IMPACT REPORT 2020





THIS IS OUR WORK.

FUNDING
RESEARCH
IN ITS EARLY
STAGES.
GIVING HOPE.
SAVING LIVES.

CancerFree KIDS' pinwheel symbolizes our commitment to helping kids be kids. By funding research to generate gentler and more effective treatments, our hope is that kids facing cancer will spend less time in the hospital and more time on the playground.

BEFORE PROMISING NEW RESEARCH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SUCCEED, IT MUST HAVE THE RESOURCES TO BEGIN.

The mission of CancerFree KIDS is to eradicate cancer as a life-threatening disease in children by funding promising research that might otherwise go unfunded. We are passionately dedicated to this cause because:

- More children in this country die of cancer than any other disease.
- Every 2 minutes, a child is diagnosed with cancer. The average age is 6 years old. 1 in 5 will not survive.
- More than 73% of childhood cancer survivors will have chronic health conditions caused by the treatment they received.
- And yet, research is critically and consistently underfunded: Less than 4% of federal funding for cancer research goes to childhood cancers.

CancerFree KIDS' investments provide seedfunding for innovative, high-risk/high-reward research. This essential, but extremely limited funding, is what is necessary to propel childhood cancer research forward to save kids' lives.

CancerFree KIDS has invested \$6 million in pediatric cancer research resulting in over \$70 million in additional funding.

As this year comes to a close I would like to thank our supporters for continuing to join us in investing in innovative childhood cancer research. In this unusual and challenging year, your unflagging generosity and support of CancerFree KIDS is not only appreciated, it is evident in the successes that I am excited to share with you today. I humbly thank you for supporting CancerFree KIDS, for making our mission a priority, but most importantly, for giving kids a chance to grow up.

- Jill Brinck, Executive Director

THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK





OUR GRANTS

HERE IS A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON BECAUSE OF YOU:

At CancerFree KIDS we do ONE thing: together with our supporters we invest in innovative research to find better treatments for kids with cancer. With your support, we are investing in some of the most exciting research in pediatric cancer today at two of the top eight pediatric cancer hospitals in the country - Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Nationwide Children's Hospital (Columbus, OH)!

CHILDHOOD ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA (AML)

Childhood Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) is an aggressive blood cancer which is most commonly diagnosed during the first 2 years of life and during the teenage years. In the U.S. the 5-year overall survival rate for children ranges between 65-75%. We are funding 4 highly innovative studies of new treatments for AML this year at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, including:

The Celebration of Champions Research Grant in honor of Sophia Kappen and Robin Sinclair is funding a study using very novel methodology that may lead to a paradigm shift in understanding Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) biology and to potential new therapies. Grant Recipient: Dr. Leighton Grimes, Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Also at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, we are investing in a first-in-pediatrics clinical trial to test a new method of putting AML into remission (Perentesis, Davies, CCHMC), a novel project that could lead to new directions in the treatment of relapse/refractory AML (Agarwal, CCHMC), and an exciting study to develop a new, less toxic and more personalized, immune cell therapy for relapsed pediatric AML (Wunderlich, Mizukawa, CCHMC).

GRANT SPOTLIGHT

The Celebration of Champions Research Grant in honor of Sophia Kappen and Robin Sinclair



Sophia was diagnosed with ALL (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia). She went into remission, but relapsed and underwent even more intensive treatment. After fulfilling her bucket list at 6 years old, Sophia passed away in 2017. Her family continues to remember and honor her through their signature "Toast to Mermaids."

Robin was also diagnosed with ALL. Since undergoing treatment at a young age, Robin has grown up to be a healthy, thriving and strong high school sophomore.



IMMUNOTHERAPY

Immunotherapy represents some of the most innovative and promising new treatments for many types of pediatric cancers. In addition to the immunotherapy study of AML mentioned above, we are investing in another project using immunotherapy for the treatment of patients with neuroblastoma (NB) (Trikha, Lee, NCH).

OSTEOSARCOMA AND EWING SARCOMA

Osteosarcoma and Ewing Sarcoma are two of the most common bone cancers and primarily affect children. Many patients with localized Osteosarcoma can be cured, however, for those with metastasis, cure rates are abysmal (20-30%). We are investing in 3 related studies this year:

The Night for the Fight Research Grant in memory of Jonathon Boerner

This study uses a highly innovative model that can be used to identify drugs that target metastasis seeding cells and hopes to develop new therapies for a disease where little substantive progress in treatment or cure rates has been made over the past three decades. Grant Recipients: Drs. Reinecke and Roberts, NCH.

Another innovative project studying Osteosarcoma is developing new understanding and treatment to mitigate metastasis in osteosarcoma patients (Francisco, Palumbo, Pressey, CCHMC) and a third seeks to develop novel genetically reprogrammed NK cell-based therapies to improve survival for kids with these devastating tumors (Meisam Naeimi Kararoudi, NCH). A highly innovative study of Ewing Sarcoma investigates a novel delivery system to make cancer cells more vulnerable to chemotherapy (Venkataramany, NCH).

GRANT SPOTLIGHT

The Night for the Fight Research Grant in memory of Jonathan Boerner



Jonathan Boerner was diagnosed August 8, 2017 with Stage 4 Ewing Sarcoma at 13 years. He went on to fight his cancer for 32 months enduring 14 rounds of chemo, two thoracotomies, 4 surgeries including one for 15 hours, high dose chemo and stem cell recovery, experimental treatments, over 200 days in the hospital, and many rounds of radiation. Jonathan passed April 3, 2020 at age 16. Jonathan loved life and was the fourth of seven children. Jonathan enjoyed playing his viola, LEGOS, acting, Doctor Who, video games, time with friends, his church family, and his time on the Patient Advisory Council at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. He loved attending CancerFree KIDS Night for the Fight and would have been honored to have a grant in his name.

RHABDOMYOSARCOMA, MEDULLOBLASTOMA AND DIPG

Rhabdomyosarcoma, Medulloblastoma and DIPG (Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Gliomas) are three of the most challenging of pediatric cancers with patients desperately in need of new therapies. We are investing in:

Two novel studies of Rhabdomyosarcoma aim to find new genetic insights that will significantly enhance the ability to treat the disease (Khurshid, NCH, Sunkel, NCH) and another project will evaluate the efficacy of a new potential treatment for Medulloblastoma that could have high impact. Two highly innovative studies hope to improve outcomes for children with DIPG, which is currently untreatable. The first is the application of a widely available drug for the treatment of DIPG (Berry, CCHMC) and the other will seek to alter the micro-environment to make it more vulnerable to immunotherapy (Modur, CCHMC).

LATE EFFECTS

Childhood cancer survivors have 8 to 10 times higher mortality rates in adulthood, as compared to the normal population due to mitigate treatment-induced long-term side effects. We are investing in:

A groundbreaking study identifying ways to reduce the risk of treatment-induced secondary breast cancer for young girls during puberty (Johnstone, CCHMC) and a novel study aimed at understanding and controlling treatment-related pulmonary fibrosis (lung scarring), a leading cause of death in childhood cancer survivors (Herro, CCHMC).

YEAR AT A GLANCE

SIGNATURE EVENTS





High school students stayed up all night in February to knock out childhood cancer at Night for the Fight.







\$445,361 Raised



Supporters and Champions celebrated during our CancerFree KIDS Celebration of Champions: Home Edition

YEAR AT A GLANCE

THIRD PARTY EVENTS

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISERS

- Champion's Challenge Cyclists
- Chicken Salad Chick
- Courage Court Challenge
- D1 Training
- Donatos
- Five Below
- Flying Pig Marathon Participants
- Jersey Mike's Subs
- King Pin's Alley Family Fun Center
- Kids Supporting KIDS:
 - Ellie, Sophia, Marissa, Ella, Juliana and Sarah, Bake Sale
 - Mia and Owen, Mailbox Painting
 - Nolan, Bracelet Sales
- Lori Foster, Reader & Author Get Together
- Magnified Giving
- Mason and Sycamore Girls Basketball, Live for Liz
- Monster Mash Natural Bodybuilding Championships
- Naperville Marathon Participants
- Paxton's Golf Outing
- Pi Kappa Alpha
- ProSource
- Sunshine Acres Lavender Farm
- Tom Fitz
- Tony Cappel

















""By investing in young researchers and fresh ideas, the CancerFree KIDS grants are able to multiply their influence as those investigators and ideas mature and develop."

Benjamin E. Mizukawa, MD
 (CCHMC, 2009 & 2016 Grant Recipient)

THANK YOU

To our donors, sponsors, volunteers, researchers, board members and all supporters, we thank you for joining us in our mission to give kids a chance to grow up.

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