September 2022

KEATON'S OF Child Cancer Mission Alliance Mission in Novi Control of Control



NO ONE FIGHTS ALONE - GLOW GOLD FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

In 1997, a 5-year-old Roseville kiddo named Keaton Raphael was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma and after a nine-month courageous battle gained his angel wings. It was a devastating, difficult journey for Keaton's family and has been for the thousands of families we have been honored to support over the past 25 years.

Child and Cancer are two words that should never exist in the same phrase. And yet, 47 children are being diagnosed with cancer every day in the U.S. With no prevention or screening options and unknown causes leading to over a dozen cancer types with 100 subtypes, childhood cancer is a reality for many in our community whose lives are forever changed by four words, "Your child has cancer."

This September, we recognize National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and invite you to join our "GlowGold" efforts to ensure that No One Fights Alone. Their fight is our fight, and we remain committed to loving and supporting families as they navigate the journey of childhood cancer. Just this year, we have touched the lives of over 500 cancer warriors, siblings, angels, and parents-guardians by offering Hope, Strength, and Healing through our individualized, comprehensive Family Navigator Programs.

The color gold symbolizes how precious children are and the resiliency of childhood cancer heroes. Unlike other awareness ribbons that symbolize one specific disease, the gold ribbon stands for over 12 major types of childhood cancers and over 100 subtypes.

Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of young warriors and their loved ones.

Honoring Our Angels





Abel, Forever 17 years old

We remember our Keaton's angel, Abel. A bright young man who thrived in school. His hope was to one day go to college and work towards his success. With his caring heart and love for his family, Abel left an impact on everyone he met and will be sincerely missed. We celebrate Abel's life and legacy, honoring his journey. Read Abel's story at **ChildCancer.org/Abel**.

Ashley, Forever 18 years old

We remember our Keaton's angel, Ashley. She is a kind-hearted beautiful soul whose personality is as bright as her smile. Despite having cancer and fighting a tenacious battle, Ashley always had a smile on her face. She grew to be a support for other children battling cancer and a true inspiration for those who witnessed the positive impact she shared. Read Ashley's story at **ChildCancer.org/Ashley.**

Meet Keaton's Childhood Cancer Awareness Ambassadors



Colby, 10 years old

Colby's smile, sense of humor, fighting spirit, and unconditional love and support from family and friends is what keeps him fighting! At just 10 years old, on April 29, 2021, Keaton's Kiddo Colby was diagnosed with T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). Read Colby's story at **ChildCancer.org/Colby**.

Diana, 18 years old

Diana recently graduated high school and was a recipient of our annual John McLean Hero Scholarship Award. She will be attending Sacramento State University in the Fall with the goal to become a therapist. journey with Keaton's began five years ago, when she was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, at the young age of 13. Read Diana's story at **ChildCancer.org/Diana**.

Sobhanulla, 12 years old

Sobhanulla, or Sobha loves soccer and playing games on his dad's phone. Once living a similar life to other kids in his community, his life presented a different path. On April 21, 2021, Sobha was sadly diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), the most common childhood cancer. Read Sobha's story at **ChildCancer.org/Sobha**.

Aliya, 11 years old

Aliya has always been a strong, fun, and loving spirit since the time of her birth, according to her sweet mom, Jess. Born a resilient kiddo, she fought through being a preemie and stayed in the NICU for the first 3 months of her life, while waiting for her lungs to develop. At the age of 8, Aliya was diagnosed with B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, in April of 2020. Read Aliya's story at **ChildCancer.org/Aliya**.

Eduardo, 7 years old

Eduardo, or Eddy loves to collect and build legos, especially if they are Mario Bros theme. Before Eddy's diagnosis, he had frequent fevers and doctor's visits while trying to figure out what was going on. He was diagnosed on May 12, 2022 with B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) with 70% of Leukemia in his body. Read Eddie's story at **ChildCancer.org/Eddy**.

Ways to Support

Spread Awareness

- Follow & Share Keaton's Child Cancer Alliance on Facebook and/or Instagram
- Create Letters and Cards of Hope for Kids with Cancer. Letters can be mailed to us at 2260 Douglas Blvd. Ste 140 Roseville, CA 95661

Help Save a Child's Life

- Donate Blood at a local blood bank
- Register on "Be The Match" Donor Registry to see if you qualify. Register at bethematch.org
- Volunteer with Keaton's

Make a Donation

- Donate at ChildCancer.org/donate
- Give Grocery, Gas, Walmart & Target Gift Cards (\$25-\$50 increments preferred)
- Host a fundraiser on Facebook & select Keaton's Child Cancer Alliance as your nonprofit to support





#Together We Fight ~ An Inspiring Testimonial from a Keaton's Parent



For all you parents out there, perhaps newly diagnosed, or in the middle of your journey... this is what it looks like on the other side! My just turning 17 yr old son is happy, fit and healthy. Almost 1.5 years EOT. There were moments in those early days: in the first few days when he needed Ephresia treatment (scary!!), when it looked like he might need a transplant (did not reach remission after first month), or when he was hospitalized in the last 6 months of treatment for an emergency Acute Cholestitis surgery, when I worried about the outcome. But God was with me... my angels were with me, and soooo many people were praying for him, and for me... that I could feel the support!... and I knew without doubt that he would be ok! That this was just a journey of his that we had to get through together.

So, parents and caregivers... don't lose hope. Don't allow fear to overtake you. Know that you are being watched over by more than friends and family... and that God has you covered. Sadly it doesn't always end this way for some... but even for those... you are never alone... and you are being carried. There were many organizations who supported us through his journey, but Keaton's holds a special place in our hearts. Their generosity, commitment, sincere caring of my son and our family encouraged us to stay connected with them through all 3.5 years of treatment and beyond!" ~ Jen, Mother of Keaton's Kiddo Connor, Diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at 12 years old, CANCER-FREE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Sac Republic FC Childhood Cancer Awareness Night Saturday, September 10th, 7 pm Heart Health Park 1600 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815

Get your tickets at SacRepublic.com



Racing to Raise Awareness Saturday, Sept 10, 2022 Gates open at 5 pm All American Speedway 800 All American City Blvd, Roseville, CA 95678

Get your tickets at AllAmericanSpeedway.com



The Facts

of children with cancer in the U.S.

will not survive it.

California is the

#1 state

for the highest childhood leukemia

incidence rates

One quarter of

childhood cancer survivors face a late effect from treatment

that is classified as

severe o

life-threatening

Keaton's 10th Annual Gala, "Havana Nights" October 15, 2022 Luxurious Private Estate El Dorado Hills, CA

Join this party with a purpose to show your love & support to children & families battling cancer within our region! Visit **ChildCancer.org/Gala** for sponsorships.



#Together We Heal ~ Introducing Keaton's Teen Alliance

Keaton's Child Cancer Alliance has officially launched the Keaton's Teen Alliance program created by teens, for teens! With the support of a few Keaton's teens, the Family Navigators have been able learn more about the obstacles & barriers teens face, especially when they have been diagnosed with cancer, excluding them from what some might consider a typical teenage life. Listening to the stories of our teens encouraged Keaton's to jump to an action plan, the group that would support them in feeling included.

Keaton's Teen Alliance is inclusive for teen patients & their siblings who fall between the ages of 13 to 18 years old. These teens can look forward to fun bimonthly events & hangouts just for them, & even a special teen zone with enjoyable games, crafts, & more at all family events. The Keaton's Teen Alliance events serve as a way for teens to build new friendships through fun, but therapeutic activities, while providing inspiration & support to others. Read more at **ChildCancer.org/KeatonsTeenAlliance**

Childhood Cancer is a Family Diagnosis

- Childhood cancer impacts the whole family in fact, one in four families lose more than 40% of their annual household income as a result of childhood cancer treatment-related work disruption. One in three families face other work disruptions such as having to quit work or change jobs.
- Patients and siblings of children with cancer are at risk for emotional and behavioral difficulties, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder are well documented for parents whose children have completed cancer treatment.

Stronger Together ~ Thanking Our Community Partners

Over the past 8 years, the Women's Group of Our Savior Lutheran Church of Auburn has sewn nearly 1,000 snuggle blankets for Keaton Kiddos. These beautiful blankets made with love are personalized with each patient's name thanks to a partnership with Promote Me in Roseville. These Snuggle Blankets are a special piece of our Hope Chests, bringing comfort and joy to kiddos during their hospitalizations, clinic visits, and beyond. "It is an honor to be able to help these children," shares Marge. Thank you to these sweet ladies for their dedication to serving local children with cancer.





Volunteers Needed!

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

Volunteers needed for our 10th Annual Glow for Gold Gala. Details at ChildCancer.org/GetInvolved/Volunteers.

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.

2260 Douglas Blvd., Ste 140, Roseville, CA 95661 916.784.6786

ChildCancer.org



