

## Charity Drive

**Thank you for your interest in donating!** For this MvM campaign, we are running a charity fundraiser for **Extra Life** benefiting **Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN Hospitals)**. CMN Hospitals provides treatment to children suffering from medical illnesses such as cancer, immobility, and ICU.

Not every family is fortunate enough to afford adequate health care for their loved ones, so we are running this charity drive alongside with our MvM campaign to help those children in need.

You can visit the charity organization’s websites here:

<https://www.extra-life.org/>

<https://childrensmiraclenetworkhospitals.org>

To see how each donated dollar is spent, you can view the breakdown [in this graphic](#). Financial statements (including audits and IRS tax exemption status) can be found [here](#).

## How to Donate

There are 3 ways that you can donate:

- By credit/debit card or PayPal
- By TF2 items (*courtesy of ScrapTF*)
- By cash or check (see the FAQ [here](#))

For security reasons (to thwart scammers, impersonators, and phishers), we are not linking to the donation pages here. Please visit <https://potato.tf/charity> directly for links to all official donation pages.

For USA and Canadian donors, all cash donations are **tax deductible** on your income tax return (or your parents’ or whoever is bringing income to your household). [See this FAQ entry](#) for the tax credit details. **Item donations are not tax deductible.**

## Charity Medals

Up to two donor medals are awarded for donating to the charity:

Medal Name	Requirement
<b>Individual Donor</b>	Donate at least US \$10 (cash or items)
<b>Co-op Donor</b>	Reach the US \$10,000 fundraising goal

Unlike other charity events, this charity drive features **real-time medal drops**.\* The medal server will send the donor medal to your inventory **within a few minutes** after submitting your donation. If you do not receive your medal shortly after donating, please contact an admin so we can look into our records.

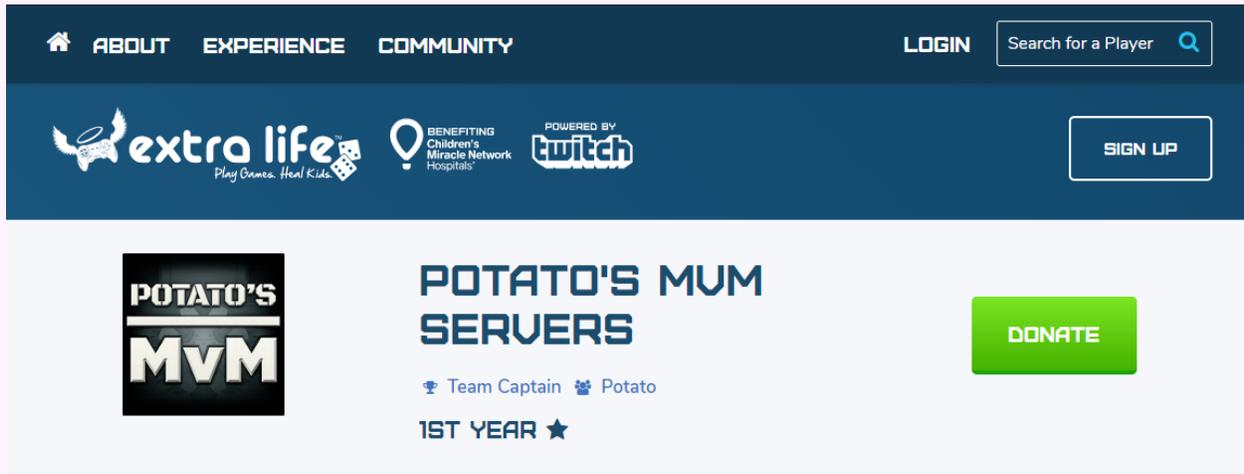
Donations are open from the **start** of the **contest** and close with the **end** of the **campaign**. It is possible to earn both donor medals by donating \$10 **and** the community reaching the fundraising goal.

*\*Please note that medal distribution starts **after** Valve adds the medals to the game. If you donated before the medals arrived, you will need to wait until the medals ship to TF2 for them to drop on your inventory. We will start up the medal server once the medals arrive.*

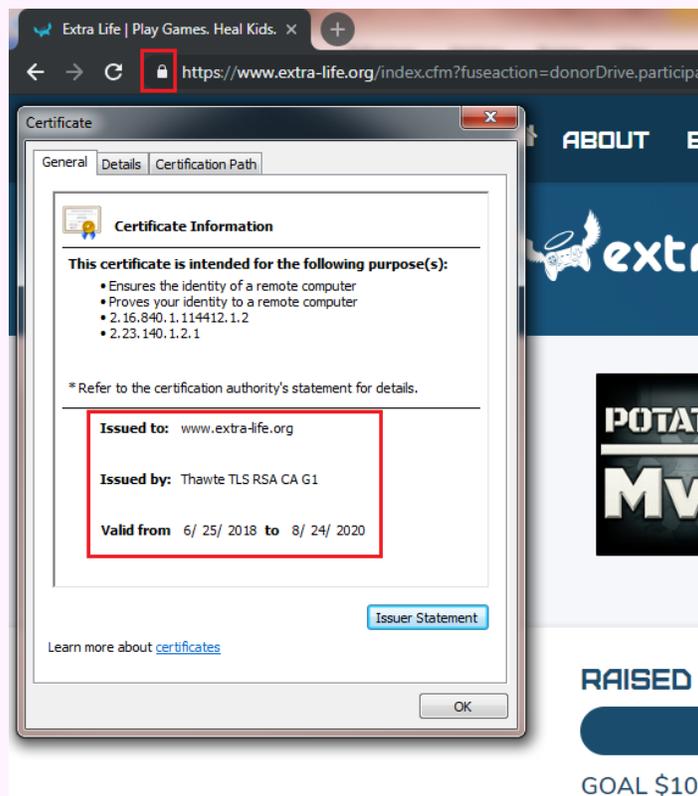
## Donate with Money (Monetary Donations)

Detailed instructions on how to donate with a credit/debit card or PayPal are included below with complete screenshots. **Please follow them carefully to ensure that you will receive your donor medal.** Failure to follow these instructions may result in your medal not being delivered.

1. Visit our **Extra Life** page. You can find the link at <https://potato.tf/charity>



2. **(Optional)** Click on the lock icon next to your URL bar to check the SSL certificate information. Fake phishing websites will not have the certificate information shown below (most won't even have the lock icon to begin with). This is good practice you should follow on any website that requires you to submit your credit card or bank information in.



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3. Click on the big green Donate button to open the donation form.

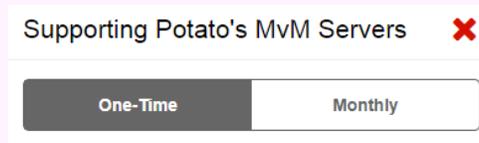


4. After clicking on the donate button, you should see a form pop up like the one below:

A screenshot of a donation form titled 'Supporting Potato's MvM Servers'. The form has a close button (X) in the top right corner. It features two tabs: 'One-Time' (selected) and 'Monthly'. Under 'Donation Amount\*', there are six buttons for \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$1,337, and OTHER. Below this is a text input field for 'Show my name as (Optional)' with the example 'Ex: Grandma, The Smith Family'. There is a section for 'Donation Options' with two checkboxes: 'Make donation anonymous' and 'Add a message'. The 'Choose a Payment Method\*' section includes a credit card icon, a 'PayPal' button, and a checkbox for 'Yes! I'd like to cover processing costs. (\$3.50)'. At the bottom is a 'NEXT' button with a right-pointing arrow.

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- a. For the medals, a one-time donation is sufficient. You can choose monthly if you want to.



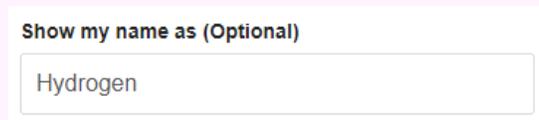
The screenshot shows a header "Supporting Potato's MvM Servers" with a red close button. Below it are two buttons: "One-Time" (which is highlighted in dark grey) and "Monthly".

- b. Choose a suggested donation amount if you want, or click **Other** and enter a custom amount. For your reference, the donation requirements for the medals are:
- \$10 (USD)** minimum to **earn** the donor medal.
  - \$1 (USD)** minimum to **qualify** for the co-op donor medal.



The screenshot shows a "Donation Amount\*" section with six buttons: "\$25", "\$50", "\$100", "\$250", "\$1,337", and "OTHER". Below these buttons is a text input field containing "\$ 10".

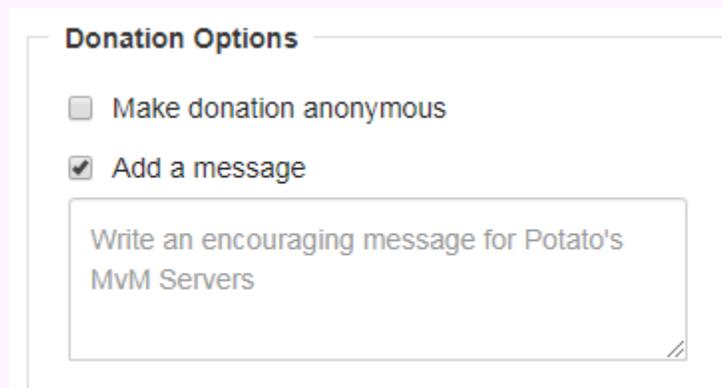
- c. **We strongly recommend** you put your **steam name** (your name at the top of your steam friends list window) in the "Show my name as (Optional)" section. In case something goes wrong and you don't get your donor medal, this will massively help us to find your donation record.



The screenshot shows a text input field with the label "Show my name as (Optional)" and the text "Hydrogen" entered inside.

There is a "Make donation anonymous" box below. **Do not check that box** if you want your steam name to be associated with your donation. Otherwise, we'll get a donation with no name.

- d. **IMPORTANT! If you mess up this step below, you will not get your donor medal!** Click on the "Add a message" box to display the message form.



The screenshot shows a "Donation Options" section with two checkboxes: "Make donation anonymous" (unchecked) and "Add a message" (checked). Below the checkboxes is a text area with the placeholder text "Write an encouraging message for Potato's MvM Servers".

(As mentioned earlier, do not check the "Make donation anonymous" box or else your steam name will not be reported to us, which may cause difficulties in case your medal isn't delivered to you.)

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- e. Enter **any** of the following in the message box: **Your steam profile link, your steam2 ID, your steam3 ID, or your steam64 ID**. We also recommend you put your steam name in here again. Examples of valid entries are shown below. **Make sure your message resembles one of these!**

- i. Your steam ID

ID Type	Steam2	Steam3	Steam64
<b>Format</b>	STEAM_X:Y:Z	[U:1:A]	A very big number
<b>Example</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add a message STEAM_0:1:55464786 Hydrogen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add a message [U:1:110929573] Hydrogen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add a message 76561198071195301 Hydrogen

- ii. Your profile link

Link Type	Full URL	Custom URL
<b>Format</b>	https://steamcommunity.com/profiles/1234567890	https://steamcommunity.com/id/custom-name
<b>Example</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add a message <a href="http://steamcommunity.com/profiles/76561198071195301">http://steamcommunity.com/profiles/76561198071195301</a> Hydrogen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add a message <a href="http://steamcommunity.com/id/anamana-hydrogen">http://steamcommunity.com/id/anamana-hydrogen</a> Hydrogen

**WARNING: Do not change your custom profile URL (if you have one) until after you receive your medal. If you change it before then, your medal will go to someone else's inventory!**

For your convenience, you can easily grab your steam ID in one click from our charity page. Visit <https://potato.tf/charity> and log into our website. Scroll to the bottom of the page to find this piece of text:

Your steam ID is: 76561198025371616 (Pelipoika) [Click to copy]

Click on the green text to copy its contents to your clipboard and confirm the dialogue box that pops up. Paste the contents into the charity's message box. The message box should look something like this:

Add a message  

76561198025371616 ([Pelipoika](#))

- f. **(Optional)** After entering in the required identity information (your steam account), you can enter any custom message you want:

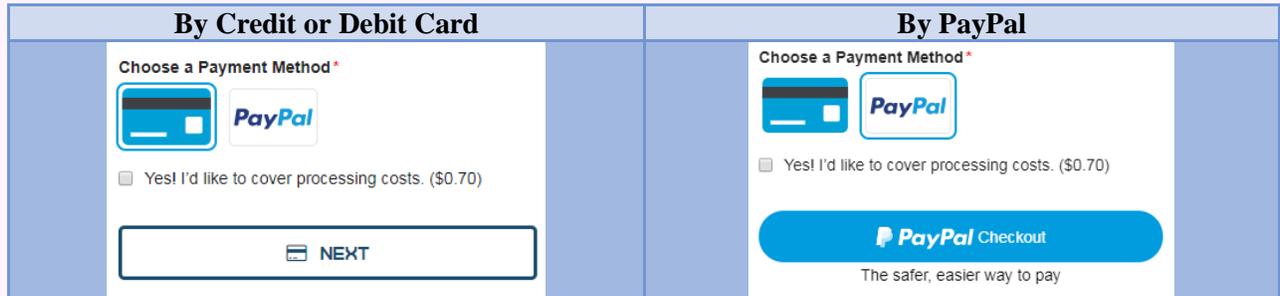
Add a message  

<http://steamcommunity.com/id/anamana-hydrogen>  
 Hydrogen

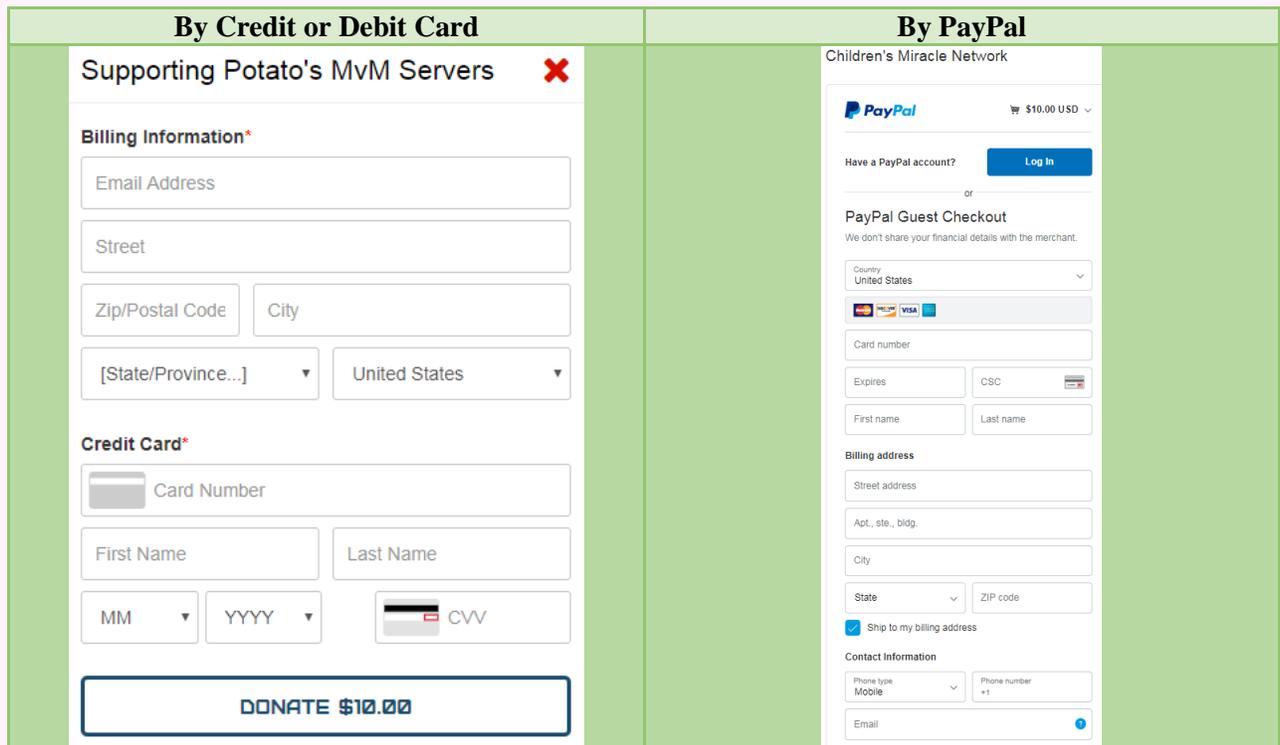
The [TF2 MvM](#) community is awesome for helping support the kids!

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- g. Choose your payment method. Use the blue card icon (default) to pay by credit or debit card. Use the PayPal icon to pay by PayPal.



- h. You do not need to check the processing costs box unless you want to. That's your decision. (The medals do not require it.)
- i. Click the Next/Checkout button to submit your payment information and complete your donation.



## The Medals

The medal server polls the Extra Life website about once every minute. Once your transaction has been processed, your donation will be posted on our Extra Life page, which the medal server will download and save to its records. **The medal is sent immediately to your backpack upon the medal server receiving your donation record.** You should receive it within 1-5 minutes of submitting your donation.

The medal server automatically extracts the steam ID it needs to send the medal to from the message box. It is crucial **you do not mess up** the instructions to put in your steam information on the message box, or else the medal server will not know which steam account to send the medal to.

We bolted in complicated parsing logic and regular expressions to ensure that the medal server can extract the steam ID out no matter how complex the message box is. For best results, follow the instructions exactly as outlined above. **Don't panic** if you didn't follow the instructions above down to the letter; chances are the medal server can figure out your steam ID and will give you your medal anyway.

## Submission Errors

If the medal server doesn't give you your medal within **30** minutes, **please contact an admin right away.** Most likely you made a mistake in your donation. We will need the following information to fix the error:

- The date of your donation (including an approximate time).
- The amount of your donation (in US dollars).
- Screenshot of any confirmation emails Extra Life has sent you for your donation.
- Screenshot of the donation payment on your credit card or PayPal statement. *We may not ask for this, but if we do, only show us the bare minimum info. Remove/censor any personal information.*

We will look into our records and attempt to match your steam account to your donation from the big list of donations. Should the error be due to a parsing mistake on the medal server, we'll correct the bug and restart the medal server so that future donors won't face the problem. Please allow up to **1 week** for us to correct the problem, as only the server operator can resolve these errors.

## Monetary Donations FAQ

**Q: Can I donate on behalf of someone else and have them receive the medal?**

**A:** Yes. Fill out the form as usual, except put the intended recipient's steam info in instead of yours.

**Q: Are my monetary donations tax deductible?**

**A:** Yes if you live in the USA or Canada. [You can find tax return details here.](#) If you have any further questions, you will need to contact Extra Life directly.

**Q: When will/How do I get my co-op donor medal?**

**A:** Once we reach the \$10,000 fundraising goal, the medal server will automatically issue co-op donor medals to all donors who donated at least \$1 to the charity. You do not need to manually claim it.

**Q: I don't have access to a credit/debit card or PayPal. Can I donate with TF2 items instead?**

**A:** Yes, see the next section for details on how to donate with items.

**Q: Is there any other way to earn the donor medals?**

**A:** The only other way to earn the donor medals is to get your map or mission accepted to the campaign during the contest. Other than that, there are no other ways to earn the donor medals.

## Donate with TF2 Items

Thanks to the awesome and generous team at ScrapTF, we are accepting item donations for the charity. [Please click on the ScrapTF logo to donate with items.](#) Follow the instructions on ScrapTF to donate.

ScrapTF will assign a USD value to your traded items (using the current TF2 economy rates) and report that number to our medal server. Our database server will hold ScrapTF responsible to remit the USD value to Extra Life of all donation reports they sends us, minus **2%** to cover transaction/processing fees.

You may get more value for your items by liquidizing them to keys/metal before sending the donation. Consider researching to see if it's worth the effort to liquidize the items yourself before donating them.

Note that not all items are accepted by ScrapTF, especially hard-to-liquidize items such as expensive unusual items. If you have a high-value item you want to donate but it isn't accepted, contact an admin.\*

**All questions or problems related to ScrapTF should be directed to [the ScrapTF team](#)**, who will happily assist you. We have no authority on ScrapTF so please do not ask us any questions about it.

## Warning/Disclaimer

When asking questions about anything related to donations, you should only ask in our group chat or an admin. **Do not take random advice from strangers and do not click on any random links sent to you.** All donation links are located at <https://potato.tf/charity> for everyone to safely and easily access. Always go through our website to assure yourself that you are donating to the right place.

\*Before approaching somebody, check if they have **self-made medals** of Titanium Tank, Canteen Crasher, **or** Madness vs Machines in their backpack. All campaign developers and admins will possess these medals. **Anyone who does not have any of those medals is likely a scammer/impersonator.**

**Under no circumstance** will we award donor medals to people who fall victim to a scam. We are not responsible for any losses caused due to items or funds going to an unauthorized/unofficial party. We put all the donation links in one place and gave all official admins self-made medals to protect you against thieves. If you do anything with your money or items with a third party, **you do so at your own risk.**

## Item Donations FAQ

**Q: How much is \$10 in TF2 items?**

**A:** This depends on economy rates, but roughly it is **6 TF2 keys** (~\$1.80 USD / key).

**Q: How much do I have to donate to qualify for the co-op donor medal?**

**A:** A little over ½ key (\$1) will make you eligible for the co-op donor medal.

**Q: Do I have to donate more than \$10 in items to cover the transaction fees?**

**A:** No, the \$10 is prior to fees. We are only mentioning the 2% fee so everyone is aware of the costs of converting items into real world money. If ScrapTF says you donated \$10, that's enough for the medal.

**Q: Do I have to wait for ScrapTF to pay out to the charity to earn my donor medal?**

**A:** No, the donor medal is sent to you within minutes of your donation (once the medal is in the game).

**Q: How do I know that ScrapTF has donated the USD value for my items?**

**A:** Our database server will hold ScrapTF accountable. Since ScrapTF is doing us a huge favor handling item donations, we're allowing them to pay out installments whenever is most convenient for them.

## Privacy Policy

We do not receive any of your payment information or personally identifying information, such as your real name and mailing address (unless you purposely write it out in the message box). Extra Life handles your payment information and only reports to us your donation value and the message you put in (which should contain your steam information). Some additional non-sensitive metadata, such as a donation ID and the time you submitted your donation, will also be sent to us, which we do record as a contingency.

ScrapTF only sends us your steam ID and cash value of your donation through their private API. Again, no personally identifying information is sent to us. Your steam ID (which isn't a secret piece of information) is the most sensitive information that is ever sent to us from all these sources.

Any personally-identifying information sent to us will be automatically discarded by the medal server.

## Fundraising Policy

All donations are directly to be performed on the Extra Life page or the ScrapTF page. We (the campaign developers and admins) do **not** see (let alone touch) any of the money that is transferred from the donor's hands to the charity's hands. We only receive reports of the amount of money donated and use that data to distribute the donor medals.

ScrapTF will directly pay out the value (in USD) of all item donations directly to Extra Life on our charity page. To cover some of the processing fees from selling the items for real world money on Marketplace, ScrapTF takes a 2% cut in all donations. For example, if item donations have raised a total of \$1000, ScrapTF will pay out \$980 to Extra Life.

Our database server records cash donations and item donations separately and sums the two values to determine which medal(s) to award to the donor. All item donation reports are summed and compared against ScrapTF's payments to ensure that ScrapTF correctly reimbursed the value of all item donations.

## Server Donations

Please note that, while we greatly appreciate your generosity, donations to the server **do not count** towards the donor medal. Please make sure you donate at the links posted at <https://potato.tf/charity> to get your donor medal.

As far as server expenses go, the Madness vs Machines campaign network costs **\$125 USD per month** to upkeep. So long as we can maintain that, we won't have any problems with keeping the servers online. (24 US, 12 EU, 6 Singapore, website + FastDL + medal server + database server)