

Friend to Friend

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR OUR FAMILIES

When a family is hit with an unexpected medical crisis, it often feels as though the world is turned upside down. With all efforts focused on caring for the sick child, it's easy for a family to become worn thin physically and emotionally. Everyday tasks like taking siblings to school, cooking a meal or mowing the lawn take a backseat amidst hospital stays and worried phone calls. It is during these challenging times that SUPPORT becomes invaluable. "Family and friends constantly asking me what they can do is appreciated but very stressful because I can't even process the day. When people just step up by bringing a meal, cleaning my house, carpooling my kids relieves some of the worries and stress. It's the little things that mean the world."

Friends of Kids with Cancer is right there with family and friends giving the emotional support so needed. We are very excited and proud that we have continued to expand our support groups, and they have proven to be valuable tools to open up communication not only for the child with cancer, but for each member of the family.

SIBLING SUPPORT GROUP

The siblings of a child with cancer are often lost in the shuffle of doctor visits and hospital stays. Their perception is that their sister or brother is more important. During the sibling group they meet other kids who share this unexpected change in their family life and feel safe to express their real feelings. "I really like coming to group because I feel special and do fun things like art, decorate cupcakes and be with my new friends." **Lily – 9**



PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

The Parent Support Group allows them to better understand and deal with their particular situation while their child is in treatment. They can openly share their tears, fears and frustrations with others who understand their feelings and that they are not alone. New and helpful coping skills are introduced to give them the courage to face each day.

ADOLESCENT/YOUNG ADULT SUPPORT GROUP

One would assume going from a "patient" to a "survivor" is easy; not so. They live with the fear of a relapse and the difficulties of re-entering the normal world. This young adult group has been effective in addressing issues of being a young survivor, sharing their journeys and facing the adult life ahead.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

When parents, who unfortunately have lost their child, are invited to participate in a Grief Support Group, their first reaction

usually is, "Really, I am fine." Then reality sets in and they are living in a world of confusion, unanswered questions, anger and fearful thoughts of how can I go on. They need to release their emotions in an atmosphere where people understand their language. A sympathetic ear and encouraging words are the core of our Grief Support Groups.

We not only help kids with cancer...be kids; we offer SUPPORT to the entire family.

MOMS' SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP

One of our newer groups is "Moms' Night Out" which technically is more of a social group that offers unstructured support. All moms are welcome regardless if your child is in treatment, a survivor or a special angel. The destination and activity is always unique and offers our moms a sharing opportunity. ***"Moms' Night Out is one of my favorite things that Friends sponsors. Thank you for the conversation and support."***



2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mary Mercurio, President
Tom Lynch, Vice President
Matt White, Vice President
Jay Adams, Treasurer
Merri Cross, Secretary
Rick Lommel, Emeritus*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kris Arneson
Marianne Bergamini
Matt Biffignani
Gary Bilder
Allen Brockman*
Don Brown
Jonathan Burke
Joe Curotto
Mandy Drozda
Kelly Hager
Rick Henry
Sharon Huber
Mary Jotte*
John Kijowski
Cheryl Lawless
Kathy Manganaro*
Chuck McDonnal
Margie Sedlack
Ed Schmid
Frank Schmidt
Ben Turec*
Jill Turec
Mary Lynne Wilson
Terri Wurdack*

ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Robert Bergamini
Dr. Gordon Gale
Dr. Karen Gauvain
Dr. Rob Hanson

HONORARY BOARD

Gene Deutsch
Alfred Goldman
Molly Henry*
Dan McLaughlin
Libby McLaughlin
Tom O'Neal
Guy Phillips
Gary Saettele
*Past Presidents

STAFF

Judy Ciapciak, Executive Director
Brandy Bimslager, Associate Director
Kyle Tons, Communications Specialist
Margie Sedlack, Program Coordinator
Diane Voigt, Bookkeeper

OUR MISSION

Friends of Kids with Cancer is devoted to enriching the daily lives of children undergoing treatment for, and survivors of, cancer and blood-related diseases. Our mission is to be an advocate for these special kids and provide them and their families with the educational, emotional and recreational support needed as a result of the long hours of chemotherapy, illness and isolation.

OUR PROGRAMS



Think

Our Educational Programs engage our patients' minds and enhance their self-esteem.



Feel

Our Emotional Programs instill confidence in our patients and help form therapeutic relationships, which assist in releases built-up emotions.



Smile

Our Recreational Programs keep smiles on our kids' faces every day despite their illnesses.

BOARD MEMBER SHOUT-OUT THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK MATT WHITE



Matt White has been associated with Friends of Kids with Cancer since 2005 when he was the Director of Development for two years. Although he advanced his career as Executive Director of Medical Center Development at St. Louis University and then went on to be Vice President & Chief Development Officer at Ranken Jordan; his passion and dedication for "Friends" kept him very close and involved. Matt joined the Board of Directors in 2012 and served as Chair of our Development, Strategic Plan and Planned Giving committees. He presently serves on the Executive Board as Second Vice President where he has provided an invaluable service to the organization.

Matt has accepted a position with the Kansas State University Foundation as Associate Vice President of Constituent Development and will be relocating to Manhattan, Kansas. It is bitter sweet that we congratulate Matt on this incredible opportunity. His passion, commitment, intellect, insight, nonprofit experience and resources will be tremendously missed. We will always be grateful for his dedication to our mission of helping kids with cancer...be kids.

Everyone at Friends would like to wish Matt, his wife, Christy, and their three children, David, Audrey and George all the best, as well as a successful and safe move.

"It has been such an honor and pleasure to have served as an employee and board member of Friends. Even though I will not be in St. Louis, you always will be part of my life and I will continue to be involved and encourage you to contact me should you need anything." Matt

We thank you, wish you lots of luck, and will miss you.

YOUR LEGACY....OUR FUTURE

"I have included my favorite charity, **Friends of Kids with Cancer**, in my trust as a Planned Giving Gift. I am so moved by all the tenderness, care and love that they provide every day to these very special kids and their families. As a former Board Member, Finance Committee Member and volunteer for the past 12 years, I know that my bequest will be carefully invested and managed to provide the best possible return to sustain and expand the "Mission" of this wonderful charity. After all, isn't it all about enriching their daily lives and **helping kids with cancer...be kids!** I hope that you will join me and remember Friends of Kids with Cancer in your trust or will." **Bob Nuelle**

Friends of Kids with Cancer would be pleased to work with you and your financial or tax advisor to establish a planned gift that is most appropriate and beneficial for you to achieve your financial planning goals.

What your gift will do; who your gift will help; why your gift is important....The universal answer to these three questions is simple; to help kids with cancer...be kids.

For more information on leaving your legacy to Friends of Kids with Cancer, please contact us. It will make a difference in your life and the life of a child with cancer.

DODGING FOR A CAUSE: BAR MITZVAH DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT RAISES MONEY FOR "FRIENDS"!



Sam Nixon is an 8th grade student at Crestview Middle School. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Sam decided to plan a dodge ball tournament to benefit the patients and families at "Friends"!

On April 25, Sam's classmates, friends, family and other community supporters showed up at Game Time Sports in Chesterfield for the Dodge Ball Tournament!

After a fun evening of dodge ball and a couple other small fundraisers, Sam raised \$2,200 for Friends of Kids with Cancer! He hopes to buy gaming systems or iPads for patients to stay entertained during hours of treatment and isolation.

6TH ANNUAL

ART FROM THE HEART

Support the Friends of Kids with Cancer
Art Therapy Program

Thursday, Sept 24th at 6:00 pm

MUNGENAST
LEXUS OF ST. LOUIS

ART FROM THE HEART
at Mungenast Lexus of St. Louis
13700 Manchester Rd.
Manchester, MO 63011



- ♥ A wonderful evening of live music, wine and art
- ♥ 100% collected benefits Friends of Kids with Cancer
- ♥ Bid on over 60 pieces of children's art
- ♥ Be inspired through heartwarming artwork
- ♥ Taste delectable bites from ten of St. Louis' best

Please visit www.friendsofkids.com to learn more about Friends of Kids with Cancer and to purchase tickets online.

Sponsored by:
Mungenast Lexus of St. Louis
314.822.7681
mungenastlexusofstlouis.com

FUNDRAISERS MEAN MORE

Spring is a very busy time for everyone at Friends of Kids with Cancer as we host two of our major fundraising events; 'Walk with a Friend' 5K Run/1-Mile Walk and our Golf Tournament and Auction. Funds raised at these events are crucial for the continued success of our programs. Equally important are the people participating and

supporting these events; and that is why our fundraisers mean more than just raising funds, they are **"FRIENDRAISERS"**. They bring together patient families, dedicated volunteers, long-time and new **"FRIENDS"** for the common cause of helping kids with cancer...be kids. Our events are completely run by volunteer committees

who believe in our mission and give their time and talents.

We are proud to introduce two of our special DADS whose commitment and dedication to our spring fundraisers has a profound place in our hearts...Tony Godfrey and Chuck McDonnal.

15TH ANNUAL "WALK WITH A FRIEND" 5K RUN/1-MILE WALK

"However long all of our family and friends can keep making plans to attend the Walk/Run each year, our team will be there! We first heard about Friends of Kids with Cancer when our daughter, Lauren, was diagnosed with cancer. Our family was blessed to receive surprises from the Toy Closet, gift cards, and meals during her treatment. This organization was with us throughout Lauren's entire treatment process; they were there every step of the way and we are forever grateful." Remarks **Chuck McDonnal**, Chair of Walk, Board Member and General Manager of Chesterfield First Watch

Sadly, Lauren passed away after only six months of treatment. Chuck and the rest of the McDonnal family formed the 'F.A.R.T.' team (**Friends And Relatives Together**) just a few short months after they lost Lauren.

"The Walk/Run is a fun and important thing for us. It's a great way to keep Lauren's legacy alive. She would want our family to participate; and every year is just a bigger and better party!" says Chuck.

April 25 was the day when patient families, relatives, community groups and corporate "friends" gathered together in honor or

memory of their loved ones. This event fosters an array of emotions: happiness, thankfulness, sadness and hurting hearts.

Chuck is not only an integral part of the Walk-Run Committee, but also brings all of the St.Louis First Watch Cafes together to sponsor a delicious breakfast for over 1700 participants.

You are the reason we were able to raise over \$50,000! We thank our major sponsors: **Vanderbilt, Bender, First Watch, and all family and corporate teams.**



RE THAN RAISING MONEY!

17TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT & AUCTION



Bernadette Godfrey



"It was so gratifying to help plan this fantastic tournament," said **Tony Godfrey**, President of Dave Sinclair Buick GMC and Golf Tournament Committee Member. "Friends of Kids with Cancer did so much for not only our daughter, but her siblings as well. They were there for Bernadette all the time. Whenever she needed a little pick-me-up, Friends was there with a special gift. It meant so much to the parents; not to worry about the chemotherapy or radiation. This organization was there every single appointment handing her a toy, gift card, drawing with Tasha, and just doing regular kids stuff."

Tony Godfrey and his family learned about Friends of Kids with Cancer when their beautiful daughter, Bernadette, was diagnosed. After a long tough battle and several relapses, sadly she passed away in 2013. "As parents, we were scared to death during the entire treatment process. Friends was so friendly and comforting. It was helpful to interact with other parents

who understood. I was honored to be on the committee this year. Being able to give back for Friends' kindness is very rewarding for me and my family."

Whitmoor Country Club hosted a sold-out crowd of 72 foursomes on May 18th. Participants enjoyed a great round of golf, gourmet breakfast catered by **Russo's**, drinks & snacks on the course, steak dinner, auction and lots of comradery to help kids with cancer...be kids.

There was lots of excitement on both courses at Whitmoor this year. We had 10 hole-in-one cars and Mike Rowen won a Ford Explorer from Dave Sinclair Ford/Lincoln when he amazingly shot his first hole in one. There were cheers of excitement echoing from hole to hole.

The highlight of the entire tournament was when Dorrian and his mom gave a heartwarming speech explaining how Friends of Kids with Cancer has made their

journey so much easier. **"We would just like to say thank you for all you do. You have touched my family's lives. His shopping spree put a big smile on his face. It might not take away the brain cancer, but it helps him take his mind off the pain of his cancer."**

Thanks to our talented chairs, **Rick Lommel & Bob Nuelle** along with their hard-working committee, our 2015 tournament broke all records netting \$220,000. Thank you to our major sponsors: **Waste Management, Conley Insurance Group, ITI, Dave Sinclair Buick-GMC; Dave Sinclair Ford and Lincoln; Baumann Property Company, Diageo North America, Nestle Purina PetCare, Premier Processing Systems, Jim Trenary Automotive Group, Emmis Communications, Hubbard Radio, Realty Executives, RJP Electric, The Printing Source, and Lukas Wine & Spirits Superstore** (please check our web for complete list of sponsors)

CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT: ANDERS CPAs + ADVISORS



Every January, **Anders** staff members are asked to nominate a charity they are involved with for the **Anders Annual Charity of Choice**, with the winning organization benefiting from their fundraising activities for the year. **Kyle Coady**, a supervisor in the Audit and Advisory Services Group, nominated **Friends of Kids with Cancer** because of his wife's personal experience. When Leah Biskup (now Leah Coady) was in high school and going through treatment for cancer, she received services from "Friends".

"They provided resources such as a tutor so she could stay up-to-date with her school work, tickets to events, and shopping gift cards. Not only did they provide tangible items, they gave her much needed emotional support and special attention to her younger siblings who were only 6 and 10 at the time. Friends of Kids with Cancer provides moments of happiness not only to the child in treatment for cancer, but to their entire family who are going through a very tough time, which is why Anders was proud to have them named our 2015 Charity of Choice." Kyle Coady



Anders CPAs + Advisors is a local CPA and advisory firm serving privately held companies and high-net-worth individuals. Their offices are located in downtown St. Louis and offer many incredible amenities to their employees. This year they are celebrating their 50-year anniversary and community service is an indelible part of their culture. Partners, professionals and staff members all have a deep-seated commitment of giving back to the community.

"Friends of Kids with Cancer is so excited and appreciative to be partnering with Anders as their 2015 Charity of Choice. We are not even half way through the year, and their monetary support through inter-office fundraisers, (dress-down days, Hoops for Hope, more) has been incredible. They also sponsored a team at our walk/run; but just as important, they are planning several employee volunteer days." Judy Ciapciak, Executive Director

The Anders mission is "Always On" working to create a brighter financial future for their clients' businesses and families. Friends of Kids with Cancer is also "Always On" creating brighter days for our patients and their families through our Educational, Emotional and Recreational programs .

To everyone at Anders CPAs + Advisors, we thank you for helping kids with cancer...be kids. To date, this dedicated group has approximately **\$13,500 - that makes lots of smiles!**

KIDS HELPING KIDS SPOTLIGHT: "KICKIN' IT FOR CANCER" KICKBALL TOURNAMENT



On May 8, about 20 teams participated in the "Kickin' it for Cancer" Kickball Tournament at the New Melle Sports & Rec Center to raise money for Friends of Kids with Cancer!

The 2015 New Melle Festival Queen Pageant Candidates planned the tournament in memory of Darby Joerling's twin brother, Trevor. Darby, one of the queen candidates witnessed how Friends of Kids with Cancer helped her brother and their family during his treatment with cancer. Unfortunately, Trevor lost his battle not quite a year ago. The Joerling's wanted to give back to help other patients while honoring Trevor's vivacious spirit.

The support of their family, friends and community created a fun evening of kickball raising \$2,300 to help kids with cancer... be kids.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: WE LOVE OUR MONDAY LADIES!



Maureen Ahrenhoersterbaeumer and **Mary Ann Markway** have transformed our toy closet into an organized, efficient and accessible mini Toys-R-Us! Every Monday, these two hard working and dedicated volunteers come to our office and help with anything and everything. Some days we have shopping, errands, and deliveries. But most days, they help keep our incoming and outgoing supplies in order. This truly is no small task. Because of our small staff and the plethora of donations and events, it becomes a huge challenge to keep it all straight. The difference they have made has been almost therapeutic to us. We truly could not be more grateful.

"We got involved in Friends because each of us has a young relative very dear to us who unfortunately has had to battle cancer. We saw how much Friends helped them and how much they love all that Friends has done not only for them but for the other children, teens and young adults that they have met during their treatments and hospital/doctor visits. We went to the fashion show this year; saw all those special children and how happy they were to be there walking down that runway and decided that this was definitely the organization that we wanted to help." Mary Ann and Maureen

From all of us at Friends...**THANK YOU!**

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: RECREATIONAL FAMILY PARTIES BRING SMILES AND MEMORIES TO ALL!



Build-A-Bear Party

In March 2015, patients and their siblings from The Bob Costas Center at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital were invited to a fun-filled outing to Build-A-Bear and Johnny Rockets at the St. Louis Galleria. Just kids, no parents!

While the kids enjoyed donuts and juice riding the bus to the Galleria, the parents were presented with gift cards for a peaceful "breakfast date" at First Watch Café.

All patients and siblings got to pick their own "special animal" to stuff and then shop for outfits and accessories to complete their "new friend" to take home. After everyone completed their stuffing, sewing and shopping at Build-A-Bear, they went to Johnny Rockets for a great lunch that included milkshakes and ice cream sundaes!



Zoo Outing

On May 16th, families from the Pediatric Cancer and Hematology at Mercy Children's Hospital gathered at the zoo to enjoy a day away from the treatment center. Luckily, it was one of the few days with sunshine. Some families stayed together, some strayed off but they all agreed on a meeting place for lunch. Everyone received a zoo bracelet which entitled them to lunch, admission to children's zoo, shows and a train ride.

Friends of Kids with Cancer loves creating memories for our patients, their siblings and parents. Outings to places such as Build-A-Bear and the Zoo are far and few to families with a child in treatment for cancer due to time, seclusion and finances. Essentially, these stressless, happy days are the best medicine they can receive.

Thanks to everyone who made these trips possible, especially, Margie, Aleeza, Jill & volunteers.



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 1197

2015 EVENTS

2015 THIRD PARTY EVENTS

JAN	24	VOODOO IN THE LOU MASQUERADE BALL Contemporary Art Museum Raised \$15,000	AUG	09	BILLY G'S CASINO NIGHT Kirkwood
APRIL	25	WALK WITH A FRIEND Maryville Centre Raised \$50,000	AUG	15	BLACK SHEEP FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT Forest Park
MAY	18	GOLF TOURNAMENT Whitmoor Country Club Raised \$210,000	SEPT	19	CDS GOLF TOURNAMENT Quail Creek Golf Course
AUG	27	TOYS & TODDIES Llwelyn's Pub, Webster Groves	SEPT	19	FRIENDS OF KIDS WITH CANCER FALL BASH - FEATURING THE "GO SET" Rombachs Farm
SEPT	19	MOUSE RACES Shrewsbury Community Center	SEPT	26	COPE PLASTICS GOLF TOURNAMENT Spencer T. Olin Golf Course
SEPT	24	ART FROM THE HEART Mungenast Lexus of St. Louis	OCT	11	SUNDAY NIGHT LIGHTS Lindbergh High School
NOV	05	FASHION SHOW AND BOUTIQUE Ritz-Carlton St. Louis	DEC	16	STEELCASE WREATH & MENORAH DESIGN COMPETITION

*Please check www.friendsofkids.org for regular updates about upcoming fundraisers, Third Party Events, promotions and more!