



CONQUER  
**KIDS'**  
CANCER

# 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



**Shamari, age 15**  
Ohio  
Osteosarcoma  
No Evidence of Disease (NED)  
One of six 2020 Ambassadors



Dear Friends,

**Kids with cancer know hardship. And YOU are their hero, especially this year.**

The St. Baldrick's Foundation and the hospitals kids depend upon are not immune from the problems of the world, yet we drive the research their futures depend upon. Children with cancer cannot imagine a world without St. Baldrick's, and what that really means is, they cannot imagine a world without you.

YOU are the hero of the St. Baldrick's story!

St. Baldrick's signature head shaving events generate 85-90% of the Foundation's annual contributions. The events are highly efficient, being managed entirely by volunteers and supported generously by donors like you. These events peak in March and April, resulting in 435 events canceled or deferred in 2020 due to the pandemic.

St. Baldrick's families applaud the many volunteer leaders who embraced 2020's virtual fundraising realm in record numbers. These efforts were epic, especially considering many of our event hosts and venues, schools, restaurants and pubs were closed, and our volunteer barbers and stylists were themselves reeling from closures of salons and barber shops. Despite the best efforts of so many, the world was understandably distracted, and fundraising results mirrored the times. Ultimately, the Foundation was not able to maintain the same high level of research funding that advances in treatment and the children needing them depend upon.

While the high cost of research delayed is paid by children with cancer, the pandemic had a severe impact upon the Foundation's short-term financial position. Despite this, you still contributed \$26.7 million for research!

**Hudson, age 2**

Colorado  
Ewing Sarcoma  
Cancer Free

One of six 2020 Ambassadors

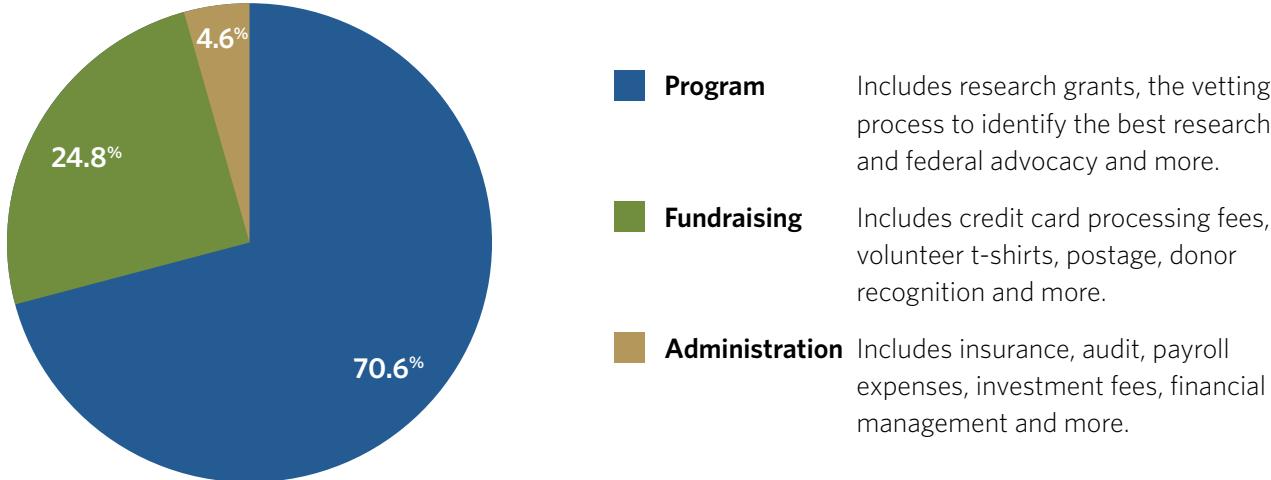


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## St. Baldrick's Mission Statement

***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.***

## How Your Dollars are Deployed in Service of the Mission



## Statement of Activities (Year ended June 30, 2020)

Contributions	\$25,096,085	
Contributed services and assets	\$427,076	
Investment return, net	\$1,163,597	
Total Income:		\$26,686,758
Program expenses	\$24,092,416	
Fundraising expenses	\$8,461,039	
Administration expenses	\$1,576,580	
Other Expenses	-	
Total Expenses		\$34,130,035
Expenses in Excess of Income		(\$7,443,277)
Beginning Net Assets		\$14,127,516
Other changes in Net Assets		-
<b>Ending Net Assets</b>		<b>\$6,684,239</b>
Total Liabilities		\$25,353,800
Total Assets		\$32,038,039

View the fully audited [2019-2020 Financial Report](#).

Note: As reported in the organization's audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2020, St. Baldrick's received in-kind donations totalling \$427,076 in the form of public relations, advertising, attorney services and management consulting (\$377,851) and items for fundraising events and items for operations (\$49,225).

An independent audit of the St. Baldrick's Foundation has been performed by Armanino, LLP. A copy of the full financial statements is available at [StBaldricks.org/financials](#). We will also gladly send a copy by mail upon request. Please contact Ryan Brown at 626.739-2700, ext. 234 or [Ryan.Brown@StBaldricks.org](mailto:Ryan.Brown@StBaldricks.org). All funds reflected on this page are listed in U.S. dollars.

## The Promise of Hope

With nearly a year of navigating the pandemic behind us, the St. Baldrick's community is determined to restore research funding in 2021 to enable vital research to accelerate cures for children.

Shaving your head allows anyone to live for a time as kids with cancer do. Since March 2020, we all have lived a more isolating aspect of life as a child with cancer: behind masks, indoors, cut off from friends, relatives and our communities.

Most of us have only begun to comprehend the courage required to fight cancer at six.

While society struggles to refocus attention on many challenges, including the #1 disease killer of children, the potential to realize better ways to treat children is greater than ever.

Twenty years ago, the cancer world longed for a new weapon to fight cancer. Researchers felt they had pushed the traditional trio of weapons: chemotherapy, surgery and radiation, about as far as they could. Tinkering would gain modest improvements, but researchers really needed new tools.

Enter you, and the development of immunotherapy for children. While pioneering for adults with cancer 20 years ago, immunotherapy was virtually unheard of for children until St. Baldrick's took up that cause by supporting scientists who dared to harness the power of the body's immune system to fight cancer.

The results of your investment have been spectacular. Today, researchers cannot imagine a world without immunotherapy.

At the time of the Foundation's first immunotherapy grant, some believed it might benefit children with cancers of the blood, but the common thinking was this weapon was unlikely to help kids with solid tumors like those in organs, bones and soft tissues. The St. Baldrick's - Stand Up to Cancer Pediatric Cancer Dream Team has proven that immunotherapy has the potential to cure even the most aggressive solid tumors in childhood, even brain tumors. Learn more: [The Impact of the Dream Team on Childhood Cancers: A Video](#)

Other immunotherapy research you made possible is allowing new research studies to begin, such as a trial for nasopharyngeal cancer (which occurs in the upper throat, behind the nose) to test whether immunotherapy can reduce radiation doses and subsequent side effects of treatment. Learn more:

[What You Should Know About Research into Rare Pediatric Cancers](#)

Thanks to you, new immunotherapies are also being tested for pediatric brain tumors, neuroblastoma and other solid tumors to allow more children to not only survive, but to do so without the toxic effects of today's treatments.

**Joel & Seth, Angels**

Texas

Acute myeloid leukemia (AML)  
Myeloid Sarcoma / AML-M7  
Two of six 2020 Ambassadors



Many more advances have been made and important studies launched by your generosity and service:

- A clinical trial you supported found that reducing therapy for subsets of intermediate-risk neuroblastoma patients can be achieved without reducing a three-year survival rate of 95% overall. (The high-risk form of neuroblastoma is far more dangerous.) Neuroblastoma, the most common form of cancer in infants, develops in the immature nerve cells found in several areas of the body. It has a wide range of clinical behavior, so patients are diagnosed as low-, intermediate- or high-risk, using biomarkers, according to the predicted risk of relapse.
- Wilms tumor is the most common type of kidney cancer found in children. While almost 90% of children with Wilms tumor can be cured by surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, if the disease is aggressive and returns after therapy, it is much more difficult to treat. Researchers discovered that the level of a protein called prohibitin, found in the urine and tumors of Wilms tumor patients, can indicate the likelihood that this cancer will relapse. Knowing this ahead of time improves treatment decisions.
- Osteosarcoma is the most common bone cancer in children and teens. During the first year of the Osteosarcoma Collaborative Impact Award, researchers have identified new targets and immune-mediated approaches to develop trials that translate discoveries in the lab to patients. More trials are coming soon.
- In the first six months of the Battle Osteosarcoma Award, using cell lines derived from patients and the genetic basis of their tumors, researchers have been able to test more than 30 promising drug combinations to treat patients more effectively.
- Medulloblastoma, the most common type of brain tumor in children, is highly fatal and in 25% of cases is caused by a mutation in the Hedgehog gene. This gene, so called because of its spiny back, tells cells what they need to know to become bones, muscles or brain cells, for instance. A study you are supporting is learning how it can cause medulloblastoma, and may lead to new ways to target this cancer, and others.
- Another new clinical trial could improve treatment for pediatric medulloblastoma patients. This trial will use the patient's own cancer cells to test their response to hundreds of drugs, allowing doctors to quickly identify the best treatment for each child.
- Another research team is studying rhabdomyosarcoma, a highly aggressive type of childhood cancer that develops in the soft tissue and skeletal muscle of the extremities, head and neck, and reproductive organs. Recently, they've studied chromatin, the material that packages our DNA and its architecture to determine if its structure is different in cancer cells from that of a healthy cell. By developing a way to compare chromatin interactions they can determine if tumor cells lost the capacity to proliferate when chromatin interactions were altered with some drugs.

These are only a few of the hundreds of grants you are supporting.



You have also made the training of the “next generation” of scientists possible. A shortage of trained physician scientists was anticipated in America by 2015 to 2020, principally because there is scant funding available to train them and fund their early work.

To date, your generosity has supported 141 Fellows (scientists in training) and 131 Scholars (early career scientists) who are making important scientific contributions which enable more children to survive and thrive.

In 2018, the Foundation surveyed all current and past fellows and scholars and learned something remarkable. For every \$1 the Foundation had invested in their training and research, scientists were able to leverage more than \$14 in additional funding from the National Cancer Institute!

This is the “St. Baldrick’s Multiplier Effect” and you achieved it in a way that is easy to describe but difficult to master. St. Baldrick’s team of physician-scientists identify the best research proposals through a thorough, peer review process that ensures only the most promising ideas are supported. The rigor and credibility of this process builds trust and respect, confidence in the Foundation and the scientists supported.

In business terms, it’s St. Baldrick’s value proposition. Most supporters lack the expertise to evaluate the merit of one scientific idea, let alone hundreds of them. Many end up supporting the hospital they are most familiar with, or perhaps one nearby, but they can’t be sure if their gift is really supporting “the best” research, or just the best at that particular hospital.

Only gifts to the St. Baldrick’s Foundation assure donors they are supporting the best research, no matter which hospital is doing it. For parents of kids with cancer, it doesn’t matter which hospital finds the cure for their child, it only matters that someone does and that their child can access that cure, preferably close to home.

With so many funders focusing their philanthropy on COVID-19 response in 2020, St. Baldrick’s infrastructure grants were more important than ever. These grants allow hospitals with limited philanthropic support to open and coordinate new clinical trials, giving their patients the option to receive the most cutting-edge treatments without traveling to distant hospitals. These one-year grants will support critical research roles at 17 institutions.

Read more about the 2020 grants here:

[2020 Infrastructure Grants: Critical to Giving Kids the Best Treatment Options](#)

**Austin, age 12**  
Wisconsin  
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)  
Cancer Free  
One of six 2020 Ambassadors

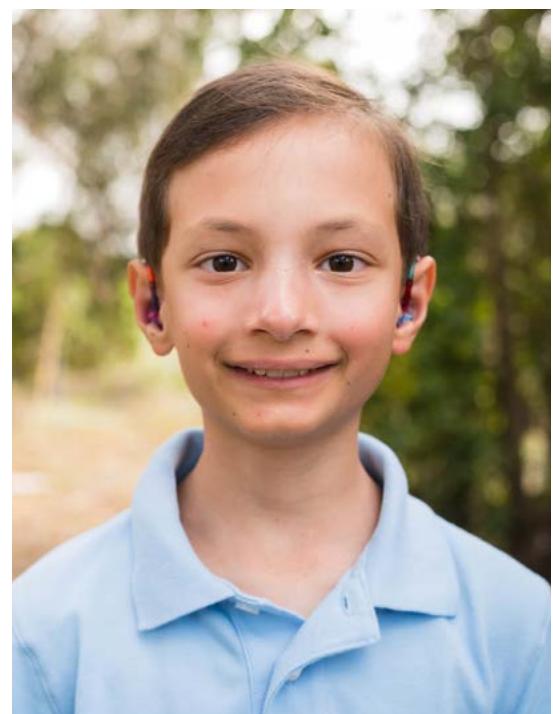


## St. Baldrick's Impact in Research is Second To None

Kids are living longer because research you supported improved the 5-year survival rate for childhood cancers from 79% to 84% overall. Note: That's not the same thing as a cure. This rate simply counts those alive 5 years after diagnosis. Unfortunately, many kids are still in treatment or die after that 5-year mark.

- You helped make St. Baldrick's the largest charitable funder of childhood cancer research grants in the world..
- You helped build an army of more than 250,000 heroes from all walks of life, who contribute their unique talents to raise funds for research to give kids the lifetime each deserves.
- You educated your community and federal legislators about the incidence and impact of cancer in children, and the disparities between childhood cancer research and other types of medical research.
- You worked with federal legislators and agencies to:
  - Improve our understanding of the incidence and prevalence of cancer in children,
  - To enable the collection of donated biospecimens to expedite discovery,
  - To expand data sharing among researchers and between hospitals, and
  - Explore model systems of care for survivors of childhood cancers..
- In 2020 alone, your federal advocacy efforts resulted in an **\$80 million increase** in federal support for childhood cancer research and data sharing.

**Micah, age 10**  
California  
Neuroblastoma  
No Evidence of Disease (NED)  
One of six 2020 Ambassadors



## Thank You

On behalf of the all the children whose lives you give generously to save, the families you serve to protect, and the researchers whose innovation is fueled by your gifts of time, talent and treasure, thank you for participating to **#GiveKidsALifetime**.

In service,

*Katherine Lugar*

*Kathleen Ruddy*

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