May / June 2022

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OHANA MEANS FAMILY!

Our annual summer kick-off event at Funderland Amusement Park held on Friday, June 17th was a tropical delight with 46 families and over 250 guests in attendance. This year's Disney Luau themed gathering provided joy-filled experiences, created special memories, and offered respite from daily cancer regimens.

Along with special guest appearances from Mickey, Minnie, and other characters that joined in on the fun, families had an opportunity to enjoy rides, games, arts & crafts, and a fun-filled dance party! It was a magical evening seeing our Keaton's families sharing joy and laughter with one another.

"I saw Eddy laugh, I saw my kid being a kid again!! He enjoyed every single ride he got on with his sister to the fullest!! He was around other kids that are going through the same thing as he is and he felt good. I cried because for the first time in over a month he didn't have to worry about his port or an IV or chemo or anything cancer related. I cried because he was able to enjoy a few hours of pure joy! Pure Joy!!!" - Jessica, Eddy's Mom

A special thank you to our partners at Funderland Amusement Park, Chicago Fire, Raley's, Chando's Tacos, Rich's Ice-Cream Catering, Sevilla Magic FX, League of Heroes Inspired, Steve Allard of TSP DJ, Bayside Church of Granite Bay, Mama Bears Fighting Childhood Cancer, First Northern Bank, Team Giving, First Tech Federal Credit Union, Boys Team Charity & National Charity League of Granite Bay for coming alongside Keaton's to make this event possible.

Thanks to the support of these community partners and volunteers, we are able to provide this annual evening of fun to families touched by childhood cancer. Wishing everyone a fun and safe summer!

Meet 16 year-old Lily



Meet 7 year-old Angelee

Aside from loving Lego sets and coloring, Lily can be described as having a huge heart with an interest in experiencing all that life has to offer!

Lily embarked on her strenuous cancer journey on July 31, 2021. After a trip to her local emergency room, when finding sores on her body, Lily bravely traveled by ambulance for the first time to another hospital almost 2 hours away from her home, with her mom, Lori, following right behind her. Arriving at 12:30 am, endless tests were performed on Lily, and on August 4th, she was sadly diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, a cancer of the blood and bone marrow that affects the body's myeloid cells. Being the courageous soul that she is. Lily was ready to put up a fight against this horrible disease and began inpatient chemotherapy shortly after her diagnosis. The beginning of this journey took a toll on her body, causing many unwanted changes. Having to watch her body's reaction to treatment was a painful sight for her mom, while the doctors worked quickly to understand this reaction. Lily's mom, Lori, shares, "Lily's body did not like something, and her body started freaking out. I thought I was going to lose my daughter that day. Just remembering that day brings tears to my eyes." Eventually, Lily adjusted to her treatment, making her following treatments slightly less stressful on her body.

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



Angelee is a 7-year-old who enjoys coloring, drawing, and painting. On January 19, 2022, Angelee was diagnosed with B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), the most common type of Leukemia (blood cancer) in which too many B-cell Lymphoblasts (immature white blood cells) are found in the bone marrow and blood. Angelee was referred to Keaton's Child Cancer Alliance after her diagnosis, and despite the many barriers she is experiencing, such as side effects from her treatment and adapting to her new "normal," Angelee stays positive and spends more time creating art as a form of expression.

With the support from her family, Angelee has remained resilient and continues her fight against childhood cancer. Although her family faces many challenges, like frequent commutes and hospitalizations, Angelee's parents ensure she gets the medical support she needs and manages to commute almost 6 hours round trip, twice a week, to get her to treatment locally in Sacramento.

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

Marking Milestones





Keaton's Kiddo Oliver had an exciting surprise visit from his Family Navigator team, who brought him a personalized care package full of Disney-themed goodies and more. He was so thrilled with his care package that he stopped mid-opening to show his excitement with a cartwheel!

Oliver was diagnosed with a Yolk Sac Tumor on June 11, 2020. Thankfully, this resilient kiddo is finished with treatment and his energetic personality shines brightly!

Thank you to our community partners and donors for creating these joyfilled experiences for these mini superheroes.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



This September, Glow Gold with Keaton's Spread holiday magic to children and

Join us in the fight against childhood cancer through advocacy, raising awareness, and fundraising efforts.

Yes, I want to get involved!

For more information contact Jessica Alonso at 916.784.6786 or Jessica.Alonso@ChildCancer.org.



families fighting cancer.

Register to become a Holiday Adopt A Family Sponsor today!

For more information, contact Keaton's Programs Director, Jasmine Fraijo, at 916.757.6040 or Jasmine.Fraijo@ChildCancer.org.

TOGETHER WE THRIVE



BIG DAY OF GIVING ~ A BIG SUCCESS!

Thank You to our amazing community for your generosity to Keaton's during Big Day of Giving! Your gifts will go towards providing children with cancer and their families with emotional, educational, and financial support through our Family Navigator Program services.

To learn more about Keaton's Program services visit https://ChildCancer.org/Services.

Stronger Together ~ Thanking Our Community Partners



A special thank you to our new alliance partners at Luna Peak Foundation for donating 190 Books to Keaton's! Utilized in our family Hope Chests, Remembrance Boxes and for kiddos declared cancer free, these awesome books provide empowerment, helpful tools, and coping methods for children with cancer and their families throughout various walks of their journey.

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." ~ Nelson Mandela

Thank you to our dear friends, Kids Helping Kids Sacramento for making a significant impact on the lives of children with cancer and their families. This generous support contributes to the enhancement of our Family Navigator Program services. We are so grateful for their dedication and commitment in supporting the pediatric cancer community. We are honored to be in this fight together!



Thank you to our community partners at First Tech Federal Credit Union for their donation of craft kits for Keaton's kiddos & siblings! Throughout the year, First Tech's generous team puts together craft kits, tailored to various seasons and holidays, which are used at our fun family events, and are also placed into family Hope Chests.

It is through the support of community partners like First Tech that we are able to provide fun arts and crafts to the families that we serve.

Mission in Motion ~ 25 Years of "Chipping Away at Childhood Cancer"

Keaton's Child Cancer Alliance celebrated its 25th Annual "Chipping Away at Childhood Cancer" golf tournament on May 26th at The Ridge Golf Course & Event Center in Auburn. Proceeds from the tournament support our mission of providing emotional, educational, and financial support to children with cancer and their families.

Over 140 golfers, 50 community partners, and 30 volunteers joined efforts in the fight against childhood cancer. The milestone event was a HOLE IN ONE with over \$110K raised to fund vital family-centered supportive services for those navigating the complexities of a pediatric cancer diagnosis.

Congratulations to our 25th Annual "Chipping Away at Childhood Cancer" Golf Tournament Winners ~1st Place Wood Rodgers – Steve Balbierz, Trevor Standridge, Steve Strickland, Matt Spokely; 2nd Place WGG Wealth Partners – Stephen Westlake, Neal Smith, Mike Bennett, Jacque Finn; 3rd Place Bayside Church - Shaun Sanassarian, Jim Holst, Presley <u>Sanassarian, Bryson Zorich.</u>

This year, we honored a very special golfer with a heart of gold and a passion for helping others. Our Community Hero Award was presented to Steve Balbierz from Wood Rodgers for his loyal support over the past 24 years. Thank you, Steve, for being a strong ambassador for our mission and inspiring others to do the same. Your support has impacted the lives of countless children and families navigating their childhood cancer journey.

Partnerships with Danielle Roe Events, FSA Auctions, Presenting Sponsor: UC Davis Health & Comprehensive Cancer Center, Hero Sponsors: Sonoma Fabricators, Platinum Wine Lounge, Wildlands & Kids Helping Kids Sacramento as well as numerous Gold & Hole Sponsors, which include Air Systems Service & Construction, Bayside Church Granite Bay, Bennett's Kitchen Bar Market - Roseville, Chicago Fire, Clifton Larson Allen, Consolidated Communications Foundation, CPS HR Consulting, Dr. Ritch Jacobs, Edward Jones, Employers Select Insurance Services, Fair Oaks Arborist, Fidelity National Title, First Northern Bank, Gill Orchards, Granite Equity Group, Kaiser Permanente, Knee Deep Brewing, Lennar, Longbridge Financial, Marquee Media, MUN CPAs, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Point Equity Residential Lending, RCubed Lifestyle, Recology Auburn Placer, Reconstruction Services, Ricardo Alonso of NextHome Cedar Street Realty and Farmers Insurance, SAFE Credit Union, TruePoint Solutions, WGG Wealth Partners, and Wood Rodgers, Inc., contributed to the generous, compassionate support for the cause.

Together, we continue to "Chip Away at Childhood Cancer" as we strive to support every child in Northern California impacted by cancer. View our golf recap and special message from Keaton's Executive Director, Jessica Alonso at https://bit.ly/Keatons25thAnnualGolfTournament.











Volunteers Needed!

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

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