

Impact

Max Honeybone took a bad hit to the head in a hockey game. Soon, he started experiencing severe headaches, debilitating fatigue, and numb lips. The accident led to a leukemia diagnosis—and may have saved his life.

Max and his care team
at Medical City Dallas
Pediatric Oncology.

Miracle on Ice

“At first we thought it was a concussion,” Max says. “But I knew deep down that it was something more than that. My neurologist ordered a complete blood test as part of his evaluation, and then my mom got the call: ‘We think your son has leukemia.’”

That day in November 2020 changed everything for Max, at the time an 18-year-old high school senior. Instead of planning for traditional teenage rites of passage like prom and graduation, he, his parents, Mark and Helene, and big sister, Emily, suddenly found themselves researching acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)—the most common form of pediatric leukemia. That’s when they learned about the St. Baldrick’s Foundation.

“Thankfully, researchers have been studying ALL for 30-plus years,” explains Max, who recently also lost a cousin to cancer. “Right after my diagnosis, we got a big binder from St. Baldrick’s with lots of information about the disease, the treatment plan, and what to expect over the next two-and-a-half years.”

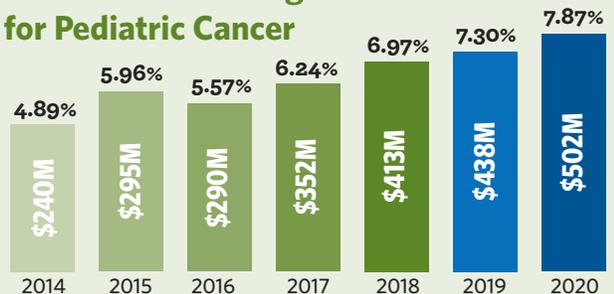
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GREAT NEWS!

The National Cancer Institute has almost doubled its contribution to pediatric cancer research since 2014. Once less than 4% of the NCI budget, funding for childhood cancer now stands at 7.87%. That’s a testament to the work of St. Baldrick’s Foundation advocates and others. Our work isn’t over—we’ll keep up the pressure for more funding to develop new, safer therapies for kids with cancer. Join us today by signing up to be a St. Baldrick’s advocate at www.stbaldricks.org/SpeakUp.

% of Total NCI Obligations for Pediatric Cancer





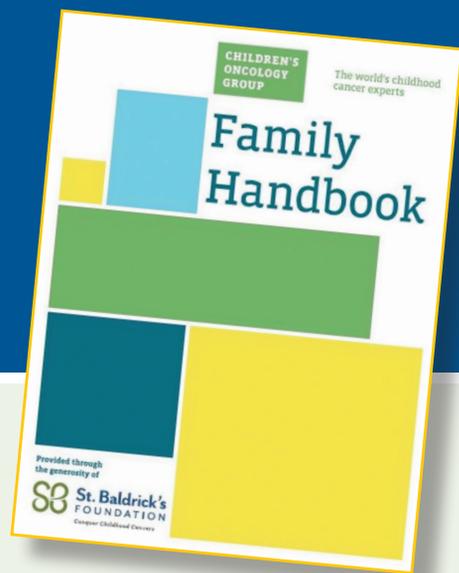
Lucy Caudill and Max Honeybone

Miracle on Ice (continued)

A grueling regimen that included chemotherapy and radiation left Max sick and exhausted. He also felt isolated, since the COVID-19 pandemic limited hospital visitors to just one parent at a time. “My parents and sister are amazing,” says Max. “They reorganized their lives to be there. The fact that they focused so much of their energy on me really helped me to keep fighting.”

Gradually, Max began to respond to the intensive treatments, and his ALL went into remission. He eventually felt well enough to attend prom, the school musical, and graduation. Now in the maintenance phase of his regimen, Max looks forward to attending Duke University this fall after taking a gap year. He’s also back on the ice, playing hockey with friends and planning to join a club team at Duke.

Reflecting on his experience, Max is grateful not only to his great pediatric-oncology teams at Texas Oncology and Medical City Children’s in Dallas, but also to the many St. Baldrick’s donors who are committed to beating kids’ cancer. That’s why he and his family organized a St. Baldrick’s fundraiser to support pediatric cancer research. Max says, “This experience has been very tough, but it was also a big wake-up call to the reality of cancer. It’s so important for people to support St. Baldrick’s. Together, we can make a change and hopefully, cancer won’t be the norm in the future.”



Thanks to You...

The five-year survival rates for leukemia are rising—great news for kids like Max and a testament to donors like you, who support research. But many are still in treatment at that five-year milestone, or die soon after. Children’s Oncology Group Chair Doug Hawkins, M.D., says, “We don’t want to give kids five more years. We want to give kids a lifetime.” For kids with leukemia, as well as the cancers that no child survives, together, we can do better. See the back page for how you can help.

The Children’s Oncology Group and the St. Baldrick’s Foundation together provide reliable information about treatment, support, and follow-up care for children and young people with cancer. Through The Children’s Oncology Group Family Handbook, families like Max’s find that knowing there’s a plan helps to reassure them during an upsetting time. This important handbook is provided through contributions from St. Baldrick’s donors—thank you!



Powerful Allies

These three families lost children to cancer. Now, they're joining forces with others to support the most promising pediatric cancer research through the St. Baldrick's—Stand Up To Cancer Pediatric Cancer Dream Team.

It takes considerable resources to fund the innovative childhood cancer research underway in labs around the world. Family-run foundations can make a bigger impact when they partner with the St. Baldrick's Foundation. The benefits are many, including lower administrative costs, access to top research studies, and the ability to direct funding to meet specific foundation goals.

Three foundations have chosen to support one specific St. Baldrick's grant—the Dream team. Founded in 2013, the St. Baldrick's—Stand Up To Cancer Pediatric Cancer Dream Team has made amazing progress with a combined focus on genomics and immunotherapy. Several years ago, they played a key role in helping to develop Kymriah, a “living drug” that reprograms kids' own CAR-T cells to fight ALL, the most common type of pediatric leukemia. Now, they're investigating ways to harness the power of the immune system to target solid tumors in children.

“The Dream Team—about 200 researchers at 10 institutions across North America—has made unprecedented progress against multiple childhood cancers,” notes St. Baldrick's Foundation CEO Kathleen Ruddy. “The potential for this work is enormous, and we're grateful to the donors who are funding this exciting work.”

Here are the stories these three families, who are determined to fund the fight by supporting the Dream Team.

Honoring Zion

Jaymi and Kosj Yamoah know all too well the pain of losing a child to cancer. Their precious son, Zion, passed away in 2016 at age 4 after battling AT/RT, an extremely rare type of pediatric brain tumor. Heartbroken at the loss of their little boy—who loved superheroes and music—they channeled their grief into helping others.

First, they started Out of Zion, a creative arts program for children with medical and special needs. Then, they set their



Jaymi, Kosj, Zion, Zoe-Elle Yamoah

sights on finding a cure for AT/RT through a new organization they formed in 2019 called Hope4ATRT. Soon, they learned about the exciting work being done by Dream Team researchers. For instance, in her lab at Stanford University, Crystal Mackall, M.D.—who co-leads the Dream Team with John Maris, M.D., of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia—is pioneering a new treatment for AT/RT that delivers CAR-T cells to destroy cancer at the tumor site. The goal is a direct attack on the cancer, while reducing the need for therapies like chemotherapy and radiation, which can cause devastating side effects. Clinical trials are now underway at several Dream Team sites.

Jaymi says, “We knew throughout Zion's 15-month battle that this disease is grossly underfunded. This is the passion of every pediatric cancer parent. As soon as you're thrust into this world, you recognize that there's such a huge need and that you can do something about it.”

Dare to Dream

The St. Baldrick's—Stand Up To Cancer Pediatric Cancer Dream Team is pioneering new ways to treat kids' cancer. Their cutting-edge research has already saved kids' lives.

It's an exciting time for pediatric cancer research—and you can be a part of it. Your specific gift to the St. Baldrick's Foundation directed to the Dream Team funds innovative research that will someday lead to a cure. Or make an unrestricted gift to St. Baldrick's for maximum impact.

Funding the Dream Team



St. Baldrick's
FOUNDATION

Conquer Childhood Cancers



Give now:



Marlee Pack

Honoring Marlee

Bill Pack, president of the Marlee's Smile Foundation, appreciates the freedom his board has in working with St. Baldrick's to choose the research projects that align most closely with their mission. Bill's beautiful 12-year-old daughter, Marlee, lost her battle with a rare and aggressive soft tissue sarcoma called alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma in 2019.

An avid soccer player who loved archery and sea turtles, Marlee was a participant in early CAR-T cell trials. Before she passed away, Bill, his wife, Shelly, and daughter, Meredith, pledged to find a way to help other kids with cancer. In addition to funding research, their foundation also provides custom Build-a-Bears for sick children.

In less than three years, the Marlee's Smile Foundation has already contributed significant funding for three research projects, one of which has resulted in a clinical trial at Stanford University. Bill says, "There is no instant gratification when it comes to childhood cancer research. It can be years before a big breakthrough becomes a treatment. But I think the Dream Team's focus on immunology and genomics is the future and will someday save the lives of kids with soft tissue sarcomas."

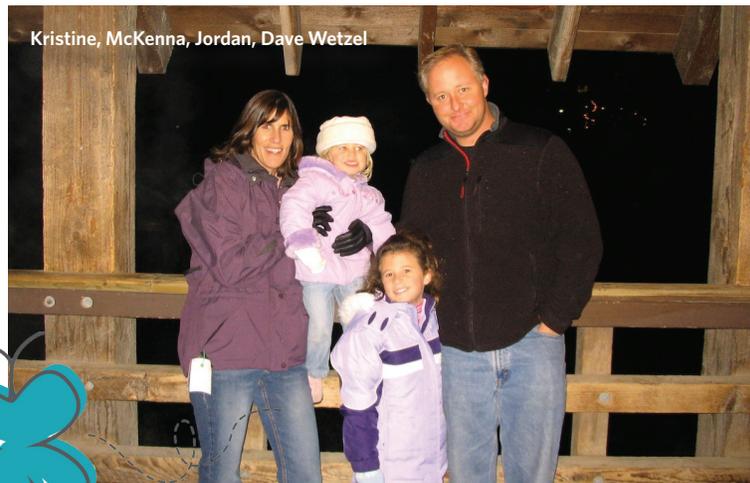
Honoring McKenna Claire

The Wetzel family shares the commitment of others to find a cure. In 2011, their 7-year-old daughter, McKenna, was diagnosed with DIPG (diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma), an extremely rare pediatric brain tumor that had also claimed the life of astronaut Neil Armstrong's daughter, Karen, in 1962. The Wetzels soon learned that in the 49 years since Karen Armstrong's death, treatment protocols and life expectancy

for DIPG hadn't changed. Just six months after her diagnosis, McKenna—a bright, athletic girl who excelled in soccer and gymnastics—lost her battle.

Devastated by their loss and frustrated by the lack of funding devoted to DIPG research, the family created the McKenna Claire Foundation for Pediatric Brain Cancer in 2012. Since then, the organization has contributed significant funding to the St. Baldrick's Foundation to support the Dream Team's DIPG research studies. In one promising clinical trial, published in the February edition of *Nature*, Dream Team researchers used CAR-T cells to reduce tumor size and recover lost functions like balance and hand movement in four children with DIPG. While all four eventually died, three experienced significant benefits from the engineered cells—an important first step toward a cure.

McKenna's mom, Kristine, says, "We have researchers who have devoted their lives to the study of this disease, but there is very little money to pay for the research. Our children need answers now."



Kristine, McKenna, Jordan, Dave Wetzel



Other Exciting Research You Can Support

The Dream Team is just one group of researchers exploring ways to cure pediatric cancer. Here are other initiatives you can help fund:

- Finding new, less toxic cures for any type of childhood cancer
- Training the next generation of childhood cancer researchers
- Helping researchers share their data worldwide for faster progress
- Providing the COG Patient Family Handbook to families like Max's

10 Dream Team Research Institutions **+** **YOU** **=** Breakthroughs that Cure Kids

www.stbaldricks.org/hero-funds/dreamteam



Danica, forever 5
ATRT (brain tumor)



Sport Clips has invested over
\$2.2 million
in life-saving childhood cancer research

Now, Sport Clips has pledged an
additional \$1 million



MAXIMUM IMPACT

With a new \$1 million commitment, Sport Clips is a powerful ally for kids with cancer.

When it comes to fighting pediatric cancer, Sport Clips Haircuts never backs down. The national hair care franchise recently announced a three-year commitment to renew its support for the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

In 2016, Sport Clips signed on as St. Baldrick's first national partner. Since then, the company has raised over \$2.2 million for pediatric cancer research. Now, Sport Clips has pledged an additional \$1 million.

"Our partnership with St. Baldrick's is powerful because it provides the unique opportunity for Sport Clips stylists to participate in head-shaving events and play a part in the impact these events have on everyone involved," explains Edward Logan, Sport Clips president and CEO. "As a company, we want to further support the efforts of the foundation to fund

important, life-changing childhood cancer research."

The most recent pledge from Sport Clips comes at a critical time for St. Baldrick's, which has stepped up its efforts to replace fundraising revenue lost during the pandemic. St. Baldrick's CEO Kathleen Ruddy says, "We are so grateful to Sport Clips for renewing their commitment at such a crucial time. For two years now, many of our events had to pause or go virtual—but pediatric cancer never takes a break."

Logan and Ruddy agree that Sport Clips and St. Baldrick's have the perfect synergy to make a big impact on childhood cancer research. Logan adds, "From our brand leadership team to our stylists, everyone has an opportunity to support and contribute to the important work St. Baldrick's does on behalf of kids with cancer."

The Will to Cure Kids' Cancer

Most people want to leave a meaningful legacy that makes an impact long after they're gone. The St. Baldrick's Foundation and FreeWill have partnered to make it easy for you to support the people you love, while creating a legacy that supports pediatric cancer research for decades to come.

Through FreeWill, you can write your legally valid will, whether or not you choose to leave a gift to St. Baldrick's. For more complex needs, FreeWill is a great place to start planning

your will before visiting an attorney. The process is simple and free. Plus, there's a bonus: If you choose to include St. Baldrick's in your will, you will be invited to join our Emerald Circle with other legacy donors. Get started on your legacy today at Freewill.com/StBaldricks.



Together, We Can.

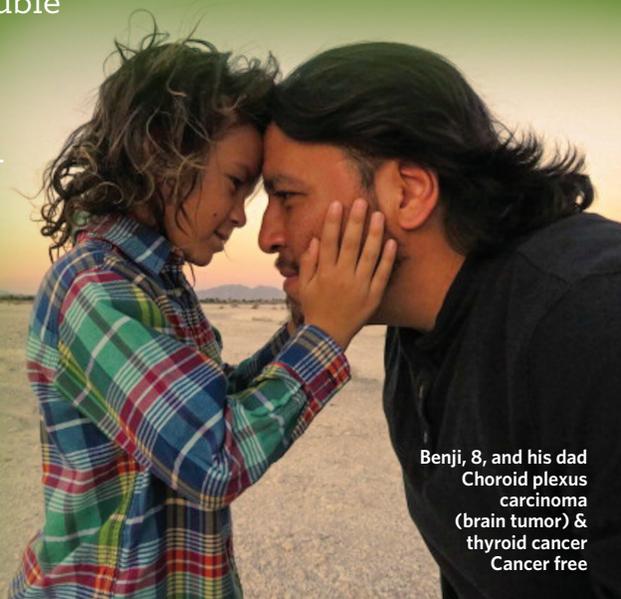
COVID-19 had a devastating impact on families of kids with cancer, as well as nonprofit organizations like the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which saw revenue drop 50% during the pandemic. In response, St. Baldrick's closed several grant categories, but even so, more than \$17.2 million in great research reviewed was left unfunded last year.

Yet, pediatric cancer hasn't taken a break. Kids continue to be diagnosed with cancer—and researchers keep fighting for a cure. Now, more than ever, they need our help.

Here's how you can make an impact:

- 1. Increase your gift** to St. Baldrick's this year.
- 2. Ask your employer about matching your gift**—and double the size of your contribution.
- 3. If you take a required minimum distribution from your retirement plan**, consider designating a portion—or all of it—to the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Together, we can fund every promising research project and cure more kids. Make your gift today!



Benji, 8, and his dad
Choroid plexus carcinoma (brain tumor) & thyroid cancer
Cancer free



Let's Connect



 Stbaldricks.org/distinguished-giving

 Stbaldricks.org/get-involved/business

 Stbaldricks.org/league

Thank you!

Thank you for supporting lifesaving childhood cancer research. Through your gifts, you are helping the St. Baldrick's Foundation fund the best childhood cancer research, no matter where it's being done. With \$314 million in grants funded since 2005, we are the largest non-government funder of pediatric cancer research grants. YOU made progress possible!

Ways to Give

Kids with cancer need cures now, and it starts with you. Donate to fund the most promising childhood cancer research. Give once or monthly. Start today: stbaldricks.org/ways-to-give



Scan here to help find a cure!

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.