

## Ariella Stein's Story

### Fall 2018 IN THIS EDITION:

Paws & Think!.....	2
Thank You, Cool Kids	3
Dig In, Dig Out.....	4
Pull-Out Activity Section.....	5
Motherhood & Cancer- 11 Lessons From The Front Line..	9

By Erica Davidson Stein

To look at her, minus the bald head, you would think Ariella Stein is a typical 11 year old, 6th grader who likes school, loves dance, and enjoys spending time with her friends. However she is anything but typical. She is currently fighting Ewing's Sarcoma for the 2nd time. She was first diagnosed in February 2017 with a tumor in her right tibia. Treatment required 17 rounds of chemotherapy for 2 or 5 days every other week, all inpatient. She had limb salvage surgery in June 2017 where the tumor and about 4" of her tibia was removed and an external fixator was placed to help her grow new bone. She had the fixator for almost a full year (was removed June 2018) but is still in physical therapy to recover full strength and range of motion in her leg and ankle.

She finished chemotherapy in December 2017 and end of treatment scans came back clear. Unfortunately in June 2018 routine scans showed she relapsed to her lungs and sacrum and treatment was to begin again. But Ariella did not let that set her back. The day she found out the cancer was back she danced in her dance recital. She continued to do the things she loves and did not let cancer stop her. This time treatment is all outpatient, with 5 days of chemo every 3 weeks. She is currently on her 7th cycle but after her 4th cycle the disease showed some progression so the chemo medicines were switched at the 5th cycle. She will begin radiation soon and the hope is to get her to a bone marrow transplant. Despite the relapse Ariella has started dancing again and is able to attend school most days, even during chemo weeks. When she's not on a chemo week you would never know Ariella was sick. She is happy, energetic, spunky, feisty, and sassy. She dances for hours on end,

has sleepovers with her friends, and lives life to the fullest. She's back to dancing several days a week and hopes to perform her tap dance (her favorite style) soon. When Ariella was inpatient for her treatments she received many goodies and packages from various organizations. They always cheered her up and this inspired Ariella to start her own foundation "Ari's Bears". It is a founding hope fund under the American Childhood Cancer Organization ([www.acco.org/arisbears/](http://www.acco.org/arisbears/)). Her mission is to deliver bears to kids in hospitals. She started by saving up her own money and requesting gift cards to Build a Bear instead of gifts for herself so she could make bears to bring to sick children. She started by bringing bears to her clinic visits to give out when she had appointments and has since delivered to different departments at Sinai Hospital, Johns Hopkins Pediatric Oncology, University of Maryland Pediatrics, and Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore. She also continues to bring bears when in clinic for chemotherapy to give out to the other kids. Since she started early this year in 2018, Ariella has raised over \$2500 through fundraisers and received many donations of gift cards and bears as well. She has given more than 200 bears to kids and even mailed some out of state. She has plans to go to Children's National in DC and hoping to hit Northern Virginia as well. Ariella's goal is to grow this foundation to bring smiles to as many children as possible.

While Ariella is getting back to doing what she loves, dance, and fighting cancer for the second time, she continues to make kids happy all over the country.



You can follow her story and updates at  
[www.facebook.com/ariellapaigestein](https://www.facebook.com/ariellapaigestein) (AriellaStrong).

Cool Kids  
CONNECTION®

is published by



8422 Bellona Lane, Suite 102  
Towson, MD 21204  
p: 410.560.1770 • f: 410.560.1775  
coolkidscampaign.org

**Editor-In-Chief:**  
Julie Seechuk

**Managing Editor:**  
Janet Robinson

**Contributing Writers:**  
Erica Davidson Stein  
Miranda Mittleman  
Jennifer Wilson  
Libby Kranz  
Trish Adkins

**Design:**  
Linda Ports

#### COOL KIDS CAMPAIGN STAFF:

**Chris Federico**  
President & Co-Founder

**Janet Robinson**  
Operations Coordinator

**Lisa Railey**  
Director of Philanthropy

**Julie Seechuk**  
Community Relations Coordinator

*Cool Kids Campaign is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for pediatric oncology patients and their families. This publication is offered FREE to oncology hospitals and their patients. Funding is received through sponsors and advertisers. For advertising information and rates, email [julie@coolkidscampaign.org](mailto:julie@coolkidscampaign.org).*



# PAWS and THINK!

*By Miranda Mittleman*



A few years ago, I sat down to write some poems about my rescue dog, Weaver. After quite a few pushes from my supportive husband, Mike, I decided to try to get my poems published. It was never my intention to share these stories with the world, but I'm so grateful that I listened to him. In August 2017, my children's book series was born!

PAWS and THINK! teaches valuable life lessons through Weaver's eyes. The first three books are titled I Am Important, We Are All Different and Be Thankful

For What You Have. In my short time as a children's author, I've reached thousands of children and taught lessons in a fun, relatable way. Since launching just over a year ago, I've visited over 60 elementary and preschools. I've also partnered with numerous Judy Centers throughout Maryland to provide programming and books for underprivileged children.

Although teaching important lessons to children is very rewarding, I still felt that I could do something more. I saw an opportunity to give back to my community and created the Charity of the Quarter program. Through this effort, a portion of the proceeds from every PAWS and THINK! book sold goes to a different charity or non-profit every quarter. I've worked with some amazing organizations so far and look forward to working with many more in the future.

This quarter I'm teaming with Cool Kids Campaign, an organization devoted to improving the quality of life for pediatric oncology patients and their families. I first heard about this organization a few months ago through my friend, Deena Dermer. She has been involved with Cool Kids Campaign for ten years, volunteering her time to support an incredible cause. I jumped at the chance to donate a set of books for the silent auction, as part of the Ken Singleton Celebrity Golf Tournament. After hearing more about Cool Kids Campaign and the extraordinary work that they do, I knew that I wanted to do more. I decided to make Cool Kids Campaign my next Charity of the Quarter!

Partnering with Cool Kids Campaign has been an honor. I look forward to contributing a portion of sales at the end of the quarter to support such a wonderful cause. As PAWS and THINK! grows, I hope to continue working with charities across the country that support children and animals.

**For more information about PAWS and THINK!,  
please visit [www.pawsandthinkbooks.com](http://www.pawsandthinkbooks.com)**





By Jennifer Wilson

Our family joined Team Cool Kids at the Baltimore Running Festival this year. This was a day of celebration, as 4 years ago our son Ben was diagnosed with an aggressive bone cancer. He was 6 years old. On October 20, 2018, Ben completed a 5k and even achieved a personal best. To run with Ben and finish a race was both a privilege and a gift. The Cool Kids Campaign has helped facilitate so many special memories like this for our family. Memories that mean the world to us!

When Ben was first diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, our hospital social worker encouraged us to register with the Cool Kids Campaign because they help "support" families dealing with a pediatric cancer diagnosis. We had no idea the level of "support" Cool Kids would come to provide.

Soon after, Ben began receiving care packages from Cool Kids full of toys, blankets and comfort items for the hospital, t-shirts, and cards. Cool Kids also gave our entire family (including Ben's three sisters) the opportunity to attend numerous Oriole's games, a Raven's game, and tickets to a special movie opening event. Ben was honored as a special

guest of Governor Hogan at a Redskin's game, where he sat in the Governor's box and snacked on all of the popcorn and food he could eat. These family outings were at no cost to us. But, the real blessing was watching Ben and his sisters enjoy themselves, despite his cancer. You see, when a child is diagnosed with a life threatening illness, it is a family diagnosis. ALL of our lives were changed. We were spending weeks at the hospital, away from one another. These outings gave our family the opportunity to be together and have fun, forgetting about cancer for a day. There were no needles, no blood transfusions, no nurses hanging bags of toxic life-saving chemotherapy, and no radiation machines around on those fun-filled afternoons. Just smiles, laughter, happy tears, and feelings of hope.

Thank you, Cool Kids, for supporting our family. Your generosity helped keep our family focused on what is important during one of life's scariest trials. The Wilson family is forever grateful for your commitment to kids with cancer and the families fighting alongside them!



By Libby Kranz

Dig in... and you will dig out.

I have dug in. Enough to somehow both give me a head ache and release me from the one that has been lingering for weeks.

Jennifer loved chocolate cake and a ton of icing. She had celiacs disease and ate gluten free in a time before most people knew what that was.

I pre-made cupcakes for her and froze them so they were ready for any party. Icing on the other hand could be trickier. We found a solution though. We would melt a ton of chocolate chips and pour it on the cupcake and let it harden into a massive chunk of chocolate on the top. And she loved that. She loved having a giant piece of chocolate to gnaw on and get all over her face.

I don't know what it looks like where she is. I don't even know what she looks like. But I imagine her just like that...



Wild eyed and covered in chocolate. And happy. In the end all I wanted to do was to absorb her pain. And I have.

I have dug in and I will continue to dig out. And to remember her...

Happy birthday baby girl! I love you so much!

Now you and me.. lets get to work and change this thing until there is a cure.

## Got leftover candy?

These Candy Bar Blondies are a great way to use Halloween Candy (and depending on how you celebrate, they're also awesome for the day after Christmas and Valentine's Day too.)



### RECIPE FOR CANDY BAR BLONDIES

#### INGREDIENTS

8 tbsp salted butter (1 stick), softened  
½ cup brown sugar, packed light  
¼ cup granulated sugar  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 egg  
1¾ cups all-purpose flour  
½ tsp baking soda  
¼ tsp salt  
3½ cups chocolate candy, chopped

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.  
Beat the butter with the sugars until creamy, using a stand mixer or hand-held beaters on medium speed for 2 minutes. It should look like caramel. Add vanilla and egg, then beat again on low speed for about 10 seconds. Add flour, baking soda, and salt. Mix only a couple of rotations until crumbles form, about 30 seconds. Add 3 cups of chopped chocolate candy. Mix for 30 seconds. Grease a 9x13 inch pan and spread the dough into one even layer. (It'll rise as it cooks so don't worry if it seems thin.) Bake for 12 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and stud the top with a handful of reserved candies. Cook 15 additional minutes until the edges are golden.



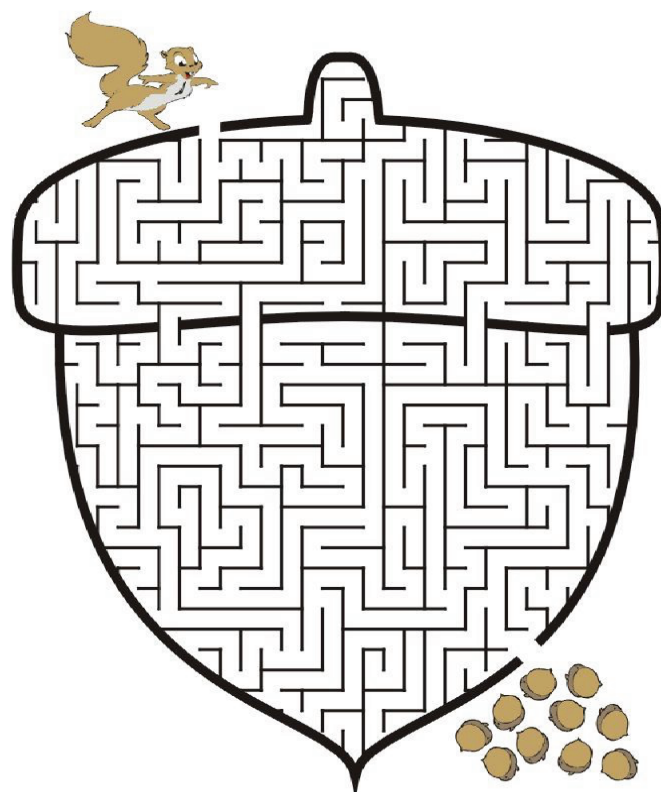
# PUZZLES AND GAMES

## LEAF MATCHING

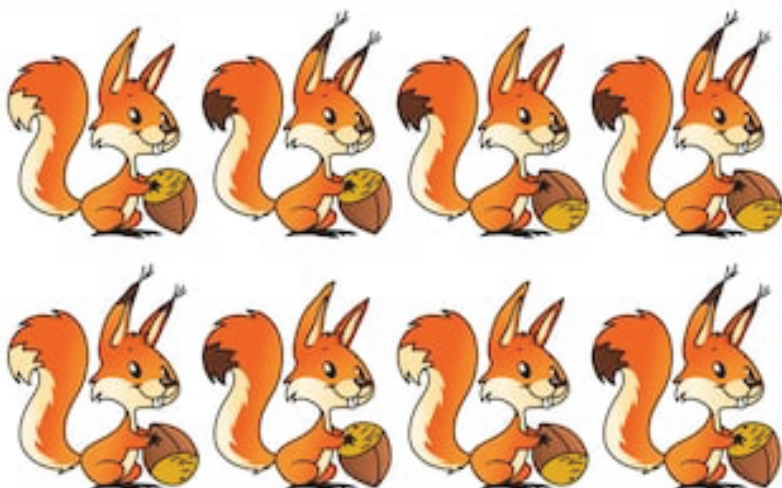
FIND THE LEAVES THAT MATCH AND COLOR THEM THE SAME.



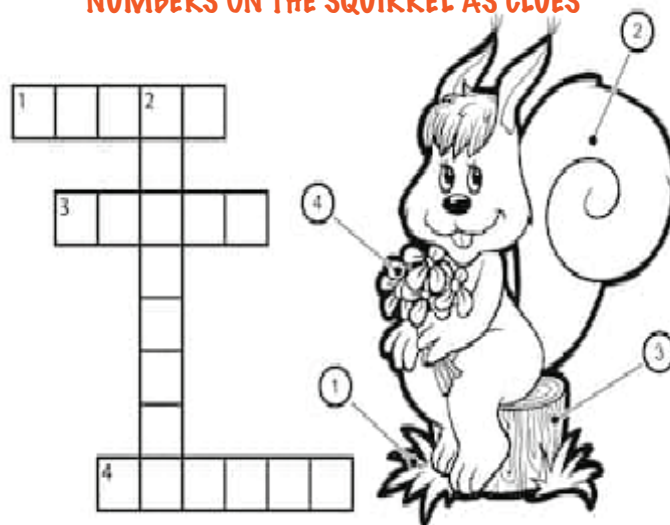
Help this squirrel through the maze to find it's acorns!



FIND 2 SAME PICTURES



SOLVE THIS CROSSWORD PUZZLE USING THE NUMBERS ON THE SQUIRREL AS CLUES



ANSWER: 1. GRASS 2. SQUIRREL 3. STUMP 4. FLOWER

# BRAIN TEASERS

## FIND THE HIDDEN PICTURES










See how many words can you make out of:  
**SCARECROW**




# Fun Facts!

## ALL ABOUT FOXES

-  A group of foxes is called a skulk or leash
-  Foxes have whiskers on their legs and face, which help them to navigate
-  Grey foxes can retract their claws like cats do
-  A male is called a 'dog fox' while a female is called a 'vixen'
-  Foxes are generally solitary animals; unlike wolves, they hunt on their own rather than in packs
-  Foxes dig underground dens where they take care of their kits and hide from predators
-  Their pupils are vertical, similar to a cat, helping them to see well at night

## CONNECT THE DOTS



There are five species of the fox found in North America: The Red Fox, the Gray Fox, the Kit Fox, the Swift fox, and the Island Fox. The two most commonly seen are the red fox and the gray fox.



**Kit Fox**



**Swift Fox**



**Island Fox**



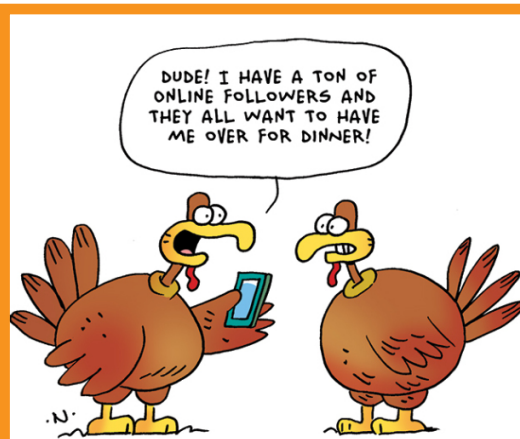
**Gray Fox**



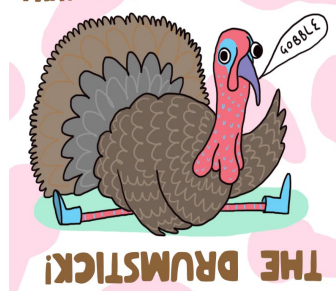
**Red Fox**

# JOCKEYS RIDDLES

## TURKEY FUNNIES



WHAT'S THE MOST MUSICAL PART OF A TURKEY?



## AUTUMN RIDDLES



Q: What do you use to mend a jack-o-lantern?

A: A pumpkin patch.

Q: Who won the skeleton beauty contest?

A: No body.

Q: Who helps the little pumpkins cross the road to school?

A: The Crossing Gourd.

Q: What do you get when you divide the circumference of your jack-o-lantern by its diameter?

A: Pumpkin Pi.

Q: If money really did grow on trees, what would be everyone's favorite season?

A: Fall.

Q: What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?

A: Squash.

Q: What happened when the turkey got in a fight?

A: He got the stuffing knocked out of him.

Q: What did one leaf say to another?

A: I'm falling for you.

Q: Why are all Superman costumes tight?

A: They're all size S.

Q: Why do birds fly south in the fall?

A: Because it's too far to walk.





# MOTHERHOOD AND CHILDHOOD CANCER: 11 LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINE

By Trish Adkins, ALSF staff writer and Hero Mom

*Mothers of childhood cancer heroes learn how to do all sorts of things they never thought they would have to do: flush ports, sleep in chairs at the hospital, search for clinical trials, manage pain, entertain children in clinic waiting rooms and put on a brave face when their child is diagnosed.*

*When my daughter was diagnosed with a brain tumor at 14 months old, I was just figuring out how to be mother. Immediately, everything changed. I learned that nothing was guaranteed, except that my love for my daughter (and later, her siblings), would grow exponentially no matter what cancer threw in our path.*

*One of the amazing perks of working for ALSF is the time I can spend with other hero moms. They each have their own wisdom gleaned from the frontlines of motherhood and childhood cancer. I asked each of these women how childhood cancer changed their idea of motherhood and what they learned. Here are their lessons:*



## HOW TO SURVIVE CHANGE AND CHALLENGE

“Childhood cancer changed motherhood for me because it changed my entire perspective. His diagnosis is a constant reminder that we've endured one of life's greatest challenges. When something comes along that we may find challenging, I take a breath and remember what is truly important - our family.”

*- Lisa, mom to childhood cancer hero Michael and SuperSibs Ryan and J.J.*



## THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE CHILDHOOD, AGAIN

“Survivorship has made me value motherhood so deeply! It's been interesting to experience childhood through my daughters, because I didn't really have one. My childhood was spent in and out of hospitals, and I had to grow up really fast. So I'm learning as I go, and that's a gift! My girls have given me a chance to do some of the things I missed out on like hosting sleepovers, going on vacations, having friends over and playing outside with the neighborhood kids.”

*- Brenna, childhood cancer hero and mom to Madelyn and Lydia*



## NEVER WAIT, JUST DO IT

“Childhood cancer changed motherhood by demanding a superhero level of care and vigilance for my son. I never look at a fever, fatigue or any kind of illness the same way again. Even though he is a survivor, he is at risk for developing other cancers as he ages. I find myself always checking on him more than my daughters.

As for lessons... always go for the second and third opinion as needed. Trust your instinct above any medical degree. Surround your child and family with love and positivity. Plan the vacation... don't wait, just do it. It's a credo we still live by 11 years later.”

*- Keren, mom to childhood cancer hero Cole and SuperSibs Maggie and Maeve*



## LOVING HARD IS THE ONLY OPTION

“Being a mom of a childhood cancer warrior taught me to love deeper, have great empathy for all people who are faced with illness and loss and always rejoice in the present. Time is a great gift. Our children, family and friends are blessings no one should ever take for granted. You get to keep the love you shared even when your child is called home.

I focus every day to be present and strive to be the Mom all my children deserve. I am lucky to have been chosen to be a Mom! “

*- Jody, mom to childhood cancer hero Danny and SuperSibs Jackie, Stephanie, Cassey and Matt*



## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE STRONG

“Strong is the love we have for each other. Strong is the bond between a parent and child. Strong is the faith my child has in my willingness to be honest with him, to protect him to the best of my ability and ensure he receives the best medical care available. Strong is my son who is fighting this battle with courage.”

*- Marla, mom to childhood cancer hero Gunner and SuperSibs Skyler, Kayla and Macy*

# MOTHERHOOD AND CHILDHOOD CANCER: 11 LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINE

6

## THE STRENGTH OF MOM FRIENDS

"Childhood cancer made me question myself and what I didn't notice or overlooked until I met wonderful moms who put my mind at ease and helped me to understand how to go forward. It also made me appreciate my kids' resilience and strength."

- Lilli, mom to childhood cancer hero Morgan and SuperSibs Michael, Miles, and Mckenzie

7

## IT'S OKAY TO MISS WHAT WAS

"Childhood cancer put an urgency into my motherhood and that changed me. I miss my 'before childhood cancer' motherhood every single day."

- Megan, mom to childhood cancer hero Declan and SuperSibs Brendan and Thomas

8

## THAT YOU ARE DOING YOUR BEST

"It's the daily lessons of knowing you're doing the best for your kids even while your second guessing yourself the whole time. I never thought I could love as much as I love them."

- Beth, mom to Childhood Cancer Hero Cameron and SuperSibs Skye and Emma

9

## TO RETHINK OLD TRUTHS

"Being given a terminal diagnosis on day one as a childhood cancer mom really made me rethink every truth I held prior to that day. I went from my daughter is only 12 to 'oh my God, she will never be 13.' I thought, 'What experiences should I help her to live in these next 7-9 months?' All the things that I believed to be paramount suddenly weren't so important after all. School for example, was her attendance that important after all? I mean did it matter that I had put so much importance on the kids being at school no matter what. Was I missing the boat or had I already missed it? Books or movies I thought were too mature based on a multitude of factors; did it really matter?"

- Deb, mom to childhood cancer hero Hope and SuperSib J.D.

10

## GRATITUDE FOR EACH DAY

"I was a fairly 'new' mom when cancer invaded. In minutes, my life changed from the perfect family—my son with beautiful blond curls so excited about kindergarten and my daughter who emulated everything her big brother did—to asking our ER nurse to pray for my son because I couldn't think of anything else to do and couldn't remember how. The world of motherhood became a world of bravery, hope, love and faith... Normal no longer existed. From that day—July 16, 1991—forward, I cherish every single moment on earth that we have as a family. I am grateful for sunrises and the sunsets that bring the promise of a new day and the chance to offer hope to others."

- Anita, mom to childhood cancer hero Mike and SuperSib Morgan

11

## IT IS ALL SHORT AND PRECIOUS

"What did I learn? Don't take anything or anyone for granted. Life is short and precious. Children are strong-willed and resilient and have an amazing ability to adapt to whatever life throws at them. Live in the moment, be flexible, and make the best of things. Gather information and look at all options. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Try to be easy on yourself and your family members, everyone is just doing the best they can under the circumstances. Take time out to just have fun and enjoy life whenever possible. There is no why."

- Aimee, mom to hero Kendall and SuperSib Zachary



Mandy and Evy Burton



# COOL KIDS WE L♥VE

*Send us your stuff and become a  
published writer or artist!*

*Send us your stories, art, poetry,  
photos, and anything else you want  
to see in print!*

*Email all submissions to  
[julie@coolkidscampaign.org](mailto:julie@coolkidscampaign.org) or mail to*

**Cool Kids Campaign,  
8422 Bellona Lane, Suite 102,  
Towson, MD 21204.**



**BROOKLYN**



**NOAH**

## Children are at the heart of our care

From pediatric medicine to specialty care,  
the Herman & Walter Samuelson  
Children's Hospital at Sinai offers exceptional  
care and support for children and their families.  
[lifebridgehealth.org/childrenshospital](http://lifebridgehealth.org/childrenshospital)



*The Herman & Walter Samuelson*  
**Children's**  
HOSPITAL AT SINAI





# Cool Kids CAMPAIGN®

## Learn About Our Club House



Cami, Relapsed Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

**Helping kids with pediatric cancer and their families  
is what Cool Kids Campaign is all about.**

In our Learning Center, we focus on the academic, social and emotional needs of children living with cancer.

Our programs include one on one tutoring, Mommy & Me for the little ones with cancer, Super Sibs to focus on the issues of the siblings and a Teen Club for patients and survivors.

All Cool Kids Campaign programs are free to families and children living with (or survivors of) pediatric cancer.

**410-560-1770**

8422 Bellona Lane, Suite 102, Towson, MD 21204



[fb.com/coolkidsfoundation](http://fb.com/coolkidsfoundation)

**CHEMO CAPS ONLY \$6 A PIECE!**



**CANCER  
FEARS** *Me*®

*is a strong, positive mindset for those living with cancer,  
their support groups and caregivers.*



CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SHIPPING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY/COLORS - write quantity in box: ☐ Navy ☐ Raspberry ☐ Surfer Blue TOTAL DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT - Checks made out to 'Cool Kids Campaign' are preferred

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP \_\_\_\_\_ SEC CODE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Cool Kids Campaign, 8422 Bellona Lane, Ste 102, Towson, MD 21204

Phone: 410-560-1770 Fax: 410-560-1775 Email: [Janet@coolkidscampaign.org](mailto:Janet@coolkidscampaign.org)

**CANCER  
FEARS** *Me*®

Cool Kids  
CAMPAIGN®

*Cancer Fears Me® is a trademark  
of Cool Kids Campaign*