” **L**

To get involved with Bags of Brightness, visit our website at CentralFloridaLifestyle.com

Madison Ellis delivers bags of brightness at Nemours Hospital at Lake Nona’s Medical City.

By Matt Bendell

A local ten-year-old found a way to bring cheer to patients at **Nemours Children’s Hospital**.

Cancer is a devastating word for anyone to hear, so when **Madison Ellis** heard it for the first time, she naturally had questions. When her mom, **Lorraine Ellis**, experienced a bout with breast cancer last year, 10-year-old Madison asked her mom “can kids get cancer too?” And when she learned the answer was yes she immediately began to think of ways she could help to bring hope and cheer to children going through their own medical crises.

During her mother’s fight with cancer, Madison wondered how she might help kids dealing with the same disease that her mom was experiencing, and as a result, she came up with an action plan to make a difference. Modeled after the idea of her mom’s own non-profit, “Little Pink Boxes,” which is geared toward women dealing with breast cancer, Madison and her mom founded “Bags of Brightness.” With the new medical city in **East Orlando** at their doorstep, Madison and Lorraine realized that they could make a difference close-by, and encouraged friends, neighbors and the local community to join hands in reaching out together as well. “People in the community can