

MAYOR

James Dodge

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Proclamation

Community Organization of the Month April 2026 **Christmas Without Cancer**

WHEREAS, the Village of Orland Park recognizes and commends those outstanding nonprofit organizations that work tirelessly to improve the lives of our residents and provide critical support to families during life's most difficult moments; and

WHEREAS, Christmas Without Cancer was founded in 2003 by retired oncology nurse Gerri Neylon, beginning as a simple kitchen-table effort to bring holiday joy to a local family facing cancer, and has since grown into a meaningful source of hope for hundreds of families across the Southland region; and

WHEREAS, the organization provides essential financial assistance and everyday support, including housing costs, tuition, childcare, medication, and travel expenses for treatment—so families can focus on what matters most: healing; and

WHEREAS, the organization that began as a holiday initiative has grown into year-round support, offering not only financial support, but also encouragement, connection, and memorable experiences for families navigating cancer treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Orland Park is proud to be home of the organization's first permanent headquarters, located at 15418 S. Harlem Ave., establishing a dedicated space for the community to gather, support one another, and further this important mission; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of the board, volunteers, and community partners continue to ensure that no family has to face a cancer diagnosis alone; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Dodge, Mayor of the Village of Orland Park, Illinois, in the Counties of Cook and Will, along with the Board of Trustees, do hereby officially recognize and honor Christmas Without Cancer for its compassion, service, and lasting impact on the residents of Orland Park and the surrounding communities, and hereby proclaim Christmas Without Cancer as the April 2026 Community Organization of the Month in the Village of Orland Park

Jim Dodge, Mayor
Village of Orland Park