




Pennies for Patients[®]

A small, detailed illustration of a US penny coin, showing the profile of Abraham Lincoln facing right. The coin is positioned to the right of the word "Pennies" in the main title.

Over the next few weeks, Orchard Center Elementary will be participating in **The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients** program. We will be collecting money Monday, March 6th through Tuesday, March 27th. Ask your students about some of the prizes they can win and about the classroom "Penny War" competition. Prizes will be awarded at our assembly on Friday, March 30th.

Pennies for Patients gives young students the opportunity to raise funds for blood cancer research and services for patients. This cause has special relevance for children and their families as **leukemia causes more deaths than any other cancer among children under the age of 20**. By collecting funds students learn quickly that every bit can make a big difference.

When you receive this letter, please take the opportunity to speak with your child about the value of making a difference in the lives of others. Ultimately kids *can* make a difference in the lives of others and *will* experience the powerful feeling that comes along with doing so.

This will be Orchard Center's thirteenth year participating in this worthwhile effort. Each year we are amazed at the generosity of our Orchard Center community. Last year, we raised \$2806.92, well over our goal of \$2000! In fact, since Orchard Center began participating in Pennies for Patients in 2004, our school community has raised over \$28,000!

As you support your child in this school-wide effort, please know the funds raised will help support cancer research, education, advocacy and services for patients. These have contributed to the increased survival rates for both childhood and adult blood cancers. The survival rate for childhood acute lymphocytic leukemia has risen from 3% in 1964 to 88% today. Although these results are promising, new research is needed so that we may continue to advance treatments for all blood cancers.

Thank you in advance for your support for this very worthy cause.