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 13,000 events have been held and nearly 550,000 shaves have taken place to stand in solidarity with kids fighting cancer.

Childhood Cancer Treatments Need 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 new study supported by St. Baldrick’s, more than 99% of survivors will have a chronic health problem, and 96% will have severe or life-threatening conditions.
How We Fundraise

Fundraising

Donations raised through St. Baldrick’s fundraisers support the development of childhood cancer treatments that are as unique as 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:

560,000+ Shaved Heads  79,000+ Women  13,000+ Events Worldwide

In 2019, more than 32,000 supporters, including more than 5,000 females, have already registered to shave their heads at nearly 1,000 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 $279 million to lifesaving research, making it the largest private funder of childhood cancer research grants.

Grant Types

Research Grant
Funding for year-long 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 have to leave the field.

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, and to help with the many issues that survivors face.

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. (These grants are funded based on need, expected results and local St. Baldrick’s participation.)

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 grant types at StBaldricks.org/grant-types.
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.

2018 Research Highlights

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

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:

- 93% of patients enrolled in a Dream Team trial showed no evidence of disease after just one infusion of modified T cells. One year later, 55% of those patients remained in remission.
- Developed CD19 chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR T) therapy for B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, contributing substantively to the FDA approvals of two “living drugs” for leukemia patients.
- Established a way to manage the sometimes severe complications of immunotherapy, such as Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS), that can be life threatening without proper intervention.

Making Transplants Safer for Kids with Cancer

St. Baldrick’s Fellow Dr. Melissa Mavers is using a new form of cellular therapy to prevent the body from identifying transplanted bone marrow cells as invaders that must be attacked. For those affected by graft-versus-host disease, it could mean finally getting the chance to enjoy a normal childhood.

Showing the True Cost of Childhood Cancers

A new tool from St. Baldrick’s Scholar Dr. Nickhill Bhakta can help us learn more about the impact of invasive treatments—like radiation and chemotherapy—on kids’ bodies. Called the cumulative burden metric, it’s used to track and identify the health problems that often emerge following a childhood cancer diagnosis, leading to better diagnoses and outcomes for kids as they grow.

Using a Virus to Fight Childhood Cancers

An innovative therapeutic tool developed by St. Baldrick’s Scholar Dr. Gregory Friedman has proven to be safe in kids with high-grade gliomas. Crafted from the herpes virus that causes cold sores, the genetically modified virus has already shown promise in killing cancer cells and stimulating the immune system to attack the brain tumor—with one patient still showing progress more than a year after treatment.

New Leukemia Drug is the Focus of Historic Clinical Trial

Dr. Elliot Stieglitz has brought his St. Baldrick’s-funded research to a Phase 2 clinical trial for kids with relapsed juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia (JMML). In this trial, which is first of its kind in the United States, researchers will be testing whether an oral targeted medication used in the treatment of melanoma in adults slows or even kills leukemia cells in kids with persistent JMML.

New Vaccine Shows Huge Potential

St. Baldrick’s Scholar Dr. Gary Kohanbash is currently studying ependymomas, a type of brain tumor, with a specific focus on using immunotherapy to help kids fight back against these cancerous tumors. Dr. Kohanbash and his team is developing a vaccine that has the potential to help a child’s immune system target the cancer cells that make up ependymomas and leave healthy cells alone.
Every year, the Foundation selects five Ambassadors to represent the thousands of kids touched by childhood cancer from many different geographic areas, age groups, disease types and more.

Aiden Forever 7
Aiden enjoyed playing LEGO's, going to school and Cub Scouts, eating pizza, and as a huge Star Wars fan, insisted on being called "Jedi Aiden." He was only five years old when, after months of headaches and bouts of stumbling, an MRI led to the diagnosis of diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG). Aiden endured 30 rounds of radiation, a clinical trial, high doses of steroids and other drugs to combat his side effects. Just like the intergalactic guardians in the movie, the “force was strong” with Aiden as he stood up against cancer with courage, fortitude and the best smile ever. His family continues to honor his legacy through their work with the St. Baldrick’s Foundation.

Arianna Age 4
Arianna was diagnosed with juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia (JMML) when she was just over a year old. She spent 409 days in the hospital and received a bone marrow transplant. While the bone marrow transplant was successful, and Arianna is now cancer free, she remains in treatment for graft vs. host disease (GVHD) in her gut, skin, lungs and liver, and also suffers from other late effects from her treatment. Even through all this, Arianna has learned to make the most of each day. She loves the sausage and vanilla milkshakes at the hospital cafeteria and is known for riding a pink toy car through the hallways - always with a smile on her face, of course.

Sullivan Age 12
Sullivan enjoys playing the piano and outdoor activities like camping, swimming and competing in triathlons. What started as back pain for this active boy, turned into a devastating diagnosis of metastatic medulloblastoma and an emergency brain surgery. After undergoing an intense treatment protocol, Sullivan was left with many side effects including problems with his speech, emotional instability and the inability to stand up or walk. Working with a physical therapist, Sullivan dedicated himself to his stretches and exercises until one day when he was able to stand up on his own. He graduated from wheelchair to walker to cane, and now gets around like other kids his age. He is getting used to his new “normal” and back to the things he enjoys doing, while also advocating on behalf of kids with cancer.

Gabby Age 14
Gabby loves swimming, camping, going to the beach, and visiting Disneyland. When she was in eighth grade, her life completely changed when she was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. Her treatment included limb salvage surgery on her left leg to remove a tumor, her knee and six inches of her femur. Although she is now cancer free, Gabby is having to learn to walk again and dealing with other late effects, like hearing loss. Gabby says getting cancer gave her a new perspective on life and is looking forward to going back to school and one day becoming a veterinarian.

Brooke Age 23
Brooke is a sushi devotee, published writer, pre-med student at Stanford and unapologetic fan of reality TV. As a sophomore in college, she was diagnosed with high-risk acute myeloid leukemia (AML). She began chemotherapy and was eventually able to get into remission and receive a bone marrow transplant. Since her transplant, Brooke has suffered acute and chronic GVHD in her gut, skin, eyes, liver and mouth. While she still deals with the impact of GVHD, Brooke is also immune compromised, infertile and has permanent alopecia. As a young adult cancer survivor, she is now passionate about improving quality of life for other survivors and raising funds for research focused on young adult survivorship and chronic GVHD through her St. Baldrick’s Hero Fund.
Advocacy
Collaboration is critical in any effort to create a change in childhood cancer. We bring the voice of children and their families to Capitol Hill and work with our larger childhood cancer community to create the changes needed to conquer childhood cancer together.

In collaboration with the Alliance for Childhood Cancer and other organizations, accomplishments include:

Spearheading the Childhood Cancer STAR Act, the most comprehensive childhood cancer bill ever signed into law in 2018.

Improving the lives of children with cancer through continued increases in federal cancer research funding and advocating for federal policies aimed at enhancing childhood cancer research and quality of life issues.

In 2018, empowering over 200 St. Baldrick’s advocates through information, training and bringing them to Capitol Hill to build relationships with their legislators to create more Congressional champions for childhood 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;
• to improve the effectiveness & sustainability of our organization;

and of course, every dollar spent on fundraising and administration is done so 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.

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. All funds reflected in this press kit are listed in U.S. dollars.

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!

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