Children's Cancer Research Fund®

MEETING THE MOMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 OPENING LETTER

4 MEETING THE MOMENT

6 RESEARCH WINS

9 PROGRAM WINS

10 EVENT WINS

18 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

21 BOARD AND STAFF LEADERSHIP

22 MISSION STATEMENT

LETTER FROM THE CEO

We are pleased to present this impact report for our fiscal year, which was January 1 to December 31, 2020.

The year 2020 was full of challenges. A global pandemic meant that many of us feared for our own health as well as the health of our loved ones. It also entailed economic uncertainty, and was a difficult year for nonprofits nationwide. But because of loyal supporters like you, that wasn't the case for Children's Cancer Research Fund.

You met the moment – you donated, fundraised, spread the word, asked "how can I help?" and joined us in furthering our mission.

> You understood that childhood cancer research can't afford to stall, and you stepped up to keep vital research moving forward.

This incredible swell of support showed me, as a new CEO to CCRF, the strength of the community that was built around this mission 40 years ago.

This past year also brought greater global curiosity about science and medicine, and the impact we can make by focusing our energy and resources on an ambitious goal. In 2020, we awarded $10.5 million to childhood cancer research projects, the most we've ever awarded in a one-year period. These research projects seek to make today's treatments more effective and lay the groundwork for tomorrow's therapies and cures for kids fighting cancer. Thank you for being part of the Children's Cancer Research Fund community. I hope you are immensely proud of what we've been able to achieve together.

I'm grateful to you for helping us meet the moment this past year, and I can't wait to see what we can accomplish for childhood cancer families in brighter days ahead.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gumnit, CEO
Children's Cancer Research Fund

FEATURED STORY:

MEETING THE MOMENT

2020 felt like a different world for many, but to cancer families, social distancing and mask-wearing are nothing new. Many cancer treatments wipe out a child's immune system, meaning even the common cold could result in a trip to the emergency room. These families self-quarantine whenever their child's immune system is particularly weak – after bone marrow transplant, during chemotherapy infusions and while recovering from major surgery.

"I remember feeling like we were in a fishbowl. We could see out, and others could see in, but we were separated by our different realities. Those outside the bowl didn't really understand what it was like in there. Wyatt's first round of chemo was in the spring, and I was so grateful we were coming out of flu season. But Henry was in school and I worried a lot about the germs he could bring home. It's tough for brothers to practice social distancing!" – Whitney, whose son, Wyatt, was diagnosed with neuroblastoma in 2018.

"Our first time social distancing was the end of May 2017 when we first experienced low ANC (absolute neutrophil count) due to Bella's first round of chemotherapy. The way we described it – the ANC are the white ninjas that keep her body safe from germs. When there aren't many of them, it makes it easier for the germs to attack and make her sick. That's why we had to distance ourselves from everyone. We felt pretty foreign to this new isolation." – Tabitha, whose daughter Bella was diagnosed with hepatoblastoma in 2017.

"It was after our very first chemo session. I was so scared even though Zein's immune system wasn't completely shot yet. But I didn't know what to expect. I kept sanitizing everything, I stayed away from everyone and I was just looking at his head waiting for his hair to fall. We had masks on and stayed away from anyone who was sneezing or coughing. It sure was a scary beginning for what life after that became for us." – Radwa, mom to Zein, a four-time cancer survivor who was first diagnosed with neuroblastoma in 2013.

> “I REMEMBER FEELING LIKE WE WERE IN A FISHBOWL. WE COULD SEE OUT, AND OTHERS COULD SEE IN, BUT WE WERE SEPARATED BY OUR DIFFERENT REALITIES.”

Through it all, these kids and their families were resilient, rallying their support systems around them – and though it hasn't been easy, these families and those who love them have met the moment. After talking to these families and re-assessing the needs of the pediatric cancer community, we decided to focus our efforts on a few major areas that would make the greatest difference in this strange new world.

We made our priorities clear, and with your help, we were able to follow the example of these incredible cancer families and meet the moment. Read below about how we shifted our resources to best support the pediatric cancer community during this time.

> “WE HAD MASKS ON AND STAYED AWAY FROM ANYONE WHO WAS SNEEZING OR COUGHING. IT SURE WAS A SCARY BEGINNING FOR WHAT LIFE AFTER THAT BECAME FOR US.”

WITH YOUR HELP, WE FOCUSED ON TARGETED TREATMENTS THAT LEAVE IMMUNE SYSTEMS INTACT

Many of today's cancer treatments, including chemotherapy, radiation and bone marrow transplant, wipe out a child's immune system, sometimes for years after treatment has finished.

You helped us fund researchers who know that cancer treatment doesn't have to be this way. Cell, gene and immunotherapies and new targeted drug therapies allow the patient's immune system to remain intact, decreasing recovery times and risk of infection. For 40 years, CCRF has funded this type of cutting-edge research – the pandemic only heightened the urgency and need for these discoveries.

YOU HELPED US SUPPORT:

+ Maxim Pimkin, MD, PhD at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, who is exploring how depleting two proteins in the body could lead to an “Achilles heel” therapy which will selectively kill leukemia cells.

+ Christopher Moertel, MD, and Michael Olin, PhD, at the University of Minnesota who are developing a vaccine that can “turn off” a protein called CD200, which shields brain tumors from a child's immune system and immunotherapies meant to kill it.

+ Beau Webber, PhD, at the University of Minnesota who is applying his new genetic findings to attack osteosarcoma from all angles, using the immune system and “biological scissors” that can edit DNA.

RESEARCH WINS


Cash, cancer survivor, with his father

EMERGING SCIENTISTS

Dr. Giedre Krenciute is testing different cancer-fighting CAR T cells to see which is most effective against medulloblastoma, an aggressive brain tumor. By funding these Emerging Scientists, you're ensuring that researchers who are still early in their careers are able to explore their great ideas.

HARD-TO-TREAT CANCERS

Dr. Jessical Pollard from Dana Farber Cancer Institute is researching how a new combination of drugs may be able to treat kids with pediatric myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), with a lower level of toxicity than today's treatments. This could increase survival rates for kids with this rare disease, which currently has a survival rate as low as 35%.

SURVIVORSHIP

Dr. Alicia Kunin-Batson's work is uncovering the role that healthy behaviors like physical activity, sleep, healthy eating habits and reduced screen time play on the overall health of childhood cancer survivors.

CCRF AWARDED GRANTS TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

+ Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
+ Childhood Cancer & Leukemia International Consortium
+ Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute, Oregon
+ Children's Minnesota
+ Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
+ Children's Oncology Group
+ Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston
+ Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
+ St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis
+ University of California-San Francisco
+ University of Chicago
+ University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center, Minneapolis

MINNESOTA COUPLE'S $925,000 GIFT FUNDS LEADING EDGE CANCER TECHNOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

In April 2021, staff at the University of Minnesota finished installing a piece of equipment called the Helios mass cytometer – a machine that will enable cancer researchers to glean more information from cells than has ever been available to them before.

John Wagner, MD, Founding Director of the Institute of Cell, Gene and Immunotherapies at the University of Minnesota explains it like this: Imagine that important data on our cells are like colors. With older technology, we could only see four or five colors simultaneously. But with the Helios mass cytometer, researchers can see between 50 and 100 colors simultaneously. This incredible cellular technology could have applications far beyond cancer. But in cancer research, this means researchers can significantly speed up the process of studying how certain immunotherapies fight cancer, without needing to export their samples to be processed through one of the few Helios mass cytometers in the country – they have access to their own, conveniently located on UMN's Twin Cities campus.

"Having this technology at the University of Minnesota allows us to do things that most other research centers can't do," said Wagner. "In cancer, we are focused in manipulating the immune system so it targets cancer and kills it more effectively. This state-of-the-art piece of equipment will allow us to explore these changes in single cells, so we can more accurately see the impact these therapies have on the immune system."

Incredibly, this groundbreaking piece of technology was fully funded by a nearly $1 million gift from one Minnesota couple – Fritz and Glenda Corrigan.

Fritz and Glenda have seen firsthand how science and research can have a significant impact on someone's quality of life – and how speeding up the pace of discovery can save lives.

The Corrigans' son suffers from cluster headaches, a rare – and therefore understudied – severe form of primary neurovascular headaches. In an effort

Fritz and Glenda, pictured with their children and grandchildren

> “YOU JUST HAVE TO START SOMEPLACE, YOU CAN’T DO NOTHING. AS A PARENT, YOU DO WHAT YOU CAN, AND YOU START WITH YOUR FRIENDS.”

to improve quality of life for their son and others twhose lives are impacted by the unpredictable, debilitating pain, Fritz and Glenda asked their friend John Hallberg, then CEO of CCRF, to help find the world’s best neurologist who studies this rare affliction. Using CCRF’s reach in medical research, he identified Dr. Peter Goadsby, an Aussie neurologist studying cluster headaches at King’s College – London. They gave his research the injection of funding he needed to develop a monoclonal antibody that stops these painful headaches in their tracks.

Fritz and Glenda’s close friends, Norm and Diana Hageboeck, followed a similar path when they lost their daughter, Katie, to leukemia. For 40 years, funding research has bonded the two couples: Norm and Diana started Children’s Cancer Research Fund in 1981, and Fritz and Glenda have been steadfast supporters since the very beginning. Fritz served on the board of directors early on, and the couple has always made it a priority to continue Katie’s legacy.

“You just have to start someplace, you can’t do nothing,” Glenda said. “As a parent, you do what you can, and you start with your friends. That’s what we did, and that’s what Norm and Diana did with CCRF, and that’s what John Hallberg did on our behalf. Our CCRF investment in the Helios mass cytometer is partly payback to John, the Hageboecks, and CCRF.”

He and Glenda say they worked hard for 50+ years to be able to fund research at this level, and they’re grateful to have found a project that aligns well with their interests, and could have such a positive impact on so many lives.

“This project seemed to fit my curiosities because if you can multiply the people that can be treated, or if we can help researchers be more efficient at doing that, that’s what we want to do,” said Fritz. “We’ve seen the difference that research can make… you just have to have a result you’re trying to achieve, and a person who motivates you to dig in. For us, that was our son. For Norm and Diana, it was Katie.”

Norm and Diana, who founded CCRF in 1981, are always heartened to see how their daughter’s legacy continues to inspire generosity, even four decades later. CCRF started as a close-knit network of friends, but over 40 years has now grown into a national organization that has contributed $194 million to childhood cancer research.

“It’s people like the Corrigans who show us that Katie’s wish, to find better treatments and cures for the kids who came after her, is possible,” said Diana. “CCRF and cancer research as a whole wouldn’t be where it is today without the generosity and friendship of people like Fritz and Glenda.”

PROGRAM WINS

EXPERIENCES FOR KIDS WHO DESERVE ADVENTURE

We believe kids fighting cancer deserve adventure, even if they can't leave home. We partnered with musician and artist James Orrigo to create the Big Dreams Virtual Tour, a personalized virtual reality experience for kids fighting cancer. James meets the child in a three-dimensional virtual space and collaborates with them to bring their imaginations to life. The Big Dreams Virtual Tour was funded by a single donor whose goal was to ensure kids fighting cancer could have fun, meaningful childhood experiences, even in the midst of cancer treatment.

Danny, cancer survivor

PROGRAMS THAT FOSTER COMMUNITY AND HEALING

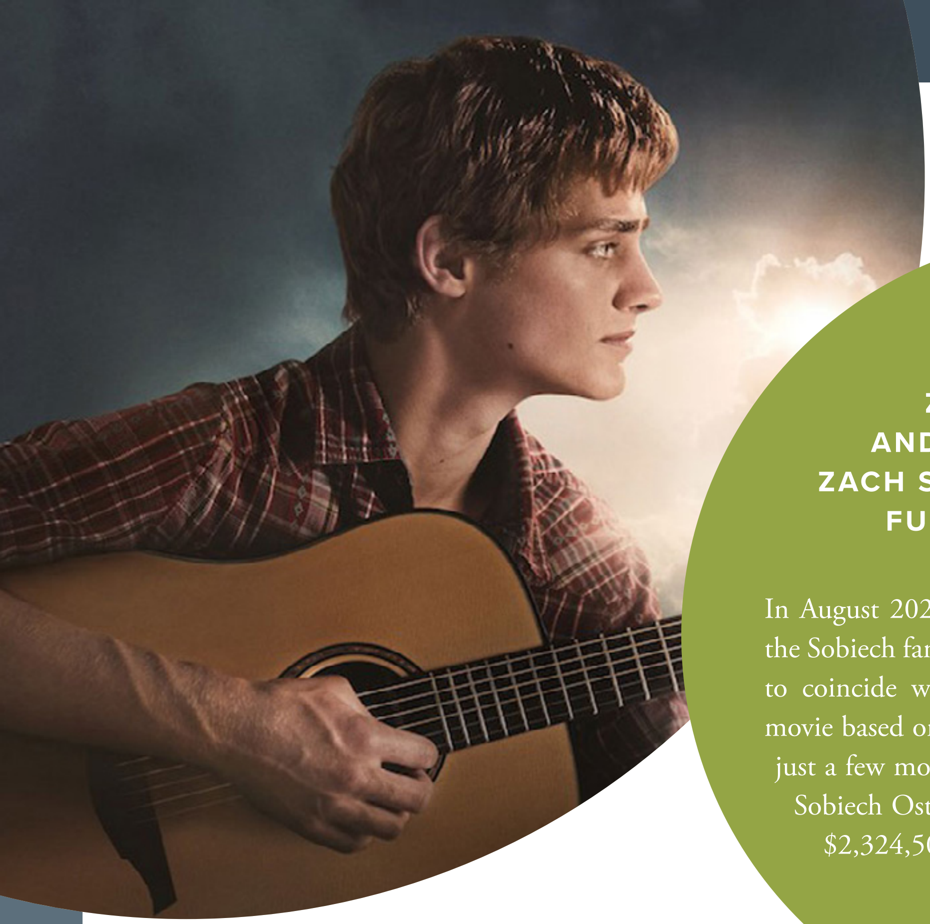
For six years, we've provided support to Momcology, an organization that connects and provides a healing environment to childhood cancer families through peer support. Typically, we've funded in-person events such as restorative retreats and coffee connections. With your help, we were able to support Momcology's shift to virtual events and ways to connect. In addition, CCRF facilitated online "Heart to Hearts," which explore a different part of the cancer experience every other week. Your contributions ensured that even while cancer caregivers were socially distanced, they knew they weren't alone.

Cancer caregivers on a Momcology retreat

EVENT WINS

GREAT CYCLE CHALLENGE BREAKS RECORDS, RAISING NEARLY $15 MILLION

Despite moving from June to September due to COVID-19, Great Cycle Challenge, an annual monthlong cycling and fundraising challenge, broke all previous fundraising records, raising nearly $15 million for childhood cancer research! On Kick Cancer's Butt Day, the biggest fundraising day of the event, GCC riders raised $2,378,810 in just 24 hours.



ZACH'S MOVEMENT AND CLOUDS CHOIR HELP ZACH SOBIECH OSTEOSARCOMA FUND TOP $2.3 MILLION

In August 2020, Children's Cancer Research Fund and the Sobiech family started Zach's Movement, a campaign to coincide with the release of "Clouds," an original movie based on the life of Zach Sobiech on Disney+. In just a few months, Zach's Movement helped the Zach Sobiech Osteosarcoma Fund grow to an incredible $2,324,505 for osteosarcoma research.

The emotional yet uplifting film drove people from around the world to want to learn more about Zach, his life and his wish to make the fight against osteosarcoma easier for the kids who come after him. Just a few days after the release of "Clouds," Zach's song soared to No. 1 on iTunes, making him the first unsigned artist to ever reach No. 1 twice.

The incredible swell of support for Zach's Movement culminated with the 8th annual Clouds Choir, a virtual event hosted by Minnesota radio station KS95.

For more about Zach Sobiech's story, visit ChildrensCancer.org/Zach.

CCRF
DREAM
2020

DREAM 2020 FUNDS SEVEN NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS

Dream 2020, CCRF's annual gala that was held virtually in April, raised over $330,000, enough to fund seven new research projects that will enable progress for kids who are fighting different types of cancer. This year's grants will focus on the following:

+ Acute lymphoblastic leukemia
+ Pediatric germ cell tumors
+ Central nervous system tumors
+ Retinoblastoma
+ Sarcomas
+ Graft-versus-host disease

During Dream, supporters heard the story of Nate, a talented guitar player who is fighting osteosarcoma.

Nate spoke with a truly moving sense of determination during the event, saying, "I'd pay a ton of money just to make sure no one has to go through this again. I'd work for a thousand years for that. If I had to go through it one more time so someone else wouldn't, I'd do it. If just one of those could have been prevented, that would be incredible."


Brice

KS95 FOR KIDS RADIOTHON RAISES $636,334

In its 22nd year, the KS95 for Kids Radiothon raised $636,334. This event, which benefits Children's Cancer Research Fund and Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, supports groundbreaking research that makes treatment easier for kids like Harper and Harriet, who are both fighting leukemia. It also leaves a legacy of hope in honor of kids like Brice, who sadly passed away from a brain tumor last year at just 17 months old. Brice's dad, Chris, says he's thankful for everyone who donated, and that the impact Brice's story can have on other kids is part of what makes it worth sharing.

THE WALK FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH RAISES OVER $70,000

The Walk for Childhood Cancer Research, which went virtual due to COVID-19, raised over $70,000 in September. Using the MoveSpring app, teams from 15 states tracked their steps, competed against one another and cheered one another on while fundraising for childhood cancer research.

"One thing to be hopeful about is survival rates are getting better, and the prospects for survivors are getting better, said Logan Spector, PhD, a researcher at the University of Minnesota. Because of research in my field, we're now able to read a genome more cheaply, quickly and accurately, meaning research dollars go further."

CCRF HONORS OUR 2020 BUTTERFLY AWARD WINNERS

Each year, Children's Cancer Research Fund presents Butterfly Awards to individuals, organizations and teams that have contributed significant time and resources to ending childhood cancer. These are the people that make the pursuit of our mission possible.

JON AND JILL HALPER

VOLUNTEER

Jon Halper's sister, Jobi, survived osteosarcoma as a child. Inspired by his sister's cancer journey, Jon has dedicated himself to CCRF as a member of the Board and Development Committee. He and Jill are founding members of the Monarch Circle, a generous group of supporters with family connections to CCRF across generations. Jon and Jill have also found creative ways to rally support for CCRF through their business, Top Ten Liquors, with in-kind donations, virtual tasting experiences and more.

PATRICK CONROY + RODRIGUEZ EMBROIDERY

CORPORATE

Since 2008, Rodriguez Embroidery has volunteered to store, pack and ship every C.C. Bear, the special donor-supported teddy bear for children fighting cancer and their siblings. They have shipped thousands of bears across the country, connecting kids to not only a new cuddly friend but also to our organization and our mission. Patrick donates his free time to ensure that a requested C.C. Bear gets shipped the same day it is requested.

JEFF MULDER

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Jeff Mulder, Great Cycle Challenge fundraising extraordinaire, decided to do something special when he reached the top of the leaderboard in 2020. He decided to personally donate to other riders to inspire them and keep them motivated. Jeff is the kind of fundraiser Great Cycle Challenge has always hoped to inspire - someone who is selfless, dedicated to building community with his fellow riders, and determined to make his dollar make the greatest difference for kids fighting cancer.

NATE PRIGGE + FAMILY

AMBASSADOR

Nate was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in 2019 – doctors first found it on his ribs, creeping toward his spine. Nate generously shared his story, in the hopes that it would inspire people to fund research that would make treatments easier for kids diagnosed in the future. Nate and his family let us into their lives during some of the darkest moments, and whenever Nate receives good news, they allow us in to share in their celebration. We're so lucky to have met a family who has been so generous with their time and story.

MEG MCELROY

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Meg has been a powerhouse fundraiser and advocate for CCRF for 12 years through her annual Christmas Party. Leading up to the party, she creates compelling "why CCRF is important" messages to her friends and family, utilizes fundraising best practices and encourages donors to contribute during Give To the Max Day to rally her supporters. In 2020, Meg was not able to host her party because of the pandemic. However, thanks to her tenacity and her loyal supporters, she had another record-breaking year raising nearly $25,000, bringing her total to $126,523 since 2009.

LINDA CERNI

CARE PARTNERS

Linda has been a Care Partners Unit Volunteer since 2012, driving over thirty miles for her weekly volunteer shift and completing over 1,300 volunteer hours. During that time, she has provided support for hundreds of patients and their families during their hospital stay for a bone marrow transplant. Volunteering is personal to Linda - she lost her nephew to Ewing sarcoma at 26 years old and volunteers as a way to remember him and honor his legacy. We are so fortunate to have Linda as a thoughtful, dependable, caring and skilled volunteer for Care Partners all these years.

BRANDEN MORIARITY

PHD, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MEDICAL

Branden Moriarity's research focuses on developing cellular therapeutics for gene therapy and cancer immunotherapy with the goal of translating new therapeutics to the clinic. The first in his family to graduate college, Branden began his research career in 2012 in researcher and mentor David Largaespada's lab. Today, Branden runs his own research lab and has brought two potentially groundbreaking new osteosarcoma drugs to clinical trial. He says his dream is that his body of work will one day completely change the way osteosarcoma is treated and drastically improve survival rates for patients.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FISCAL YEAR: JANUARY 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020

SUPPORT & REVENUE	CY20	FY19.5
General contributions	$5,490,431	$2,555,732
Events	$16,031,590	$2,108,804
Direct expenses	$93,549	$89,419
Donated goods & services	$13,591,772	$4,503,509
Cause marketing	$112,573	$102,395
Investment income	$481,344	$269,696
Other	$47,355	$48,716
TOTAL REVENUES AND GAINS	**$35,661,516**	**$9,499,433**

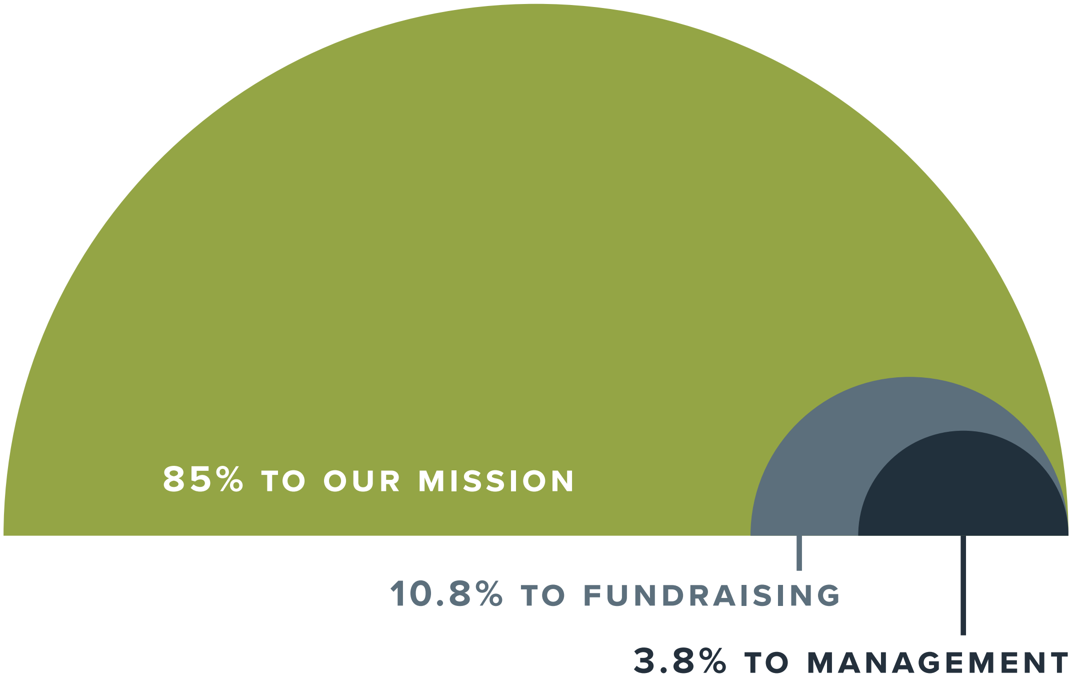
EXPENSES		
Program services		
Research	$10,532,990	$1,276,486
Education & awareness	$19,237,198	$6,431,335
Patient & family services	$610,298	$146,651
Supporting services		
Fundraising	$3,838,982	$950,826
Management & general	$1,339,426	$568,049
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$35,558,894**	**$9,373,347**

NET ASSETS		
Other income	$582,200	
Change in net assets	$684,822	$126,086
Net assets, beginning of year	$4,869,326	$4,743,240
Net assets, end of year	$5,554,148	$4,869,326

OUT OF $35.6 MILLION,

$30.4 MILLION

SUPPORTED OUR MISSION
IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2020



EXPENSE RATIOS

PROGRAM SERVICES		
Research	29.6%	$10,532,990
Education & awareness	54.1%	$19,237,198
Patient & family services	1.7%	$610,298
SUPPORTING SERVICES		
Fundraising	10.8%	$3,838,982
Management & general	3.8%	$1,339,426
TOTAL	**100.0%**	**$35,558,894**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	CY20	FY19.5
Cash & cash equivalents	$9,742,449	$3,915,500
Investments	$4,110,480	$3,576,248
Pledge receivables, net	$1,720,236	$1,486,193
Property & equipment, net	$254,099	$240,989
Other assets	$361,839	$188,391
TOTAL ASSETS	**$16,189,103**	**$9,407,321**
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	$432,610	$240,254
Accrued payroll & related	$344,753	$217,974
Other liabilities	$173,000	$85,559
Grants payable, net	$9,684,592	$3,994,208
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$10,634,955**	**$4,537,995**
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions		
Operating	$1,275,481	$668,753
Board designated	$3,230,930	$2,999,586
With donor restrictions	$1,047,737	$1,200,987
TOTAL NET ASSETS	**$5,554,148**	**$4,869,326**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	**$16,189,103**	**$9,407,321**

BOARD AND STAFF LEADERSHIP

Chairperson
Michelle Johnson

Secretary and Vice Chairperson
Susan Doherty

Treasurer
Dan Bartholet

Immediate Past Chair
Matt Hedman

Corporate Resource
Jon Halper

Board Members
Ingrid Culp
Peter Dorow
Barb Farrell
John Golden
Carol Grannis
Meghan Harris
Molly Kinsella
Dawn Lamm
Kris Larson
Pete Leacock
Charles Manzoni
Beth Monsrud
Dan Seeman
Greg Soukup
Carmen Thiede
Chris Toppin
Jen Wilson

National Advisory Council
Souheil Badran
Suzanne Boda
R.J. Shook
Cari Erickson Streich

Research Advisory Committee
Oren Becher, MD
Lisa Diller, MD
Abbie Miller, MD
Sabine Mueller, MD, PhD
Jake Petersburg, PhD
Logan Spector, PhD
Leo Wang, MD
Jason Yustein, MD

Chief Medical Advisors Emeritus
Mark Nesbit, Jr., MD
Norma Ramsay, MD

Honorary Directors
Diana & Norm Hageboeck

Life Advisors
Jan Humphrey
Del Johnson
Phil McGlave, MD
Joe Neglia, MD, MPH
Deb Nesbit
Jane Ramsland
Cal Simmons
Sharon Waller

National Honorary Chairs
Tom & Melissa Lehman

Staff Leadership
Daniel Gumnit
Chief Executive Officer

Tamara Andrews
Human Resources Manager

Erin Cohen
Director, Events and Partnerships

Kenna Dooley
Director, Development and Donor Relations

Darla Nemec
Director, Finance and Operations

HaiVy Thompson
Vice President, Mission and Marketing

Liam, cancer survivor, with his family

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION.

Every week, 38 kids pass away from cancer. We want to stop this, so we support the brightest and boldest minds whose groundbreaking research is leading to better treatments and cures. We also fund vital family support services and advocate for childhood cancer education and awareness.

Zein, cancer survivor, with his parents