Sullivan, at age 12, Texas
Medulloblastoma
One of five 2019 Ambassadors
Dear Friends,

At the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, we’re always working to enable more research and maximize what we learn from that research to improve the lives of children with cancer, so this year, our annual report takes you right to the latest developments and mission impact we’ve made over the past year.

The word defy means to confront, resist, withstand or challenge, in short what we aim to equip researchers and children to do in the face of a childhood cancer diagnosis. Our newest campaign, #DFYchildhoodCancers, is an ‘emotional springboard’ to rally volunteers and donors with a sense of urgency and hope, to ensure children prevail.

Our work with osteosarcoma families resulted in our first call for disease-specific research applications and not one but two ground-breaking grants to accelerate progress against relapsed osteosarcoma. Today, no curative therapies exist for relapsed osteosarcoma patients, so two innovative studies underway simultaneously creates the potential for exponential progress. We salute the Osteosarcoma Collaborative and Battle Osteosarcoma for making these projects possible. Soon to be announced is a ground-breaking grant by an anonymous donor which enabled our second call for disease-specific applications. This project, named “BEST (Best Ewing Sarcoma) Therapies,” was named by the young patient who inspired it. This is the largest gift the Foundation has received from an individual or family.

A NEW INITIATIVE

Also last year, we began working with the American Cancer Society on an initiative to fund research with great potential to bring advances to childhood cancer patients. This initiative will help investigate not only if a treatment gives patients better outcomes, but why it does, or doesn’t. In short, we’ll leverage our current support for clinical trials in new ways to develop new treatments faster, so children are treated more effectively. By combining the marketing muscle and brand of the American Cancer Society with the pediatric know-how of the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, we are able to enlist new donors to support critical pediatric research. Early support has been generous, and we are close to the revenue to target to be able to launch the first call for research applications for this project.
We applaud St. Baldrick’s parent, Dave Carroll, for agreeing to co-chair this initiative, and we thank the Carroll family for kicking off our campaign with generous leadership gifts. Of course, Dave’s son Clarkie, a survivor of Ewing Sarcoma, always inspires greatness, and now even more kids will benefit by his cancer journey. The Carroll family, like every hero fund family, is always looking for ways to take childhood back from cancer and we’re proud to be their partner in that mission.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD-SHAVING

On March 17, 2000, 19 men stepped forward to shave in solidarity with children with cancer. Since then, the world has followed their lead, and the futures of children with cancer have been transformed. As we look to our 20th Anniversary and embark upon the next 20 years, your support will enable physician scientists to tackle ever more ambitious projects that drive innovation in childhood cancer research and treatment.

ADVANCING THE MISSION IN 2019

Here are a few ways your gifts of time, talent and treasure have advanced St. Baldrick’s mission last year and will continue to in the year ahead:

- Surprising early results from precision medicine research supported by St. Baldrick’s shows that about 25% of childhood cancer patients (more than double the 10% originally expected) can be matched to targeted therapies.

- One study by the Children’s Oncology Group, for which St. Baldrick’s is the primary nongovernment supporter, showed that using a biology- and response-based algorithm to determine treatment for a subset of intermediate-risk neuroblastoma patients, maintained a survival rate of more than 95%, while reducing treatment for many patients.

- A St. Baldrick’s Scholar and his colleagues are the first to explore the benefits of magnetic resonance fingerprinting (MRF) for children and young adults, which may be particularly useful for more rapid diagnosis and treatment improvements for pediatric brain tumors.

- This year the St. Baldrick’s – Stand Up to Cancer Dream Team is following its spectacular progress in blood cancers with work to use immunotherapy to fight solid tumors in children as well, with early results showing promise in this particularly difficult challenge.

- Other researchers are working to protect children’s hearts from the damage caused by cancer treatments.

You can read about these and other advancements in these stories:

1) Your Donations Make Research Possible – and That Research is Shared Worldwide
2) Research Outcomes: Next in a Series
Thanks to the passion and hard work of St. Baldrick’s advocates and the larger childhood cancer community, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) received a $2 billion budget increase for important medical research, and the Childhood Cancer STAR Act was fully funded for FY 2019. This success helped pave the way for a greater than anticipated increase in NIH funding for FY 2020.

We also cosponsored the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA), and St. Baldrick’s advocates were appointed to important National Cancer Institute and Food and Drug Administration committees. St. Baldrick’s Honored Kid, Grace Eline was introduced during the State of the Union when the President called for more childhood cancer research funding, including $50 million for each of the next 10 years to allow NCI to enhance data collection for childhood cancers and ensure data accessibility, to accelerate research progress and new treatments for kids with cancer. Other St. Baldrick’s families participated in a meeting with the Vice President to discuss the administration’s efforts to combat childhood cancers.

THANK YOU

As always, we are humbled by your generous patronage as well as the leadership of all our corporate and non-profit partners, hero fund and honored families, researchers, advocates, donors and volunteers. Only together, will we realize the day when every child can #DFYchildhoodCancers.

Thank you for your continued trust in the St. Baldrick’s Foundation.

In service,

MICHAEL MCCREESH  
Father to Brent, Survivor  
Chairman Emeritus

KATHERINE LUGAR  
Aunt to Caroline (2002-2014)  
Chair of the Board

KATHLEEN RUDDY  
Chief Executive Officer
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.

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MWWW  ALLIED WORLD  CISION  Gen Re

Firespring  NAMIC  WIRELESS VISION  T· Mobile

bmc  Marsh & McLennan  Security Scorecard  SAP

Arianna, at age 4, New Jersey  
Juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia (JMML)
One of five 2019 Ambassadors