

COOL KIDS CONNECTION®

SPRING 2013

CONNECTING PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY PATIENTS THROUGHOUT THE NATION



Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Cool Kids Campaign ... Working together

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) and the Cool Kids Campaign have announced a partnership to raise awareness about pediatric blood cancer. Both organizations' missions align in the goal of improving the quality of life for patients and their families, and have agreed to cross-promote messages of help and hope through various media.

Our pink Cancer Fears ME!™ chemo cap (an item in our merchandise line) worn by a little girl named Sophie who is a leukemia survivor is featured in LLS's Someday is Today advertising campaign. Her image appears nationally in various magazines and outdoor media; on the back cover of their 2012 annual report; in their e-newsletter, blog and social media; and on the landing page of the LLS.org website. In the ads, the slogan is credited to Cool Kids Campaign as our trademark.

"Learning you have cancer is frightening," said Sharon Perfetti, Executive Director and co-founder of Cool Kids Campaign. "Our Cancer Fears ME!™ message is about turning the tables on cancer and helping a child to feel a sense of control as s/he faces its challenges."

The photo has appeared in USA Today and the New York Times and is pending in marketing plans to include these publications: Connecticut Magazine, Westchester Magazine, Fortune, Washington Post, Chicago Magazine, New York Magazine, Washingtonian Magazine, Washington Business Journal, Chicago Crain's Business, New Jersey Magazine, Hamptons Magazine, New York Best Doctors issue; and around local chapter markets in San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, D.C., and Dallas.

Although Cool Kids Campaign is a small organization based in Towson, Maryland and serves local children through our Cool Kids Learning Center, some of our programs reach a national audience (such as this newspaper).

"This opportunity is very exciting for Cool Kids Campaign in the way of potential growth for us and casting a larger net," said Chris Federico, Cool Kids Campaign President. "We're thrilled to be associated with such a large, well respected, and notable organization such as LLS. More importantly, however, is that both charities share the same focus – helping kids with cancer."

Online through cancerfearsme.org, an entire line of Cancer Fears ME!™ merchandise is offered. Product sales help to fund our organization's free programs. Some of the kids modeling the clothing have cancer or are survivors. LLS has also included a link to our merchandise page on their website.

Founded in 1949, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. The organization funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services. Headquartered in White Plains, N.Y., LLS has chapters throughout the United States and Canada.

Cool Kids Campaign feels that aligning with LLS will help to bring even more awareness to our positive message.

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From Zero to Six ... Our Little Champion

By John Carver

Our family was complete. In March 2004, my wife Tammy and I adopted our sixth child. Everything seemed to be going well until February 18, 2007 when our world fell apart.

"Until that Sunday, we had no idea there was anything wrong with our beautiful, happy, confident five-year-old daughter Juliana," said Tammy. "She came into our room that morning complaining about a bump under her right arm."

The bump turned out to be a swollen lymph node; we discovered the next day at the pediatrician's office that she had a tumor on her right forearm. After x-rays and an MRI, we received that awful call from the doctor; it appeared that the tumor was cancerous and had metastasized to the lymph node. Juliana had stage 3, group 3 Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma.

I remember that phone call. I held Tammy in my arms as she sobbed. I questioned what we had done wrong to deserve this attack on our little girl. Why would we be "called" to adopt Juliana, only to lose her to a horrible disease? As a dad (like most dads), I just wanted to "fix it" and help my little girl be a little girl.

We had adopted Juliana from Minsk, Belarus in August 2003 when she was 20 months old. She had crossed eyes and a personality that was – and is – infectious. I remember how she jumped into my wife's arms when we met her for the first time. It felt so natural for us to be together forever.



Together as a family – and with the prayers and support of so many people and organizations, Juliana was able to beat the cancer and feel good again. She thrived, grew taller and her hair grew back. Then our life collapsed again. In March 2011 the cancer returned in Juliana's right thigh. She underwent 36 weeks of chemotherapy and five more of radiation. Last time the radiation burned her badly.

Every single day I thought I was going to lose "My Little Sunshine" who makes me happy when my skies are grey. Juliana brightens every place her little feet wander. Her courage lifts those who are down and gives me hope for a bright tomorrow. Her hugs pick me up while – as her dad – I'm supposed to be picking her up! Her courage and attitude wipes me out. It's incredible!! She smiles so much, regardless of her pain.

Juliana had just finished treatment when my family was at the funeral of my wife's uncle. While standing in the graveyard, Juliana told her mom that she was in pain and felt like she was going to pass out. We knew something was wrong ... again. It was June 2012 and the cancer had returned for the third time, this time in her pelvis and in her chest cavity, pushing on her aorta (the main blood vessel near the heart).

OH MY GOD! She's a goner, I thought. It felt like someone had slammed me in the stomach with a baseball bat. I cried and cried for a long time. The doctor indicated that there was not much hope.



How could I face that possibility of losing my baby?

After quite a bit of time of grieving about the possibility of my child not making it through her battle, I began to look back at Juliana's life. The other two times when she faced cancer, she placed her faith in her Mommy and Daddy. This time she was doing the same. Each and every day Juliana was struggling with nausea, bowel issues, hair falling out in clumps, depression, and many tears about spending days and days in the hospital every month. Yet she never stopped being a little girl.

My wife and I did our very best to keep her laughing while remembering an old proverb: *A cheerful disposition is good for your health. Gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.*

I can't say enough about the thousands of people who have been following Juliana's journey on facebook and youtube. Their kindness and prayers have kept me sane throughout her journey.

During this, our other five kids (adopted from Russia and Belarus) have been incredible. They are understanding and very patient with Juliana's struggles. They love her so much. I realize that we could have had kids who griped and complained because everything is about Juliana-Juliana-Juliana. Not these kids. We are so blessed.

This cancer journey I would not wish on anyone on the planet. It is exhausting and it depletes almost all of our hopes and dreams. Yet there have been some upsides:

- Meeting tremendous people who have gone out of their way to help in ways in which they will never know the true impact on our family;
- Organizations like Cool Kids Campaign whose patient understanding "lifts our load" at times when we thought we would collapse;
- Knowing that we, the Carver family, are not alone and there are so many families who have gone through so much more; this helps to keep our lives in perspective;
- Knowing that there is a "higher power" that loves my Juliana more than I can possibly imagine; this helps me to view life from a higher perspective.

Has this journey been easy? No way! Do I know what the future holds for our family? No way! I do know this, however, that Juliana's courage,

through all of her struggles, gives me hope to get up and spread her positive attitude and energy to the entire world.

That's why I do my radio show and blog that impacts tens of thousands of people each month ... to make a difference ... just like Juliana has made a difference in my life.

I love you, Juliana!!

John Carver lives in Manchester, Maryland and is an inspirational writer, speaker, radio talk show host and pastor of Faith Outreach Chapel in Baltimore. Feel free to contact John at 410-905-8336, johncarver@wildblue.net or on johnwcarver.com. He also maintains a web page for Juliana at caringbridge.org/visit/julianacarver.



The country that put a man on the moon can **cure cancer.**



We've always embraced big challenges in this country. It's how the world sees us. How we see ourselves.

Now, President Obama has called on us to end cancer in our lifetime. America's pharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies share that goal. Today, our scientists are working on 800 new medicines to fight this deadly disease that touches so many lives.

It won't be easy, and it won't happen without a renewed emphasis on innovation and a sustained commitment to research and development. Last year, we invested more than \$65 billion to discover and develop medicines to help patients live longer, healthier and more productive lives. Like President Obama, we believe that America's best days are ahead of us. Working together, we can do anything.

PhRMA

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Children with cancer are
like candles in the wind
who accept that they are in danger
of being extinguished
by a gust of wind from nowhere
and yet
they flicker and dance to remain alive
Their brilliance challenges the darkness
and dazzles those of us
who watch their light

~ Anonymous

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A CLEAN HOME.
**EVEN MOTHER
NATURE.**


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the Cool Kids Campaign.

www.rmhcbbaltimore.org

SURFIN' THE NET...

Have you discovered a useful or fun website to share with other families dealing with pediatric cancer? Email the link to suzanne@coolkidscampaign.org for inclusion in the next issue of Cool Kids Connection. We found a few to share with you ...



1 CollegeBeyondCancer.org –

Empowering college and graduate student pediatric cancer survivors by offering an online fundraising platform for educational expenses. (See story on page 6)



2 imermanangels.org –

Imerman Angels partners anyone seeking cancer support with a "Mentor Angel" – a cancer survivor matched to your age, gender and type of cancer. Founded by Jonny Imerman, who fought cancer at age 26, because although Jonny had support from family and friends, he hadn't met anyone his age who was a cancer survivor. This service is FREE and helps anyone touched by cancer at any stage, any age, anywhere in the world.



3 46mommas.com –

On average 46 U.S. children are diagnosed with cancer each weekday. This website represents moms of kids who have heard the words "your child has cancer" and make the journey with their children. Each year a new 'class' of 46 Mommas are inducted into the cause by shaving their heads, hoping one day to be a group that no longer needs to exist. The mission of this organization is to raise awareness and funds for research, and inspire others to help fund a cure for childhood cancer.



An amazing thing happens
when you give to the community.
It gives back.



At M&T Bank we know how important it is to support those organizations that make our communities better places to live work and grow. That's why we offer both our time and resources. What we all get in return is far more valuable.



The fight against cancer is all about action

by Lisa Eatough

As a native New Englander yearning for spring, I look forward to each tomorrow that might provide a glimpse of springtime's warmth and color. I had asked my young son to share with me his thoughts about spring. He said the arrival of spring meant "time to plant new flowers and trees using the shovel you guys gave me." It struck me that, unlike my vision of watching and waiting for spring to unfold, his version of a new season included action; a time to use our tools to be proactive about life. He stated this with the confidence and conviction that only a child can. Spring was something to be embraced, to be grown, to be cared for. I realized that spring was sitting right there beside me – in the form of a little boy who had survived cancer.

Cancer has touched my life many times, personally and professionally. Yet nothing could have prepared me for the most notorious spring day in my life when my child was diagnosed just shy of his second birthday. I was thrust on a journey that would teach me many things about life. Most notably, I have learned that we can be both devastated and resilient at the same time. By its nature and consequences, cancer is often defined as uncontrolled. In my experience, that has certainly been true. For that very reason, we often talk about the fight against cancer.

Much like my son's perception of spring, the fight against cancer is all about action. I believe it comes in many variations, including receiving and giving direct patient care, research and development of new treatment protocols, participation in fundraising events, and innovative efforts to address the many faces of the disease. To say that the fight against cancer is daunting would be a gross understatement. However, I believe that we each bring something different to the table. It is in this joint effort that the challenge can be met.

As a physical therapist, my career has centered on the concept of quality of life. I have had the privilege of working with patients who were fighting to move forward following cancer

treatment, as well as the privilege of working with patients who were losing their battle, but still fighting to be home with their loved ones in their final days. As the mother of a young survivor, the notion of quality of life has become even further cemented in my being. I could have never imagined that the greatest challenge of my career would be at the center of an ongoing rehab process with my own child. However, it has become a pivotal way in which I am able to improve the quality of his life – a top priority. These experiences have not only touched me, but have shaped me as a person and a therapist.

Taking action to preserve and improve quality of life has become the center of my role. I have definitively found my place in this fight as a mother and physical therapist, participating in a very personal battle. Most recently, in a much more vast way, I have also become an advocate of awareness and education for survivors as the founder of the website collegebeyondcancer.org.



An education is both an opportunity and an investment in oneself, providing a path for students to pursue their passions and to positively impact their lives and those of others. The mission of College Beyond Cancer is one of empowerment. By recognizing and applauding the courage, inner strength and perseverance required to face a seemingly insurmountable challenge, the triumphs of student survivors can be celebrated.

Many obstacles ensue when one embarks on a journey through childhood cancer, often creating financial hardships before the pursuit of a college education begins. However, the financial implications of a cancer diagnosis should never take away from anyone the opportunity for higher education. College Beyond Cancer is a secure, donation-based fundraising platform designed for college and graduate student survivors to proactively finance their educational expenses. The online platform is an innovative financing tool designed to be an adjunct and complement to traditional college financing, such as scholarships and loans.

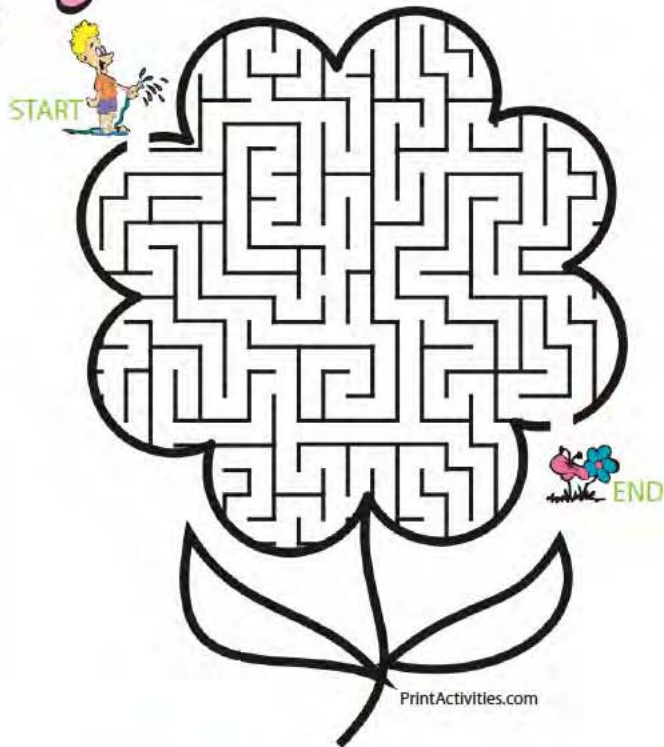
Student survivors are able to easily create a profile page on the website at no cost. The profile includes their story, educational aspirations, and fundraising goals depicted through their answers to a series of questions. They may also include photos and a video clip to engage potential contributors. Social networking tools are built into each page, enabling students to quickly spread the word about their campaign. Inspired contributors are provided with a secure and convenient option to donate.

College Beyond Cancer's vision of empowerment will promote academic and personal growth for student survivors. Even at my son's young age, I try to instill in him the value and importance of education. Of course, my hope is that he, too, will thrive in the pursuit of his academic goals someday, as a college student cancer survivor.

Although participating in the fight against cancer looks different for each of us, I believe we all have something valuable to offer. I would encourage each of you to reflect on what that might look like for you. As spring emerges and we grow and nurture flowers and trees, let us remember there are also young cancer survivors who need growth and nurturing. Let's take action. Together ... we can empower tomorrow.



PUZZLES AND GAMES



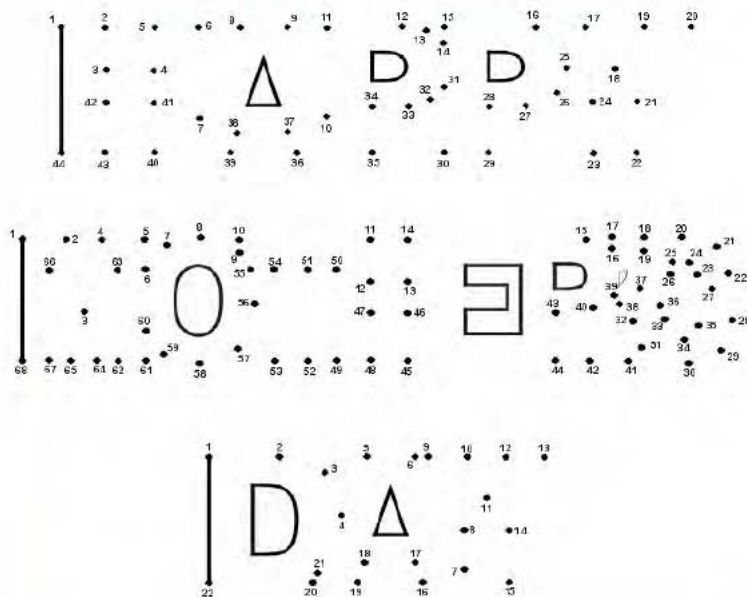
SPRING WORD SEARCH

APRIL
BABY ANIMALS
BIRDS
BIRTH
BLOOMS
BLOSSOMS
BUDS
EASTER
FLOWERS
GARDENING
GROWTH
MAY
MILD
MOTHER'S DAY
MUD
PLANTING
RAIN
SHOWERS
THAW
UMBRELLA

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CONNECT THE DOT



BRAIN TEASERS

COLOR ME



PrintActivities.com

Unscramble the INSECTS

tgan _____

ylf _____

eltarcapilr _____

ytbuffletr _____

shasopgrper _____

ebe _____

hotm _____

eleteb _____

nfdgolray _____

sqmouoit _____



ANSWERS: gnat, fly, caterpillar, butterfly, grasshopper, bee, moth, beetle, dragonfly, mosquito



HOMEMADE WIND CHIMES

This homemade wind chime will alert you to a breeze with a gentle tinkle!

What you'll need:

scissors, clear plastic lids, X-Acto knife, hole punch, fishing line, stick or dowel, small jingle bells

How to make it:

1. Cut the rims off the plastic lids, then cut out seven leaf shapes from the clear plastic. You can create "veins" on the leaves by lightly scoring each one with the X-Acto knife.
2. Punch a hole in the top and bottom of each leaf. Tie a 10-inch length of fishing line to the top of each leaf, and then hang the leaves, evenly spaced, from the stick of dowel.
3. Using short lengths of fishing line, hang a jingle bell from the bottom of each leaf.
4. To make a hanger, tie the ends of an 8-inch piece of fishing line to each end of the stick.

MIND BENDERS

MAD LIBS®

Without telling what the story is about, one player asks another player to call out a word (adjective, noun, verb, etc. as needed) and fills in the blanks with those words. When all blanks are filled, the reader then reads the entire ridiculous story aloud! Guaranteed silly!

BIRD WATCHING

Bird-watching can be more fun than a barrel of _____ (plural noun). Our _____ (adjective) feathered friends are everywhere, waiting to be watched. An interesting bird to start with is the _____ (adjective) Oriole, which builds its nest in _____ (noun) trees. Early in spring, we hear the Oriole give its mating call, which sounds like this: "_____ (silly word)." Then the male and female get together and _____ (verb). Later, the female lays _____ (number) eggs. Isn't that _____ (adjective)? Another fascinating bird is the _____ (adjective)-breasted nuthatch. The nuthatch is very tame. He will fly down and land right on your _____ (part of body) and eat out of your _____ (plural noun). Other birds to watch out for are the red-crested _____ (noun), the _____ (adjective)-necked thrush, and the yellow-bellied _____ (noun) sucker. Now that you know something about birds, get out there and go bird watching!

FAMILY CAR TRIP

KID: I'm starved, Mom! My _____ (part of body) is growling.
MOM: I think you've had enough _____ (noun) for today. You ate enough to choke a _____ (noun).
KID: But I'm a growing _____ (noun)! Dad, can we stop and get a hamburger with _____ (plural noun) and _____ (plural noun)?
DAD: You just had a/an _____ (adjective) breakfast!
KID: No, I didn't. All I had was a few scrambled _____ (plural noun).
MOM: How about those five pieces of buttered _____ (noun), plus that stack of _____ (plural noun)?
KID: _____ (exclamation)! I have to go to the _____ (noun) room. Can we stop? I have to go real _____ (adjective).
DAD: Okay. It will give me a chance to stretch my _____ (plural noun).
MOM: Stop at that diner. I could use a cup of strong _____ (liquid).
KID: As long as we're stopping, can I have a grilled _____ (noun) and some _____ (adjective) fries? That will hold me until lunch.

Unscramble these SPRING words

1. MSOSBOL _____
2. RWAM _____
3. RBISD _____
4. OFDIADLF _____
5. WGOR _____
6. OWSEFRL _____
7. NPTLA _____

A. NWSRHS - 1.8.10.55M 2. WAM 3. BIRDS 4. DWFCCOL 5. GROW 6. FLOWERS 7. PLANT

SUDOKU

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9. If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

2	6	3	7	5		8		
	8	5						7
				9		6	3	
6	1		3	7	5			
7		2		4		5		3
			1	2	9		6	4
	4	6		1				
3						1	7	
		7		6	3	4	5	8

8	4	5	6	3	2	7	9	1
3	5	4	8	2	1	7	9	6
8	4	5	1	7	3	2	9	6
4	6	7	2	9	8	5	3	1
7	9	8	6	4	5	1	3	2
6	1	4	3	7	5	2	8	9
4	7	1	2	9	8	6	3	5
9	8	6	3	1	2	4	5	7
2	8	3	7	5	4	6	9	1

NONUMOS

JOKES RIDDLES



GOOFIN' AROUND WITH THE DOC

PATIENT: Doctor! Doctor! I've got insomnia.

DOCTOR: Just sit on the edge of the bed. You'll soon drop off.

PATIENT: Doctor! Doctor! I think I'm a cat!

DOCTOR: How long has this been going on?

PATIENT: Oh, I guess since I was a kitten.

PATIENT: Doctor! Doctor! My kid just swallowed a pen.
What do I do?

DOCTOR: Use a pencil!

PATIENT: Doctor! Doctor! I've got wind.
Can you give me something?

DOCTOR: Yes, here's a kite.

Knock-knock-knock all over the door jokes

Knock, knock

Who's there?

Figs

Figs who?

Figs the doorbell, it's broken!



Knock, knock

Who's there?

Turnip

Turnip who?

Turnip the volume, it's quiet in here.

Knock, knock

Who's there?

Water

Water who?

Water you doing in my house?

Knock, knock

Who's there?

Police

Police who?

Police (please) may I come in?

Have a unique knock-knock joke or another favorite joke? Email it to suzanne@coolkidscampaign.org and we'll publish it in a future issue!

RIDDLIN' AROUND!

1. Why did monkeys fall from the sky?
2. Why did the boy throw butter out the window?
3. What flowers grow on faces?
4. What do you call a flower loving country run by automobiles?



ANSWERS: 1. It was Ape-ril shower! 2. To see the butter fly! 3. Tulpe (Two-tips) 4. Car nation

lajollamom.com



Baby Steps: Mom grateful for every milestone

By Shannon Klipstein
West Allis, Wisconsin



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

We started at a hospital with a great NICU, yet they didn't know what was wrong with our son; he wouldn't eat. We were transferred to a more experienced hospital to get the feeding tube inserted and while there, we met with a genetics team. Three out of four of them were confident our son had Beckwith Weiderman Syndrome. However, one thought he had Costello Syndrome, which made a world of difference for Zane because at 4-months-old we finally learned his genetic diagnosis. Zane is a Costello kid! This syndrome puts Zane at an increased risk of developing cancer, heart defects, breathing and eating issues, developmental delays, and other 'fun' stuff. The geneticists ordered an ultrasound to check for enlarged organs and instead found a cancerous neuroblastoma in his abdomen. Because of their precautions to check everything thoroughly, they saved our son's life. His cancer was found early, he was stage one, and his neuroblastoma was low-risk.

The challenging part of the equation was the tumor's location (nestled snugly between his aorta and vena cava which are a body's two largest and main vessels). However, our amazing surgeon was extremely careful and diffused the bomb. The doctor removed this complex tumor without hurting any of Zane's other internal systems – and left nothing behind! It was a very scary day as we waited, hoping they were able to remove the entire mass. Thankfully, our baby did not need chemo or radiation.

HIDDEN TREASURES

We include Zane as much as we can in every fun thing we do; we do not allow his disabilities to disable us. We are not afraid to leave the house, therefore, we venture out often. Zane loves it and smiles to show us he does. I am forever grateful for the doctors and nurses who have brought us to where we are today. Zane will continue to grow stronger. Yes, he always will be delayed; yes he will remain blind; and yes, he always will be a Costello kid. Yet he will be alive to enjoy life with his big family – with his brothers and sister!

Don't give up – as I know you aren't! Know that life has hidden treasures and blessings in disguise. There have been many times during our journey where I have been heartbroken, mad, sad and frustrated. But if I didn't feel those emotions, I would not be where I am right now ... with an adorable little boy to cuddle, with the lessons we have learned, and the appreciation we feel for having him! We are grateful for every small milestone and every large one.

Keep on fighting! And remember, someday you will look back on all of this and have one pretty dang good story to tell, leaving you a much better person who goes forward to achieve great big things – all because you were inspired from your cancer experience.

Know as well that you leave a big impression on the world. And I bet when someone hears your story, it changes that person, too. Perhaps they will be inspired to help others ... who in turn want to pay it forward as well.

Cancer kids are heroes with the super power to inspire and change lives.

GRATEFUL FOR SIBLINGS

We are very grateful for Zane's big smiles and small giggles. He loves the presence of his three siblings who each display a special personality – together it makes our family whole. Caitlyn, age 4, is Zane's 'mini-momma' – she helps to wipe up spit-up and doles out lots of hugs and kisses. She loves to get things for Zane, such as diapers and formula, and picks outfits for him. Jacob, 7, is always concerned about his baby brother's health and wellbeing, making sure that no one misses anything! He's the smart and more serious older brother who cares deeply about Zane. Andrew, 6, is the 'goofy' older brother who keeps up attempts to make Zane laugh. He is not afraid to push the limits to try new laughable situations. For example, while the rest of us are afraid to scare the baby with Peek-a-boo, Andy jumps right in – and Zane loves it! Sometimes he's startled, but mostly he puts up with Andy's craziness and delivers a smile in return. We are so lucky to have all four of our kids.



COPING WITH A TEEN'S CANCER

(excerpted from article "Coping with a Child's Cancer Diagnosis," National Cancer Institute)

Teenagers who have cancer have special concerns. They are at a stage in their lives when they are naturally trying to be their own bosses and do things for themselves, yet having cancer forces them to depend on their parents. They may complain that parents are trying to protect them too much. Your teenager's illness obviously will bring many changes to your lives. To help both of you cope, consider these suggestions:

- 👉 Give teenagers a chance to make their own decisions and choices when possible.
- 👉 Try to do some of the things you did personally before your teen became sick. Do not feel guilty if you need time for yourself.
- 👉 Make a special effort to find private time to talk with your partner or others close to you. Try to steer conversation to topics other than your teen's cancer.
- 👉 Find ways to feel less frustrated during clinic visits or while in the hospital: take along reading material or an activity while your teenager is asleep or not in need of your attention.
- 👉 Make use of the trained staff at treatment centers that should be available to talk with you about your concerns.
- 👉 Your treatment center can provide names of support groups at which you can meet other parents of teens with cancer. Community resources can provide support and information and share how other parents are dealing with the same situation.
- 👉 If your teen is in the hospital, you and your partner (or friends and relatives) may want to take turns staying at the hospital. Allowing others to help will give you a break and help to keep you from growing apart should one parent become more involved than the other during your child's treatment.

SIBLINGS NEED TO COPE, TOO

The lives of children who are watching a brother or sister with cancer can change greatly as well. Siblings may experience many different feelings about the brother or sister with cancer; especially because of the extra attention that child receives. They may feel sorry for the sick sibling. Younger children may feel that they caused the cancer, or they may believe that their own needs are being ignored.

When a child or teenager is in the hospital, the focus, of course, is on that child. Parents may not be able to pay as much attention to their other children as much as before. Maybe you are forced to miss special school activities or sporting events. You may use up your energy and patience

while caring for the sick child and not have leftover energy or time to chat with your other children, play with them, or help with homework. It is natural for siblings to be annoyed at the attention being given to the child with cancer.

As a result, siblings' behavior may change. They may become depressed, have headaches, or begin to have problems in school. School counselors and support groups may be able to offer you helpful advice for dealing with these issues. In addition, here are some things you can do to help your children:

- 👉 Talk with them about the special attention that your child with cancer is receiving. Let them know that feeling angry is natural. Try to explain what is happening and why you may not be around as much as you were before.
- 👉 Younger children's fears can be addressed by helping them to understand that they didn't cause the illness by wishing it, or by spreading germs. Treatment and procedures should be explained as being helpful methods, not punishments.
- 👉 Help children understand that they cannot 'catch' cancer from their sibling.
- 👉 Try to spend some time with them doing the things they enjoy.
- 👉 Make a point of noticing and praising what they do in their extracurricular activities or in school.
- 👉 Let them tag along with you and your sick child to the clinic or hospital. It allows them to see for themselves what it's like in the hospital, clinic, or during treatment.
- 👉 Help them think of possible questions and answers so they will feel comfortable talking about their brother's or sister's illness.

EXPLAINING TO OTHERS HOW TO HELP YOUR FAMILY

- 👉 Be open and honest.
- 👉 Explain how you and your teen prefer to be treated. For instance, if too much attention is on the cancer, point it out. Perhaps it is draining for you to repeat details about your child's illness to so many people.
- 👉 Designate one person to handle calls and questions, or start a blog on a supporting website such as caringbridge.org.
- 👉 Consider designating one friend or family member to serve as the point person to handle your family's needs and delegating tasks such as food prep and drop-off, grocery shopping, laundry, housekeeping, carpooling, errands, etc.

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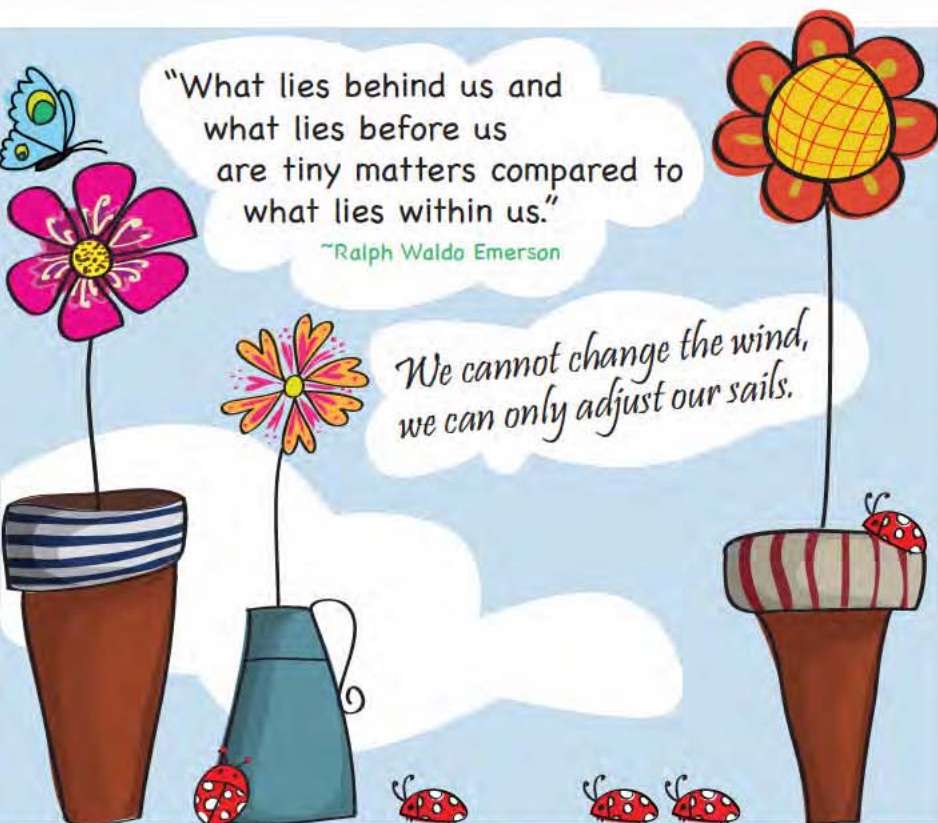
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"What lies behind us and
what lies before us
are tiny matters compared to
what lies within us."

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

*We cannot change the wind,
we can only adjust our sails.*



KIDS! PARENTS!

LET US PRINT YOUR STUFF!

Our goal with Cool Kids Connection is to connect families across America who are dealing with kids' cancer. This newspaper is published for you and about you ... including stories by you! Here's what we look for ...

STORIES ~ Share your experience with other kids living with cancer. Or, write about any kid-related topic at all!

ART ~ Like to draw, paint, sketch, doodle, color? Send us your artwork to publish!

POETRY ~ Express yourself through poetry: rhyme it, don't rhyme it; we'll take it happy, sad, goofy or serious!

PHOTOS ~ Introduce yourself through a photo - can be with family or friends, in the hospital, or doing your favorite thing at home!

FAVORITES ~ Share your favorite song, book, video game, app, movie, Facebook page, website or TV show ... we're listening!

JOKES/RIDDLES ~ Wanna help other kids chuckle? Share your favorite joke. Send riddles, puzzles, brain teasers, or even a word search that you made up!

COOL CAREGIVER & COOL KID ~ Each issue has a fun Q&A featuring a "cool kid" and his/her "cool caregiver." What's your favorite cereal? Do you like cats or dogs? If you were president, what would be your first law? Our list of fun questions is ready for YOU - and your favorite nurse, doctor, child life specialist or caregiver!

EMAIL submissions to
suzanne@coolkidscampaign.org.
You can also mail items to
Cool Kids Campaign, 8422 Bellona Lane, Suite
102, Towson MD 21204.

Note that we are unable to reprint copyrighted material, so be sure to send your original artwork and photos! All submission becomes the property of Cool Kids Campaign.

cancerfearsme.org

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COOL CAREGIVER

COOL KID

Maggie Rowe
Spokane, Washington

In what hospital do you work? *Sacred Heart Children's Hospital*
 What is your position? *Social Worker*
 What do you do specifically? *I help families who have a child diagnosed with cancer navigate the resources they need to make treatment work for their family. I offer regular support in the form of counseling, resource brokering, working with the child's school, and running a support group for kids.*
 Favorite part of your job? *Working with great families every day for as long as they are our patients. My favorite part is to follow families long-term to witness their cancer journeys, and to provide as much support as I can give along the way.*
 Least favorite part? *Walking miles through the hospital for parking passes!*
 Favorite sport to watch and/or play? *Track & Field*
 Are you married? *yes*
 Do you have children? *I have a 3-year-old son and one on the way!*
 What do you enjoy doing for fun? *Hiking, biking and playing with my son*
 Favorite movie? *When Harry met Sally*
 Favorite TV show? *Dancing with the Stars*
 Do you like cats or dogs? *DOGS!*
 What's on your iPod? *Nothing! I listen to the radio.*
 Favorite book? *Anything by Barbara Kingsolver*
 Favorite board game? *Taboo*
 Favorite school subject as a kid? *English*
 Favorite dessert? *CHOCOLATE!*
 Favorite season? *Summer*
 Favorite cereal? *granola*
 Favorite fruit? *Honeycrisp apples from the state of Washington*
 What celebrity do you admire and why? *Gwyneth Paltrow because I love her cookbook and how she makes healthy recipes for her family.*
 If you were a Seven Dwarf, which one would you be? *Happy*
 If you could have dinner with one person (alive or deceased) who and why? *Michelle Obama because I admire her strength, motivation and courage.*



Joana Dominguez
Deer Park, Washington

What grade are you in? *second*
 How old are you? *7½*
 If you wrote a book, what would it be about? *a book of poems about all things pink!*
 What do you want to be when you grow up? *teacher*
 Do you enjoy playing sports, if so, which ones? *I love playing all sports!*
 Do you have brothers and sisters? *a brother, Jesus, age 6*
 What do you like to do for fun? *video games, play outside*
 How do you like to help others? *cleaning*
 Favorite cereal? *Frosted Flakes*
 Favorite animal? *cats and dogs*
 Favorite subject in school? *free time!*
 Who's your BFF? *Aleya*
 Who's your favorite celebrity and why? *Hannah Montana (Miley Cyrus) because it's a great show.*
 What activities do you like to do for exercise? *dance*
 If you were the President of the United States, what would be the first law you would make? *Kids have to go to school, unless they are sick*
 Favorite movie? *any princess movie*
 Favorite TV show? *Sponge Bob Square Pants*
 Favorite video game? *Princesses; Wii games*
 Favorite board game? *Checkers*
 If you were stranded on an island, what 3 things would you have with you? *water, food and company*
 What are you most grateful for? *Helping others and getting help when I need it*
 If you were a Seven Dwarf, which one would you be? *Happy*
 If you could meet someone famous, who would it be? *Hannah Montana*
 What question would you ask her first? *May I have your autograph?*





ARTWORK BY:

Brooke M, age 8
Salisbury, Maryland

Brooke painted this illustration while in CHOPS (The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia). Her hobbies include soccer, arts & crafts, games, animals, and traveling. Brooke is currently in treatment with relapsed Neuroblastoma as of December 5, 2012; she was originally diagnosed January 5, 2009 with Stage IV High Risk Neuroblastoma.

LET US FEATURE YOUR CHILD'S ARTWORK HERE!
Submit an illustration drawn by your child with cancer to suzanne@coolkidscampaign.org



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Send us YOUR photo to publish here! Email photo, name, city/state to suzanne@coolkidscampaign.org or mail to our address on page 2.



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