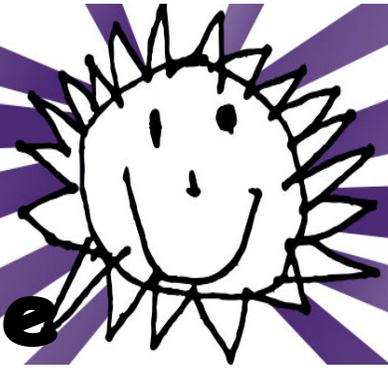




Jason's Friends
Foundation

Call to Courage



Jason's Friends Foundation Semi-Annual Bulletin Published Fall 2016

Our Mission

The mission of Jason's Friends Foundation is to assist Wyoming families whose children suffer from childhood cancers and brain or spinal cord tumors by providing critical non-medical financial assistance, advocacy and encouragement.



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Words cannot express the heartache, sadness and loss that we feel for the Brian Scott Gamroth family following Brian's tragic passing. Brian did so much for Jason's Friends. Brian believed in our cause from the beginning, over 20 years ago, when he learned what we were about. We were a determined group of volunteers with an ambitious goal to help Wyoming families that had children with cancer, brain tumors or spinal cord tumors. Brian helped raise awareness for Jason's Friends and also for childhood cancer. Brian also helped raise many thousands of dollars to assist "our own"- fellow families within Wyoming that had children suffering from cancer.

Wyoming has lost a great champion – for Jason's Friends, for so many other organizations around our great state, and for everything that is Wyoming.

We will never forget.

Asia Cadeo

IMPACTING WYOMING FAMILIES

Since 1996, Jason's Friends Foundation has provided nearly \$4,000,000 in assistance for non-medical expenses such as rent or mortgage payments, utilities, groceries, and travel costs for families traveling out of town for their child's medical care.

We served 85 families in 2015 and have enrolled an additional 19 new families so far in 2016. Each of these families is receiving critical assistance for their financial needs while their children battle childhood cancer and brain or spinal cord tumors. Your donation to Jason's Friends will assure that we are able to provide help for every Wyoming family in our program seeking assistance.

Donate online at jasonsfriends.org/donate

**Is your child battling cancer?
Or do you know a family who could use our help?**

Contact us TODAY!

Jason's Friends Foundation

340 W. "B" Street Suite 101 Casper, WY 82601

(307) 235-3421 phone (307) 265-4668 fax

Email: info@jasonsfriends.org

Visit us online: jasonsfriends.org



Happy BirthDay my friend

PLEASE JOIN US IN

HONORING THESE

**HEROES WHO ARE FIGHTING
HARD OR HAVE OVERCOME
THEIR ILLNESS**

October Birthdays

Kolton, 11 - Douglas
Stevie, 9 - Gillette
Chevelle, 19 - Gillette
Rahne, 12 - Cheyenne
Tayah, 19 - Douglas
Dawson, 20 - Cheyenne
Kira, 18 - Casper
Patrick, 7 - Cheyenne
Joshua, 16 - Rawlins
Brooke, 14 - Gillette
Jared, 10 - Lovell
Francheska, 9 - Lusk
Jason, 6 - Sheridan
Jaeson, 11 - Riverton
August, 4 - Gillette
Teagan, 8 - Cheyenne

November Birthdays

Austin, 6 - Laramie
Colton, 11 - Cheyenne
Paden, 10 - Lander
Marley, 8 - Casper
Kyle, 17 - Laramie
Treston, 6 - Worland
Demetrius, 10 - Cheyenne
Austen, 17 - Casper
Aavah, 3 - Cowley

December Birthdays

Trippy, 11 - Rock Springs
Travaras, 9 - Cheyenne
Ariana, 19 - Laramie
Ra Dene, 19 - Riverton
Chase, 15 - Riverton
Macey, 17 - Byron
Asher, 7 - Sheridan

January Birthdays

Brooke, 21 - Douglas
Karina, 15 - Casper
Zander, 4 - Cheyenne
Allison, 21 - Laramie
Olivia, 17 - Gillette
Avis, 21 - Gillette

February Birthdays

Matthew, 8 - Thayne
Austin, 19 - Cheyenne
Ivy, 17 - Big Piney
Alexis, 16 - Lovell
Aubry, 13 - Sheridan
Cesar, 12 - Rawlins
Zerrian, 10 - Thermopolis
Sophia, 5 - Cheyenne
Ella, 8 - Jackson

March Birthdays

Lily, 5 - Deaver
Callie, 6 - Evanston
Trevor, 15 - Lovell
Kevin, 20 - Rock Springs
Amaya, 15 - Sheridan
Samantha, 17 - Cody

April Birthdays

Zachary, 18 - Casper
Sophie, 16 - Lyman
Esther, 6 - Laramie
Jace, 19 - Lander
Brayden, 4 - Pinedale
Courtney, 14 - Casper
Daizy, 6 - Cowley

Camp Courage Wyoming

Unfortunately Camp Courage Wyoming was cancelled for 2016. The Lava Mountain Fire came within a mile of Crooked Creek Guest Ranch near Dubois, Wyoming where camp is held. The ten families chosen to attend the 5th annual childhood cancer camp will have first choice of attendance at Camp Courage Wyoming to be held June 16-18, 2017 or August 4-6, 2017. The camp is funded through grants, sponsors and private donations which enable families to attend Camp Courage free of charge.

This is a family camp which includes components for the child with cancer, the parents and their siblings. Activities include horseback trail rides, ATV trail rides, disc golf, art projects, horse painting, hiking, fishing, movie night, horse feeding, cookie decorating, parent social hour and Saturday night live music. It is a fun family weekend of recreation and camaraderie.

Wyoming families whose cancer child is 18 or under prior to camp, whether in treatment or post-treatment, are eligible and encouraged to apply. Children without a recent diagnosis as well as long-term survivors are welcome. Applications are available through the Jason's Friends office or at jasonsfriends.org beginning in March 2017.



Support for Camp Courage Wyoming is Appreciated

To help support Camp Courage Wyoming, stop by Jason's Friends and purchase 12 ounce bags of Bold Fresh Ground Coffee from City Brew for \$5.00. Also available are "Cooking with Inspiration" cookbooks for \$15.00, a collection of recipes by Wyoming cancer survivors, caregivers and others whose lives have been affected by cancer.

Featured Friends

LEXIE, AGE 15 - THYROID CANCER

Congratulations to Lexie and her mom Daima for getting a proclamation signed from the City of Casper Mayor, Daniel Sandoval, proclaiming September 13, 2016 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Day and recognizing Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Casper. Next year Lexie and Daima will be focusing on the Governor to try and get a statewide proclamation.



Lexie and her mom, Daima, presenting the Proclamation on September 14, 2016

Lexie was diagnosed with Thyroid Cancer at the age of 13. She is now 15 years old.



CITY OF CASPER

200 NORTH DAVID STREET
CASPER, WYOMING 82601-1815
PHONE (307) 235-8224
FAX: (307) 235-8313
www.cityofcasperwy.com

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, *pediatric cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in U.S. children under 15 years of age; one out of five children diagnosed with cancer will not survive the disease; and,*
- WHEREAS, *cancer kills more children than AIDS, asthma, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, and muscular dystrophy combined; and,*
- WHEREAS, *childhood cancer rates have been rising for the past few decades, and the incidence of invasive pediatric cancers is up to 29% in the past 20 years while the funding for pediatric cancer research has gone down steadily since 2003; and,*
- WHEREAS, *two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will develop long-lasting chronic conditions as a result of treatment that prevent them from fully participating in school, social activities and work; and,*
- WHEREAS, *despite major advances in treatment, it is still critically important to conduct research and increase awareness regarding pediatric cancer; and,*
- WHEREAS, *September is observed as National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel Sandoval, Mayor of the City of Casper, Wyoming, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, September 13th to be

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS DAY

in this community, and encourage all of our citizens to help raise awareness of pediatric cancer and its victims.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official Seal of the City of Casper, Wyoming, to be affixed this 13th day of September 2016.



CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation
Daniel Sandoval
Daniel Sandoval
Mayor

BAILEY, AGE 17 - WILM'S TUMOR**Featured Friends****TRESTON, AGE 5 - ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA**

In September of 2004, Bailey had just turned 5 years old. She had always been a very active and happy child and had literally been sick maybe a handful of times in her short five years. She started complaining to her mom (Debbi) that she felt hungry, but she couldn't eat anything or she would tell her mom her tummy sort of hurt. After having gone to the doctor a few times and being treated for the flu, her mom decided enough was enough! She could tell there was something really wrong... Bailey's color did not look good, she had developed dark circles under her eyes. The sparkle was gone!

In November, Debbi insisted that the doctors take a closer look and showed the doctor that if Bailey laid down on the floor you could actually see a raised area on her side. After a simple xray - her pediatrician diagnosed Bailey with a mass on her left kidney and she was immediately sent to Denver's Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital. Further testing helped them decide Bailey had a rather rare and fast growing type of cancer called Wilm's Tumor. Wilm's Tumor is typically only a childhood cancer, found in children 5 and under - but it is an aggressive cancer that could have metastasized onto the other kidney or lymph glands. Bailey was stage four at that point. Debbi and her husband Ron were told that there was not a high success rate with Wilm's Tumor because it was typically not discovered in time. Bailey underwent a nephrectomy to remove the kidney and the tumor. Upon removal of the tumor, it erupted. Ultimately, Bailey underwent a week of radiation to address the spill inside her body and a 9 month chemotherapy treatment plan to eradicate the cancer cells. All of the treatments were administered in Denver every other week or so, depending upon how she was getting along.

Bailey had 54 blood transfusions and 16 platelet transfusions, and several scary emergency room visits because of extremely high temperatures while she was on chemotherapy. Just when her parents thought they were done and Bailey had kicked cancer's butt, after the very last of her chemotherapy, they were sent home and were so excited. Two days later, they found themselves back in Denver because Bailey's digestive system completely shut down and refused to function for about 4 days.

"What many people don't understand are the incidentals that come with chemotherapy such as blood transfusions, high fevers, blocked or stagnant bowels, platelet transfusions, hearing loss, heart damage, being hyper aware of germs, many of which require extended stays in the hospital until your body begins to recover again," says Debbi.

Bailey is 11 years off treatment today and is cancer free. She only suffers from some hearing loss. She will actually have to be fit with hearing aids this year. Bailey is a junior at Lingle Fort Laramie High School and aspires to be a doctor because her real life hero is Dr. Julie Zimbleman and the other doctors that helped her and she wants to help people too! Bailey competed for Miss Teen Wyoming on September 18, 2016. Unfortunately Bailey did not win the title, however, she enjoyed the experience and was glad she stepped out of her comfort zone to pursue this opportunity.

Submitted by Debbi, Bailey's Mom



Treston was diagnosed with AML on August 18th, 2015 at the age of 4 years old. We had been visiting family out of town and noticed that he looked grey and we couldn't get any color in his skin. We didn't think too much about it because he was still very active and didn't show any signs of being sick. We got home on a Sunday evening and he still seemed grey but wasn't sick. We let it go until Monday when finally that evening my mom suggested it was time to make a doctor's appointment just in case. Mom knows best. We got an appointment for Tuesday (8/18/2015) and the doctor couldn't find anything wrong with him either but thought his coloring was off. All of his vitals were normal and he was still very active.

They sent us to the hospital to get bloodwork done as a precaution. I had literally just walked back into work after dropping Treston back off at daycare and they told me to rush him to the ER. They wouldn't even tell us what was wrong, but to get there. My husband met us there and that's where they told us that it was most likely Leukemia and asked us what children's hospital we would like to be life-flighted too. We live in a small community in the middle of Wyoming, so driving anywhere of significance would take 6-7 hours and they felt we didn't have that kind of time with our son. Oddly enough, we had just been speaking to a family friend the week before that mentioned Children's Hospital Colorado and how top notch it was. We obviously chose Children's Hospital Colorado. They flew us to Denver within the hour. The ER at Children's told us that they believed the initial diagnosis was true and that we would be transferred up to the 7th floor, The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. Leukemia is a blood cancer. The AML (Acute Myeloid Leukemia) diagnosis came shortly thereafter. We were given our options, and really there were only 2. Chemotherapy or doing nothing.

Treston had a Broviac port site put in the following day and they started chemotherapy that evening. It was absolutely the worst days of our lives. I can't even imagine the pain and trauma our son endured. You see, he also has an extra 21st chromosome. He has Down Syndrome. So our 4 year old little boy is not as verbal as a typical developing child. We couldn't understand if he was hurting or where he was hurting. All he could do was moan or whine and cry. It was devastating as a parent to watch your child hurt.

Treston powered through 4 intense rounds of chemotherapy all while living at Children's Hospital Colorado for 4 ½ months. He lost his hair, he lost weight that he didn't have to lose, he was so sick from the meds and had a feeding tube placed to try to keep nutrition in his tummy, yet he kept vomiting out the tube. He was on morphine and other pain killers to try to ease the pain of chemo, yet he never lost his amazing personality. He was a ball of sunshine every day when the doctors made their rounds. The doctors and nurses actually requested him as their patient because they knew he would be ready for high fives and hugs. The 7th floor is not a pretty place with all the sickness and grief of the unknown.

Our son was given the remission diagnosis on January 21, 2016. He did it! Treston has been able to begin Kindergarten this year and hasn't given a minute to look back on the terrible end to 2015.

Submitted by Kelly, Treston's Mom

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to the 3rd Annual Powder River Brew Fest in Kaycee for choosing Camp Courage Wyoming and raising \$1,754. Those dollars will help send two families that have children with cancer to the only childhood cancer camp in Wyoming.



Derek and his mom Lisa, a Jason's Friends family, along with school staff present a check for \$1,015 to Jason's Friends Foundation in front of Derek's class. The money was raised at Indian Paintbrush Elementary School in Laramie through the Butterfly Ball.

The 24th Annual API Chili Cook-Off was held on February 20. Thank you to the API Board of Directors for the \$4,000 donation to our cause.

Thanks to Our Savior's Lutheran Church for your "Noisy Offering" donation of \$789.78. Money is collected by children in pails thus making the noise of coins dropping into metal.



Thank you Loenbro for choosing Jason's Friends as the beneficiary of your 1st Annual Golf Tournament on June 3. Participants raised \$2,000 for our cause!

Lifetime Health and Fitness hosted a triathlon in June to benefit Jason's Friends. Participants came to swim, bike and run. They raised \$1,210 through this first ever event.

Thank you to University Park Elementary for going **GOLD** for September Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Students, staff and families wore **pink** on Thursdays and brought change to add up to \$605.94! Congratulations to the 2nd grade class for bringing in the most money.

It was another successful Alcova Lake Poker Run held on July 23. The 12TH ANNUAL event brought in **\$41,593** for Jason's Friends families. A special THANK YOU to Larry Rubis for his ongoing support of Jason's Friends Foundation and to Taco John's for their **\$4,081** donation earned through their locations.



We are extremely grateful for the generous support provided to Jason's Friends in 2016 by the Ruth R. Ellbogen Foundation.

We appreciate our reoccurring monthly donors. Thank you for choosing Jason's Friends!



A SHOUT OUT to all of the groups, schools and other organizations that have chosen to raise money for Jason's Friends Foundation!

Jason's Friends Has Touched Our Lives

"Jason's Friends Foundation has been an absolute God send. If it wasn't for this foundation we would not have my daughter's true diagnosis. There are no words to describe what this foundation has done for our family and continues to do for Wyoming families fighting this fight. I was able to focus on the care of my daughter and not how I was going to get to appointments and where I was going to stay. Thank you to all of the Jason's Friends volunteers and God Bless all of the supporters/donors. You have filled our hearts with so much love, thank you so very much from our family to yours!"
CASPER FAMILY

"Jason's Friends was introduced to me by my case worker and it changed our LIFE. Jason's Friends helped us out financially to pay for travel expenses and took some burdens off our back." RAWLINS FAMILY

"Our family was so fortunate, and we were so blessed to have Jason's Friends. They made our very difficult journey much easier to cope with. They continue to be a great resource for us, and a reminder of the scary time in our lives we endured."
GILLETTE FAMILY

"I don't know what I would have done without Jason's Friends to help with the travel expenses." CHEYENNE FAMILY

"There are not sufficiently enough words to thank the Jason's Friends Foundation who gave so much more than financial support, love, and caring - they gave us something so much more valuable." CASPER FAMILY

"We have been INCREDIBLY THANKFUL for ALL the support that Jason's Friends has provided for her and for our family throughout these difficult times. They have made this journey easier for us!! Thank you so much!!!" CHEYENNE FAMILY

"Jason's Friends helped alleviate the financial burden of being away from home and work so we could focus on helping our daughter." SHERIDAN FAMILY

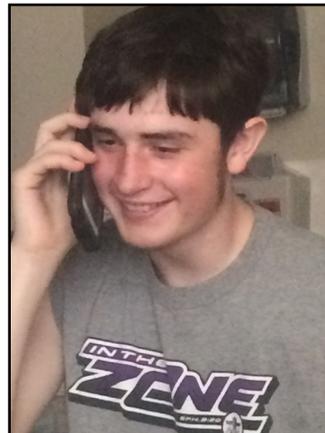


Annamarie
Age 7
Cheyenne



Amaya
Age 14
Sheridan

Brayden
Age 3
Pinedale



Sophia
Age 4
Cheyenne

Nathan
Age 14
Kaycee



WE ARE SEARCHING...



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Jason's Friends is looking for volunteers to build our Bowl for Jason's Friends fundraising team. Meetings are held weekly during the preparation of our fundraiser (January - March) and monthly luncheons are scheduled for the committee to stay connected during the "off" season. If you are interested in getting involved with this great cause and sharing your time, please contact Christine Robinson at christine@jasonsfriends.org.



"Because of Jason there is Jason's Friends and because of Jason's Friends, we have been able to spend every minute next to our son's side in and out of the hospital. Being split apart due to finances is unbearable. Families should be able to stick together throughout such a traumatic experience. Thank you for making these moments as a family unit possible, we truly feel the love!" PINEDALE FAMILY

"As a family we cannot say enough good things about the Jason's Friend's organization! They were aiding our family with expenses and needs within hours of our son's diagnosis and admittance to the hospital. They have continued to be there for our family every step of the way and have been a tremendous blessing. It is hard to comprehend what we would have done without the aid and faithfulness of this wonderful organization." KAYCEE FAMILY

"We are thankful everyday for the local organizations, such as Jason's Friends that have helped us through our journey."
SHERIDAN FAMILY

Thank you Brian Scott for everything you did for Jason's Friends Foundation, our community and Wyoming. You will be deeply missed.



Brian as Emcee at the 2016 Alcova Poker Run.

Pictured left to right: Sam Grim, Isaak Mamot, Hannah Grim, Brian Scott, Chase Mamot, Colton Barth, Abby Barth, Max Barth

In remembrance of Jason's Friends children who have gained their angel wings this year...



Brenna, 3 - Thermopolis

Nicole, 18 - Sheridan



THANKFUL THURSDAY

**Beacon Club
5:00 - 8:00 PM
November 3, 2016**

Come join your friends at the Beacon Club and you might just win \$500!!!

What's the catch? There is No Catch! Grab your friends and co-workers and make plans now to join us!

All ages are welcome!



Live auction benefits Jason's Friends!

Donations Needed

We are seeking new items for the live auction at Thankful Thursday. If you have something that you could donate, please contact our office at (307) 235-3421 or info@jasonsfriends.org.

***Spirit of Giving* HOLIDAY DRIVE**

Though we are enjoying fall, the holiday season is coming soon. We invite you to help our 95 active Jason's Friends families to create special holiday memories for their loved ones without having to stress over the financial burden of food and other costs. Jason's Friends Foundation provides each active family with a \$75 grocery store gift card for their Thanksgiving meal.

Additionally, for each child under 18 in their family, the parents receive a \$100 gift card to purchase Christmas gifts. We appreciate your help towards this effort. Click DONATE at www.jasonsfriends.org and comment "2016 Holiday Drive" or mail to our office at 340 W. "B" Street, Suite 101 Casper, WY 82601.

THANK YOU!



19th Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 4, 2017
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM**

PRCA Rodeo "A Tribute to The Great American Cowboy"

Saturday, November 5, 2016 7:00 PM

The Arena - Central Wyoming Fairgrounds

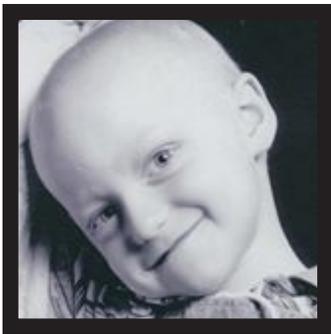
Logan is the 2016 Children's Western Wish Recipient



We are pleased to announce that we have been chosen as the Subaru "Share the Love" event by White's Mountain Motors. A portion of the sale of any Subaru during the month of December can be donated back to Jason's Friends!



340 W. "B" Street Suite 101
Casper, WY 82601



SADLY,
THERE
WILL BE
OTHERS.

LEAVE A LEGACY OF SUPPORT

Please designate
Jason's Friends
Foundation, Inc. as a
beneficiary of your will
or trust.

Tax ID #83-0316451

Jason's Friends Foundation, Inc.
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Jason's Friends Staff

Lisa Eades, Executive Director (volunteer)
lisa@jasonsfriends.org

Linda Chivers, Office Manager (part-time)
linda@jasonsfriends.org

Christine Robinson, Operations Coordinator (part-time)
christine@jasonsfriends.org

Become a monthly donor
and make a difference in a
family's life!

Did you know donating even \$25 a
month can provide a family gas to
travel to a doctor's appointment or a
cafeteria card for meals?



The vital help Jason's Friends Foundation
provides to our families is made possible solely through
the generous donations of individuals, businesses and
foundations who support our work.

Please consider setting up a reoccurring gift at
jasonsfriends.org/donate.



Like Jason's Friends
Foundation on Facebook!