

*Nate, fighting osteosarcoma,
and his mom*




Children's Cancer
Research Fund®

annual report

JULY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

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LEARN HOW WE

supported groundbreaking research & vital
family support services this year



opening letter

We are pleased to present this impact report for our shortened fiscal year, which was July 1 to December 31, 2019. Going forward, our fiscal year will align with the calendar year.

In just six months, you've helped us make great strides towards our goal of removing roadblocks that stand in the way of research breakthroughs.

This incredible progress heartens me as a leader, and it makes it all the more bittersweet to announce that:

I will be retiring as CEO of Children's Cancer Research Fund in June.

I feel confident that I'm leaving CCRF in a position of strength and poised for even greater impact.


In my 13 years at CCRF, I've been fortunate to hear so many family stories that have made me truly grateful to lead an organization with such an incredible mission. Several months ago, I saw a quote from a parent of a child with cancer who we've

gotten to know over the past few years. During her daughter's cancer treatment, she found out that many researchers struggle to get funds to study her daughter's disease because many funding sources deem it "too rare" to invest in the research that would lead to better treatments and cures. She said, "All I could think was, 'Why? Why aren't we there yet? And I found out it's because researchers don't have the funding.'"

No parent should ever be told their child's disease is too rare or to hopeless to study, and no researcher with a great idea should be without the resources to make better treatments a reality.

Thank you for helping us fill critical funding gaps so that lifesaving work can move forward.

Sincerely,



John Hallberg, CEO





nate's story

NOT AFRAID



Seventeen-year-old Nate is most himself when he is playing his guitar. He's been playing since he was around 10 years old, and his favorite songs to play are all over the place – they range from heavy metal Metallica to ska punk band Sublime. What Nate most looks for in a good guitar song is a challenge. But last year, a different kind of challenge came creeping into Nate's life – he was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, an aggressive bone cancer. Doctors found the tumors on his ribs, creeping slowly toward his spine.

Nate has had a 10-hour surgery to remove several ribs and many rounds of chemotherapy to eradicate remaining cancer cells.

He was declared cancer-free in July 2019 and was easing back into normal life until extreme back pain forced him and his family to investigate what might be wrong.

In March, Nate's doctors confirmed what everyone feared most – the cancer had returned. This time, it was taking over his spinal column, causing immense pain and making it nearly impossible for Nate to walk. This development was heartbreaking for Nate's family, and their path forward is unclear.

Nate's incredible strength, even in the midst of his pain, has inspired everyone he's met since beginning his cancer journey. Even when people tell him he'd have every right to be angry and upset, he decides to stay positive however he can, using his music

and humor to see him through. His oncologist, Dr. Emily Greengard, says that seeing Nate's maturity beyond his years inspires her every day.

“Nate is simply an incredible human,” Dr. Greengard said. “If my son grows up to be as gracious and wonderful as Nate, I'll know I did a good job.”



FOR KIDS LIKE NATE

we invest in three research areas where we believe your gift can make the greatest impact

EMERGING SCIENTISTS - HARD TO TREAT DISEASES

SURVIVORSHIP

research highlights

FROM THESE THREE AREAS



*Cancer
researcher*



EMERGING SCIENTISTS - XINGGUO LI

Dr. Xingguo Li, PhD, at the University of Rochester in New York was confident he could target a newly discovered pathway that drives neuroblastoma, but as a researcher early in his career, he couldn't get the funding he needed to move his idea forward. A grant from CCRF allowed him to start developing a drug that may change the game for kids with neuroblastoma.

“The support from CCRF gives us the ability to stabilize the research team and move forward at a much faster pace.” - Xingguo Li

*Beau
Webber*



HARD TO TREAT DISEASES - OSETEOSARCOMA

Osteosarcoma is one of the most aggressive forms of childhood cancer. Beau Webber, PhD, a researcher at the University of Minnesota, is working on a new immune-based therapy that targets osteosarcoma – and he isn't afraid to use the word “cure” to describe its potential.

“I don't throw that word around, and I definitely don't use it lightly. But it's hard to overstate the potential here. It's realistic to have that as our goal – there's a real chance for a remarkable cure.” - Beau Webber

*Karim
Sadak*



SURVIVORSHIP - SYSTEMS TO ADDRESS LATE EFFECTS

Karim Sadak, MD, MPH, MSE, knows that many health issues childhood cancer survivors face are preventable if they get the treatment they need right away. His team at the University of Minnesota is enrolling survivors in a study to find out how to help survivors, doctors and health systems communicate more efficiently to address late effects so that they don't slip through the cracks.

“We're working to make sure that a cure stays a cure forever. We need to have systems in place to deliver care that is accessible, long-term, and evidence based so we know they are getting the best care possible.” - Karim Sadak

your gifts also fund critical family
support programs that improve the lives
of kids, their families and caregivers

program wins

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR





MOMCOLOGY — 2 RETREATS FUNDED

Your dollars sponsor retreats by Momcology, our program partner that provides cancer caregivers ways to connect and know that they are not alone.

“I love using what I’ve been through to educate and help other parents who are where I was a few years ago.” - Andrea, Momcology retreat leader



BIG DREAMS TOUR — 4 HOSPITALS VISITED

Musician James Orrigo travels across the country to visit the hospital rooms of kids fighting cancer. He uses his guitar and “magic music box” to help them use their imagination to create a personalized song and music video to escape the cancer world for a little while.

“The goal is to bring the patient’s imagination to life through music, animation and recording. The kids, staff and families are all involved and the results are special and long lasting.” - James Orrigo



C.C. BEAR — 129 BEARS DELIVERED

C.C. Bear is a cuddly teddy bear for any child impacted by cancer. Families can request bears online for free thanks to generous donor support.

“We received our bears and the kids really love them. Our daughter was just diagnosed with a brain tumor. Our family is used to doing everything together, so the boys have been feeling really left out. We really appreciate that you offer the bears for the siblings, too – they were very excited to have something to hold onto.” - Krystal

this year we gathered to advocate for
our mission, raised critical funds and
celebrated how far we've come

event wins



\$112,000 RAISED

TIME TO FLY — 9.28.19

New activities at CCRF's annual walk included a family resource fair, food trucks and inflatable activities for kids. Dedicated teams like Jack Attack, who has been participating in Time to Fly for ten years to support Jack's fight with brain cancer, raised over \$112,000 to fund cancer research and services that help families and survivors.



\$73,142 RAISED

MONARCH CIRCLE — 12.15.19

Hosted by Jill and Jon Halper, the inaugural Monarch Circle celebrated a shared vision while honoring the legacy of Jon's parents Sharon and Joel Waller, whose Benefactors Circle began more than 29 years ago and raised \$3.4 million for childhood cancer research. Parents Michelle and Kristy, both mothers of leukemia survivors, shared stories of the enormous impact research can have on families like theirs.



\$730,884 RAISED

KS95 FOR KID'S RADIOTHON — 12.15.19

KS95 aired stories of kids fighting cancer, including Allison, who passed away in January from cancer, to inspire supporters in the Twin Cities to fund better, safer treatments for kids with even the most aggressive of cancers.



\$94,804 RAISED

KS95'S "CLOUDS CHOIR" FOR A CAUSE — 12.15.19

Thousands gathered at the Mall of America to sing Zach Sobiech's hit song, "Clouds" and raise funds for better treatments for osteosarcoma, the disease that took Zach in 2013 at the age of 18. The director and cast of the upcoming movie based on Zach's life, also titled "Clouds," joined Zach's real-life family onstage.

financial information

FISCAL YEAR: JULY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

GRAPH OF EXPENSE RATIOS AS OF 12/31/19



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AS OF 12/31/19

SUPPORT & REVENUE

General Contributions	\$2,555,732
Events	\$2,108,804
Direct Expenses	\$(89,419)
Donated Goods and Services	\$4,503,509
Cause Marketing	\$102,395
Investment Income	\$269,696
Other	\$48,716
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$9,499,433

EXPENSES

MISSION - PROGRAM SERVICES	83.8%	
Research	13.6%	\$1,276,486
Education & Awareness	68.6%	\$6,431,335
Patient & Family Services	1.6%	\$146,651
SUPPORTING SERVICES	16.2%	
Fundraising	10.1%	\$950,826
Management & General	6.1%	\$568,049
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$9,373,347

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR SUPPORT & REVENUE AND EXPENSES



NET ASSETS

Change in net assets	\$126,086
Net assets, beginning of year	\$4,743,240
Net assets, end of year	\$4,869,326

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF 12/31/19

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$3,915,500
Investments	\$3,576,248
Pledge Receivables, Net	\$1,486,193
Property & Equipment, Net	\$240,989
Other Assets	\$188,391

TOTAL ASSETS **\$9,407,321**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$240,254
Accrued Payroll & Related	\$217,974
Other Liabilities	\$85,559
Grants Payable, Net	\$3,994,208

TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$4,537,995**

NET ASSETS

WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Operating	\$668,753
Board Designated	\$2,999,586

WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS **\$1,200,987**

TOTAL NET ASSETS **\$4,869,326**

**TOTAL NET ASSETS
& LIABILITIES** **\$9,407,321**

board & staff leadership

CHAIRPERSON

Matt Hedman

SECRETARY AND VICE CHAIR ELECT

Susan Doherty

VICE CHAIR

Michelle Johnson

TREASURER

Dan Bartholet

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Charlie R. Manzoni, Jr.

BOARD MEMBERS

Ingrid Culp

Peter Dorow

Barb Farrell

John Golden

Carol Grannis

Jon Halper

Meghan Harris

Molly Kinsella

Dawn Lamm

Kris Larson

Pete Leacock

Beth Monsrud

Barry Morgan

David Royal

Dan Seeman

Greg Soukup

Carmen Thiede

Chris Toppin

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Souheil Badran

Suzanne Boda

Jessica Kenyon

Cari Erickson Streich

R.J. Shook

RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Logan Spector, PhD - *Chair*

Oren Becher, MD

Lisa Diller, MD

Abbie Miller, MD

Sabine Mueller, MD, PhD

Jake Petersburg, PhD

Leo Wang, MD, PhD

Jason Yustein, MD, PhD

STAFF LEADERSHIP

John Hallberg

Chief Executive Officer

Tamara Andrews

Human Resources Manager

Kenna Dooley

Director, Development &

Donor Relations

Laura Grant

Director, Events & Partnerships

Darla Nemec

Director, Finance & Operations

HaiVy Thompson

VP of Mission & Marketing



thank you for
supporting our mission!



Every week, 38 kids pass away from cancer. We want to stop this, so we support the brightest and boldest minds whose groundbreaking research is leading to better treatments and cures. We also fund vital family support services and advocate for childhood cancer education and awareness.