

## **Ithaca Sunrise Rotary Travel Fund for Kids with Cancer**

Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes

**The Need:** Children with cancer are almost always treated in specialized pediatric cancer centers. Patients in Tompkins County generally travel to Syracuse, Rochester or New York City. Even if the family has health insurance, that insurance usually does not pay for gas, lodging or other travel expenses. We hope to create a fund to help them. By doing so, we can provide both financial relief and emotional support.

**The Program:** Any local family traveling out of Tompkins County for pediatric cancer care can request travel assistance. \$50 will be provided to the family through the Cancer Resource Center. If requested, another \$50 can be provided to the same family, for a total of \$100.

A very simple form is required (name, physician, type of cancer, treating hospital). We purposely do not make the applicant jump through hoops – they're under enough stress and have enough hassles as it is. They sign the form and they get the money then and there.

We expect to serve one to two families per month through this program.

**Promotion:** We'll promote the program through the Cancer Resource Center; Mira's Movement, a local pediatric cancer advocacy organization; and local pediatricians.

**Final Thought:** We know that we can't solve the terrific challenges facing families who have a child with cancer. But this program will enable us to fill the car with gas or otherwise provide just a little breathing space when it's most needed.