### March / April 2022

# KEATON'S OF MIRCH Child Cancer Mission Alliance Mission in Novies States of March



#### A DAY OF PLAY WITH KEATON'S FAMILIES

On April 2nd, we were excited to host our first family event of the year, "Spring Festival", at Gill Orchards in Davis. Over 150 guests enjoyed games, arts & crafts, an egg hunt, hayrides, and more! Families were given tours of the orchards and even gifted their very own almond trees to take home. Huge thanks to our Keaton's Board Member, Amar Gill, and the entire Gill Family for welcoming our Keaton Kiddos and their families to their almond and pistachio orchards for a fun-filled day. Children happily played, parents enjoyed a break, and families connected with one another. Special memories created by all!

# Thanks for everything while hosting us with lunch, snacks, and crafts! Your volunteers and staff are amazing. The family really enjoyed the event! - Ronnie, Father of Keaton's Kiddo Tyler

We are grateful to our community partners for their support in making this event possible:



Watch Our Day of Play on our YouTube Channel at https://bit.ly/KeatonsDayOfPlay



#### Meet 6 year-old Adelle



Join us in spreading joy and positive thoughts for Keaton's Kiddo Adelle, who completed her radiation treatments on February 3rd! Sweet Adelle enjoys baking, playing outside, reading, and spending time with her awesome cousins. Her life was sadly turned upside down after she was diagnosed with DIPG, a rare brain tumor that forms in the glial cells, a part of the brain stem.

Although there are many challenges and emotional stressors that come with this rare diagnosis, Adelle's family remains positive as they stand by her side and support her through her cancer journey. On good days and bad days, she shines bright and is the light in her family's eyes. Her mom, who is her primary caregiver, does all that she can to support Adelle while also working part-time to ensure income for their household.

Since being referred to Keaton's, our team has been happy to share a personalized Hope Chest for Adelle and her cousins, including fun baking items for her and goodies for her loved ones. Due to frequent commutes and financial stressors that come with any childhood cancer diagnosis, we have extended gas cards, food cards, and more! We look forward to furthering connections with Adelle's family to continue our support and keep our Mission in Motion.

Please continue to keep Adelle and her family in your thoughts as she fights her battle.



Meet Keaton's Kiddo Wyatt, who loves video games, drawing, and board games. Wyatt began his journey on December 27th, when he was diagnosed with Medulloblastoma Brain Cancer. Medulloblastoma, the most common type of cancerous brain tumor in children, is a fast-growing cancerous tumor.

Since the date of diagnosis, Wyatt has had brain tumor resection, a brain shunt placed and repositioned, a port placement, and endured a stay of about 4 weeks in the hospital. He has experienced the loss of his hair and the loss of everyday functions, including his sight, his ability to walk, as well as being unable to dress and feed himself.

Wyatt began chemotherapy and radiation on January 31st and continued to receive treatments twice a week until March 17th. After this round of treatments, Wyatt will still be attending physical and occupational therapy, before beginning his next treatments of chemo and radiation.

Continue to read Wyatt's story at https://ChildCancer.org/Wyatt.

### **Marking Milestones**



After four back-to-back rounds of radiation, with the latest being on her brain and spine, we are honored to celebrate Keaton's Kiddo Ashley's completion of her radiation treatment!

As a teen in our program and experiencing life battling pediatric cancer for the past 18 years, Ashley has become a great advocate for other teens and kids who have a tough time coping with a childhood cancer diagnosis. Aside from undergoing the day-to-day challenges that any teen experiences, a cancer diagnosis adds on additional stressors that only TEENS can relate to. That is why the bright, young, and resilient teens in our program, like Ashley, are a TRUE inspiration to our team at Keaton's.

We look forward to furthering our connections and offering emotional support specifically for teen patients and siblings in our program. For more information, please contact Family Navigator and Teen Support Coordinator, Isela Lopez, at Isela.Lopez@ChildCancer.org.

## 🔠 MARK YOUR CALENDAR!





#### Take the Big Day of Giving Challenge, Thursday, May 5th!

This **Big Day of Giving**, we invite you to support Keaton's Child Cancer Alliance, the only local organization providing children with cancer and their families with emotional, educational, and financial support while increasing awareness and funding research toward a cure.

Donate or Fundraise with Keaton's during the Big Day of Giving (BDOG) to support young cancer warriors and their families as they navigate the complexities of pediatric cancers.

Visit https://ChildCancer.org/Big-Dayof-Giving-2022 to donate or to create your fundraising page to share.

Keaton's 25th Annual Chipping Away at Childhood Cancer Golf Tournament, Thursday, May 26th, at The Ridge Golf Course & Events Center

Reserve your foursome now for an incredible day on the golf course! Sponsorships begin at \$500 with details available at **ChildCancer.org/Golf**.

Contact Jessica Alonso at 916.784.6786 or Jessica.Alonso@ChildCancer.org to be a part of this unforgettable day on the green!

#### **TOGETHER WE THRIVE**



We express gratitude for our ongoing partnership with Sacramento State's Department of Social Work. Thanks to this partnership, Keaton's has had the pleasure of supporting over 30 Bachelor's level social work interns since 2012.

Over the years, Sacramento State interns have contributed to the growth of our Family Navigator Programs and have provided an immense amount of support to Keaton's kiddos and families. In addition to the amazing work of social work students, we've had the pleasure of coming alongside amazing professors and Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) through Sacramento State, who have greatly supported Keaton's Child Cancer Alliance's mission and the growth of our interns.

We look forward to the continued support of social work students as they further their education and career.

#### Stronger Together ~ Thanking Our Community Partners



Thank you to our community partner, Promote Me for your continued support and dedication over the past 15 years!

Throughout the years, Promote Me has provided Keaton's with thousands of names for our personalized snuggle blankets that get placed into Hope Chests when a child is first referred to Keaton's. Thanks to Promote Me, our Keaton's kiddos feel extra special when seeing their name on their blankets!



Thank you to our friends at The Magic Yarn Project for partnering with Keaton's through their quarterly donations of yarn wigs over the past 4-years, and recently donating 50 wigs! We include these wigs in our joy-filled Hope Chests for newly diagnosed children undergoing treatment.

We love to see the many smiles and lifted spirits that these fun, character-inspired yarn wigs have given the kiddos and families we serve!



#### We ♥ Our Volunteers ~ Betty

Our hearts are so grateful for Betty Marchbanks participating as a weekly in-office volunteer.

Betty's many talents have helped Keaton's in so many ways. Betty took on our storage facility at the Galleria and completely organized Hope Chest items, making it easier for everyone to complete the family care packages that go out to every family participating in the family navigator program.

"I'm helping the staff behind the scenes. Being a volunteer helps me have a meaningful purpose while helping others."  $\sim$  Betty

Our staff looks forward to seeing and talking with Betty each week when she is in the office helping out with the many tasks assigned to her. We greatly appreciate all of her support.

#### Mission in Motion ~ 20 Years of Fundraising for Pediatric Cancer Research

Twenty years ago, Robyn Raphael, co-founder of our organization committed on Capitol Hill to bring St. Baldrick's head-shaving events to the Sacramento Region. Since 2003, Keaton's hosted events in partnership with SuperCuts have raised over \$9 million benefiting the St. Baldrick's Foundation. Of these funds, over \$2 million have been donated to the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center for local pediatric cancer research initiatives.



This year's 20th Annual Celebration kicked off on Friday, March 25th with **UC Davis Health's** Virtual event raising over \$50K with the top fundraising team, **"No Hair, Don't Care."** "We are a group of healthcare professionals at UC Davis Medical Center and work with children every day. Many of them are pediatric cancer patients", shared nurse and team captain Heather Sims.

On Saturday, March 26th, our signature event at **Westfield Galleria at Roseville** featured over 70 shavees collectively raising over \$85K in support of local and national research efforts. "Westfield Galleria at Roseville is once again proud to support this very worthy cause," notes Jeff Richardson, Senior General Manager of Westfield Galleria of Roseville. "Since the event began at our venue 15 years ago, we've raised more than \$1.7 million in support of pediatric cancer research."

One specific team involved, **The Bald and The Beautiful**, was honored for their 20-year participation and raising over \$300K since 2003. "It has been an honor and a pleasure to help," shared Team Captain Aldo Pineschi. During the Knighting Ceremony, Aldo was honored as a St. Baldrick's "Baron of the Brave" for his dedication and commitment to funding pediatric cancer research over the past 20 years. Aldo and his team continue to honor 5-year-old Keaton Raphael's legacy alongside his father and fellow shavee, Kyle Raphael. Special thanks to our other top fundraising teams the Angels & Warriors and Tilton Pacific Construction for all of their support.

**Mulvaney's Building & Loan** brought this year's event back downtown on April 25th, exceeding their fundraising goal of 100K! Patrick Mulvaney, his amazing crew, and all of the participants demonstrated their dedication and passion for raising funds for childhood cancer research. A big thank you to the top fundraising team, SacTown Baldies, for their support towards pediatric cancer research.

We are grateful for our community's support in offering **HOPE** to children fighting cancer and their families through advanced treatment options, more clinical trials, and increased chances of survival. **Together, we can conquer kids' cancers**.



### Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers help make all the projects and family outreach events possible for cancer kiddos and their families.

- May 26th "Chipping Away at Childhood Cancer"
- June 17th Funderland Family Event

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Melinda, Director of Operations, at 916-757-6136 or Melinda.Sober@ChildCancer.org. Visit our website for additional opportunities at ChildCancer.org.

#### Connect with Us

See Keaton's Mission in Motion as it happens on our social media channels.

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#### ChildCancer.org