Our Mission

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation is a volunteer and donor powered charity committed to supporting the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives.
About Us

What started as a challenge between three friends in 2000 has grown into the world’s largest private funder of childhood cancer research grants.

Since then, over 14,000 events have been held and more than 560,000 shaves have taken place to stand in solidarity with kids fighting cancer.

Childhood Cancer Treatments Require Childhood Cancer Research

How Big Is The Problem?

Every 2 minutes a child is diagnosed with cancer worldwide.

Before they turn 20, about 1 in 285 children in the U.S. will have cancer.

Childhood cancer is the #1 disease killer of children in the U.S.

In the U.S., 1 in 5 won’t survive, and those who do often suffer long-term effects from treatment too harsh for their developing bodies.

Even when kids get cancers that adults get — like lymphoma — they must be treated differently. Children are not simply smaller adults!

According to a study supported by St. Baldrick’s, by age 50 99% of survivors have had a chronic health problem, and 96% have experienced a severe or life-threatening conditions.
How We Fundraise

Fundraising

Donations raised through St. Baldrick’s fundraisers support the development of childhood cancer treatments or to cure every child.

Head-Shaving Events

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation coordinates signature head-shaving events worldwide, giving volunteers the opportunity to “rock the bald” in solidarity with kids fighting cancer and to raise money to support the best childhood cancer research, wherever it takes place.

TO DATE:

580,000+ Shaved Heads 80,000+ Women 14,000+ Events Worldwide

In 2020, nearly 12,000 supporters, including more than 2,000 females, have already registered to shave their heads at more than 770 events.

Do What You Want

If going bald isn’t your thing, you can Do What You Want to raise funds. Let your creativity flow!

Find out how you can get involved at StBaldricks.org/get-involved
Research

To date, St. Baldrick’s has committed more than $282 million to lifesaving research, making it the largest non-government funder of childhood cancer research grants.

Grant Types

Research Grant
Funding for one-year research projects that look to find new and better cures for childhood cancers.

Cooperative Research Grant
A multi-million dollar grant to the Children’s Oncology Group, distributed to 200+ institutions for clinical trials, funding virtually every institution qualified to treat children with cancer.

Consortium Research Grant
Funding given to groups of researchers at multiple institutions who are collaborating on projects with great promise.

St. Baldrick’s – Stand Up To Cancer Pediatric Cancer Dream Team
A multi-million dollar grant focused on curing the most hard-to-treat childhood cancers by bringing together the fields of genomics and immunotherapeutics.

St. Baldrick’s Summer Fellow
Funding for medical school or college students to work in a pediatric-oncology research lab for one summer, possibly encouraging them to choose childhood cancer research as a specialty.

St. Baldrick’s Fellow
Two to three years of funding to provide new doctors with training in childhood cancer research.

St. Baldrick’s Scholar
Three or more years of funding given to early career professionals who are pursuing exciting research and without funding might not be able to continue.

Supportive Care Research Grant
Funding for research to improve the management of patients’ symptoms during treatment, to improve family coping skills and compliance with therapy, to help with the many issues that survivors face, and more.

International Beneficiary
Funding shared with a childhood cancer beneficiary outside the U.S., from monies raised by St. Baldrick’s events held in their country.

International Scholar
Awards to train researchers from low- and middle-income countries to prepare them to answer specific research questions related to childhood cancer in their home country.

Infrastructure Grant
Funding to help institutions treat more children on clinical trials or for resources to make more research possible.

St. Baldrick’s Foundation
Robert J. Arceci Innovation Award
In memory of the renowned Dr. Robert J. Arceci, this award offers $250,000 a year for three years for unrestricted research by early- to mid-career pediatric oncologists. Researchers may not apply, they must be nominated in recognition of their innovative work. Each year the award goes to one recipient from the U.S. or Canada, the other international.

Learn more about St. Baldrick’s funding at StBaldricks.org/grants.
Funding Impact

The research we fund has the potential to impact every kid diagnosed with cancer. When you give to St. Baldrick’s, you don’t just give to one institution – you give to more than 376 institutions that are treating kids with cancer across the U.S. and beyond.

Here are some examples of the impact from St. Baldrick’s funding:

**2019 Research Highlights**

**St. Baldrick’s — SU2C Dream Team Combines Immunotherapy and Genomics**

In a multi-million dollar project supported by the St. Baldrick’s Foundation in partnership with Stand Up To Cancer, Dream Team researchers from nine institutions across North America are working together to find new ways to use genomics (the study of genes and their functions) to create new immunotherapies to target cancer cells.

Achievements include:

- More than 1,000 patients have been treated on SBF-SU2C Dream Team clinical trials, offering cutting-edge treatments and giving hope to children for whom no other successful treatment was available.
- In 2017, the Dream Team was a major driving force of getting the first gene therapy FDA approved for cancer in the U.S., specifically for a type of pediatric leukemia. Building on this groundbreaking step, it is now focusing on immunotherapies for both blood cancers and solid tumors. Already there are examples of prolonging life in children who had no other hope.
- Dr. Crystal Mackall, co-leader of the Dream Team, led a study published in Nature in December 2019, showing that a new approach to programming these cancer-fighting immune cells in the laboratory can prolong their activity and increase their effectiveness. This could lead to the development of a new generation of CAR T-cells that may be effective even against solid tumors.

**Protecting Kids’ Hearts While Fighting Their Cancer**

Two St. Baldrick’s researchers, Dr. Greg Aune and Dr. Eric Chow, are studying how traditional cancer treatments impact kids’ hearts. Dr. Aune has developed promising pre-clinical results that will support future clinical trials using different chemotherapies with similar ability to kill cancer cells, while being less toxic to the heart and cardiovascular system. Dr. Chow is investigating a potentially beneficial drug, dexrazoxane, by following childhood cancer survivors who received chemotherapy either alone or in conjunction with dexrazoxane while on clinical trials in the 1990s.

**Genetic Sequencing and Pediatric Tumors**

Surprising early findings from the NCI-COG Pediatric MATCH precision medicine clinical trial for pediatric cancer patients, led by St. Baldrick’s Innovation Award recipient Dr. Will Parsons: Genetic sequencing of the tumors of children whose cancer does not respond to treatment led to about a quarter of these patients being matched with therapies to target their specific genetic alteration, more than double the predicted 10% match. It is exciting to see so many patients are benefitting from the trial.

**Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Differences in Pediatric Genetic Mutations in Children**

Dr. Alex Kentsis, a recipient of the prestigious St. Baldrick’s Robert J. Arceci Innovation Award, and his colleagues explored the genetic landscape of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and showed that the mutations behind the disease in children are different from those that trigger the same disease in adults. This helps to explain why AML is so difficult to treat in children and suggests new approaches for more accurate diagnosis and better therapies.

**MAKING CANCER HISTORY**

**IMMUNOTHERAPY**

Using the immune system to kill only cancer cells does less long-term damage to young bodies.
Funding Impact

2019 Research Highlights (cont.)

Reducing Treatment While Keeping Survival Rate High
Reducing therapy for subsets of intermediate-risk neuroblastoma patients can be achieved without reducing excellent survival rates, we know as a result of a Children's Oncology Group (COG) clinical trial, for which St. Baldrick’s is the primary non-government supporter. The study was led by Dr. Sue Cohn, currently chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee for St. Baldrick’s, and Dr. John Maris, co-leader of the SBF-SU2C Dream Team. This study used a biology- and response-based algorithm to determine treatment for a subset of intermediate-risk patients and maintained a three-year overall survival rate of more than 95%. More effective treatment strategies are still needed for infants with unfavorable biology stage four disease.

New Imaging Techniques to Help Kids With Brain Tumors
St. Baldrick’s Scholar Dr. Peter de Blank and his colleagues are the first to explore the benefits of magnetic resonance fingerprinting (MRF) for children and young adults. Measurements from MRF were able to distinguish tumor tissue from healthy tissue and tell the difference between high- and low-grade (more and less aggressive) tumors. If larger studies confirm these results, MRF may be particularly useful in pediatric brain tumors, helping diagnose tumors rapidly and reducing the need for sedation in some children.
2020 St. Baldrick’s Ambassadors

Every year, the Foundation selects five families touched by childhood cancer to share their journeys of struggle and triumph, hope and despair, and give people a glimpse into their lives and what comes after hearing those life-changing words, “Your child has cancer.”

Ambassadors are available for interviews upon request.

Joel and Seth  Forever 3/4

Joel and Seth were identical twins with a very special bond not even cancer could separate. Along with their older brother they filled their home with laughter. Seth was diagnosed with a rare form of Acute Myeloid Leukemia in December 2016; three months later, a biopsy revealed Joel also had AML. The family endured months of separation during treatments and treasured the few weeks they could be together at home. Despite receiving bone marrow transplants, they both relapsed. Surrounded by family, Joel died on November 1, 2017 at the age of three, followed by Seth on May 10, 2019 at four years old. Their family knows more research is needed for AML and is keeping their memories alive through their work with St. Baldrick’s.

Hudson  Age 1

Hudson, a little girl with a huge smile and even bigger personality, was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma, as an infant. Chemotherapy began right away, and surgery to remove her scapula resulted in the good news of clean margins. Hudson receives scans every three months and visits her hematologist regularly to ensure her little body heals and functions like other toddlers. Her parents know that her cancer journey is not over and as she grows, they need to remain vigilant with monitoring potential late effects from treatment. Hudson’s mom, Hailey, says, “There are not enough words to say thank you to the researchers who are working on easing the side effects of chemotherapy for children who have to endure this in the future.”

Micah  Age 9

Nine-year-old Micah has spent the bulk of his life with cancer – he now shares his journey with the world as a St. Baldrick’s Ambassador. Two separate phases of his seven years of treatment were centered around Unituxin, an immunotherapy drug developed with support from St. Baldrick’s. Unituxin has been so effective in improving survival among high-risk neuroblastoma patients like Micah that it is now part of the standard treatment approach. His blood work and scans have been clear for more than five years and he’s been completely off treatment for nearly a year. Micah says, “Thank you for creating new medicines for kids with cancer. Those medicines save kids’ lives, and one of them saved mine.”

Austin  Age 11

Austin was diagnosed with a high-risk form of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia just before his third birthday. He faced 3 ½ years of treatments: chemotherapy, bone marrow biopsies, and six days of cranial radiation. He relapsed before finishing the protocol and needed a bone marrow transplant. When the bone marrow transplant failed to stop the cancer, Austin needed a miracle. The miracle came in the form of an experimental gene therapy that used his own immune system. He was accepted into a Phase I clinical trial conducted by the St. Baldrick’s - Stand Up to Cancer Dream Team... The treatment was a success and six years later, Austin enjoys being an almost teenager. He loves cheering on the Cubs, video games, basketball and nerf gun wars.

Shamari  Age 15

Shamari plays a lot of sports: field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse. In November 2017, she complained of pain in her hip. After an MRI, doctors found a mass on her pelvis. She was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in March 2018 and started treatment right away. She endured chemotherapy and surgery to remove the tumor, and finished treatment in December 2018. She is an amazingly resilient teenager and was back on the lacrosse field, less than three months after her last treatment – all while taking advanced placement courses at a competitive all-girls private school. Her prognosis is good, as scans show no evidence of disease. Shamari’s cancer diagnosis and treatment haven’t derailed her dream of becoming an astrophysicist.
Advocacy

Collaboration is essential in bringing about change for kids with cancer. We’ve seen that our advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill are most effective when we are unified as one voice with our coalition partners in our quest to make childhood cancer a higher national priority.

Through our work, including partnerships with community partners, accomplishments include:

- Full funding for the Childhood Cancer STAR Act for FY 2019 and FY 2020 – the most comprehensive childhood cancer bill in history.
- The creation and full funding of the Childhood Cancer Data Initiative, a new program at the National Cancer Institute to enhance data collection for childhood cancers and incentivize the cancer research community to develop new treatments for children with cancer.

St Baldrick’s advocates have been nominated and placed on committees at NCI, FDA and other key committees that ensure the voice of kids with cancer are at the table.

Learn more about Advocacy at: StBaldricks.org/advocacy
Fundraising Accountability

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation remains committed to fiscal responsibility and transparency.

Every dollar we spend goes:

• to our mission, to find cures for childhood cancers;
• to maximize our fundraising; or
• to improve the effectiveness & sustainability of our organization;

is, and of course, every dollar spent on fundraising and administration with the goal of generating more for the mission!

The expense ratio varies each year not only due to changing expenses, but also according to the amount raised by our volunteers.

Expense Ratios For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019

- Program: 73%
- Fundraising: 23%
- Administration: 4%

Amount Raised (USD)

- 2014: $39M
- 2015: $37M
- 2016: $39M
- 2017: $39M
- 2018: $37M
- 2019: $38M

An independent audit of the St. Baldrick’s Foundation has been performed by Armanino, LLP. A copy of the full financial statement is available at StBaldricks.org/financials. We will also gladly send a copy by mail upon request.

Please contact Anja Kloch at 626.792.8247, ext. 268 or Anja.Kloch@StBaldricks.org.

Other Ways to Get Involved

Donate, volunteer, involve your business, give a matching gift, make a tribute or memorial gift, create a Hero Fund or spread the word!

Media Contact:

Michele Franco,
Media & PR Specialist,
Michele.Franco@stbaldricks.org,
626.792.8247, ext. 264