

# Friends of Kids with Cancer

Helping a kid with cancer...be  
a kid.



# Friends of Kids with Cancer

## OUR HISTORY

- Founded in 1992 by Developmental Specialists and parents of children in treatment who witnessed their kids struggles
- Friends is unique:
  - Not about the research
  - To cancer's littlest victim, research is just another big word
  - Important to get through TODAY

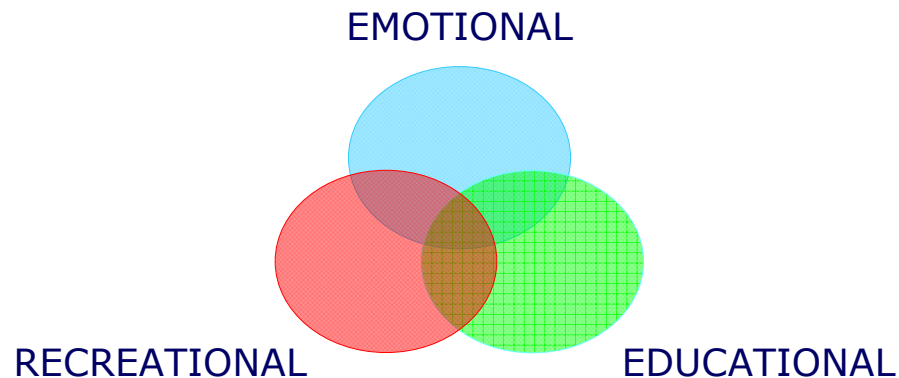
## OUR MISSION

To be an advocate for these special kids and provide them and their families with the recreational, education and emotional support needed throughout the long hours of chemotherapy, illness and isolation.



# PROGRAMS

- We offer 14 different programs and services
- Programs come at request of medical staff at area hospitals and clinics
- Began as fun and diversion and was expanded into vital areas of mental well being and educational support
- A positive mental outlook can be as important as medicine
- Provide children with hope and will to live
- Three categories of programs:



# EMOTIONAL

## ART THERAPY

- Provides certified Art Therapist
- Benefits of Art Therapy
  - Gives child tool of empowerment
  - Provides communication when words cannot suffice
  - Use artwork as creative outlet to release their emotions
  - Helps them to sort through feelings, confusion, and fear

## PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES/SUPPORT GROUPS

- Provides financial assistance for crisis intervention counseling sessions for children and their entire families
- Professional Psychologist
- Friends also offers support groups for siblings and parents of kids in treatment
- Goal is to help children and families deal with issues that weigh heavily in minds and hearts



# EDUCATIONAL

## EdMAP (Educational and Motivational Assistance)

- High quality, cost free assistance from Edmap Educator
  - Individual, small group and home tutorial sessions
  - Helps to develop self-esteem and educational motivation while combating the long term cognitive effects caused by severity of their treatment
  - Restores the hope of returning to a normal lifestyle

## Educational Testing

- Long term effects of toxic treatments can be devastating
- Can cause mild to severe learning difficulties
- Battery of standardized tests and assessments administered to determine a baseline study of cognitive development and psychosocial stability
- Meets with teachers to develop individualized learning techniques for academic success



# RECREATIONAL

## ENTERTAINMENT

- Movies
- Video Games
- Board Games
- Toys
- Books
- Markers
- Paints
- Craft Supplies



## PARTIES AND EVENTS

- Winter Wonderland Party
- Halloween Party
- Family Night at the Magic House
- Sponsored Group Outings and Trips





# RECREATIONAL (cont.)

## TOY CLOSETS-TOY CHESTS

- Inaugural Program remains cornerstone
- Every Child's Dream
- Toy Closets and Chests stocked at all area treatment centers
- Look of wonder on a child's face helps ease the work of the doctors and nurses
- Siblings lives are deeply affected and sometimes overlooked in the shuffle
- Bringing happiness is the best part of the day

## MUNCHIE MONDAY

Provides a yummy lunch or treats brought in by special volunteers to welcome a change from the everyday routine

- Pizza Parties
- Ice Cream Treats
- Sub Sandwiches
- Burgers and Fries
- Pasta and Salad

**AND MUCH MORE!**



# RECREATIONAL (cont.)

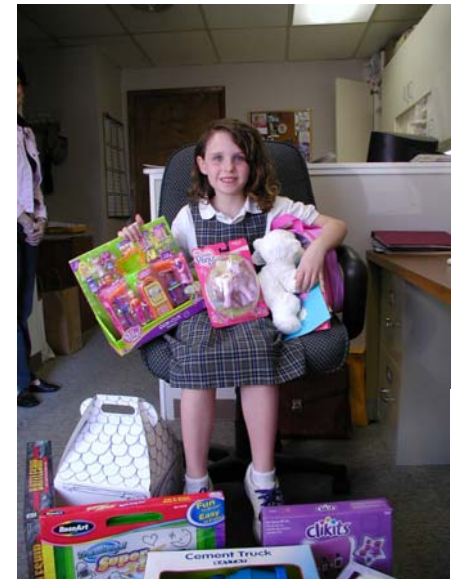
## BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT UNIT

- Expected hospitalization is 6 weeks of total isolation
- High risk of infection in special unit
- Provides Child Life Therapist with \$200 for each child
- Maintains supplies for Parent's Room of the unit



## IAN KYLE FUND

- Founded to assist growing number of children who relapse
- GOAL = Extra Special Gifts to boost morale as they face increasingly intense treatments
- HOPE, COMFORT, AND ENERGY





# RECREATIONAL (cont.)

## SMILE MAKERS

- Some of the hottest tickets in town
- Dozens of generous companies and individuals continuously donate tickets
- Dedicated staff and volunteers make sure they are delivered to kids who need them most



## MEMORY MAKERS

- Funded Through the Erna Deutsch Fund
- Provides extra special items or experiences at a time most needed
- Gives families lasting memories
  - Holiday Shopping Sprees
  - Gift Certificates

**AND MUCH MORE!!**



## SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

- Friends grants a child's request on a smaller but much more frequent basis
- Special requests are recommended to us by health care providers who work with kids daily
- \$200 - \$300 spent annually per request



## OTHER SERVICES

- Buckets of Love
- Austin's Beads of Courage
- Ellen's Fund
- Jeremy Project
- Camp Rainbow

