

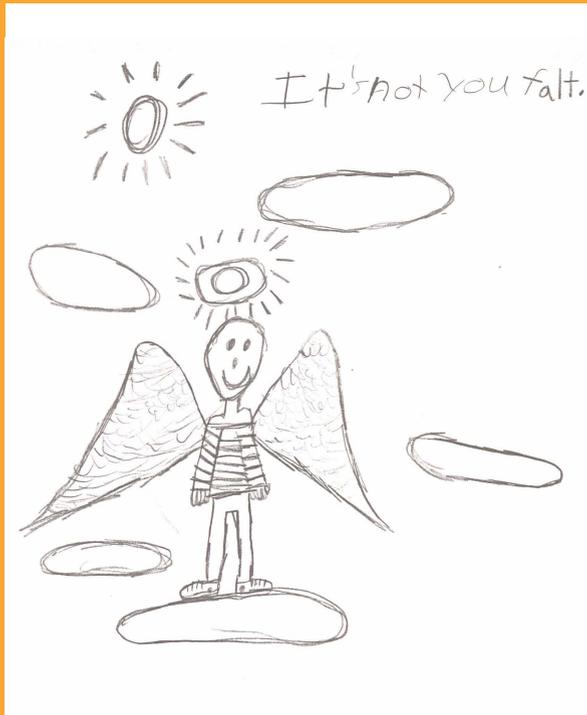
# Pushing Beyond



The Dekalb Medical Cancer Center is located in the 2665 Professional Building on the DeKalb Medical North Decatur campus.



THE TREEHOUSE GANG



The Tree House Gang at DeKalb Medical is a program structured in age-appropriate groups for children 5 to 17 years old, providing them with information about their parent's cancer diagnosis in a way they can understand.



[www.dekalbmedical.org](http://www.dekalbmedical.org) 404.501.EASY

2665 North Decatur Road  
Suite 130  
Decatur, GA 30033





# The Tree House Gang

A cancer diagnosis is overwhelming and scary for everyone in the family, including children. It is hard when you are a parent and you worry about how your children will cope with the inevitable changes in your family. Many parents think it is better to shield their children and protect them from worrying. Experts in child psychology teach that children of cancer patients may run the risk of suffering from extreme anxiety when they know something is happening in their families and they don't know how to talk about it. Helping children to understand promotes trust and enables children to diminish their fears and feel closer to their parents.



## How much should I tell my children? Aren't they too young to understand?

The Tree House Gang at DeKalb Medical is a group for children ages 5 to 17 years old. Information about their parent's diagnosis is shared in a way they can

understand, and with consideration of their ages and maturity level. The right information has been shown to help decrease children's worries and calm their fears.

In three consecutive after-school sessions, the children are guided through art, play, discussion and tours of the hospital to help them understand what cancer means.

Three important questions are addressed:

- 1) What is happening in my family?
- 2) What happens during treatment?
- 3) What is happening to me?

Our staff has worked with children of patients for more than 15 years and the quality of our program has received national recognition. DeKalb Medical has the most experienced program in Georgia and beyond.



Under the guidance of an oncology nurse and licensed child therapist, the Tree House Gang offers the right level of information and education in a supportive and interactive setting.

DeKalb Medical also offers a separate grief support program for children.

The Tree House Gang is provided free of charge to children, regardless of where their parents are receiving cancer treatment.

The Tree House Gang is offered quarterly; please call the Cancer Center at DeKalb Medical at 404.501.5701 for upcoming dates and to register your child.

