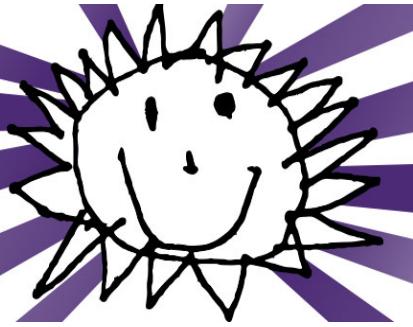




**Jason's Friends
Foundation**



Call to Courage

Jason's Friends Foundation Semi-Annual Bulletin Published Fall 2018



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.



Impacting Wyoming Families

Since 1996, Jason's Friends Foundation has provided over \$4,600,000 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.

So far in 2018, Jason's Friends Foundation has enrolled 14 new families bringing the total number of families enrolled in our program to 123. Each of these families is receiving critical assistance for their financial needs while their children battle childhood cancer, brain tumors or spinal cord tumors. Your donation to Jason's Friends will ensure that we are able to provide help for every Wyoming family in our program seeking assistance.

Is your child battling cancer?

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
Phone: (307) 235-3421 • Fax: (307) 265-4668
Email: info@jasonsfriends.org

Visit us online: jasonsfriends.org
Donate online at jasonsfriends.org/donate

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

September marked another Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Jason's Friends honored the month by featuring stories on our Facebook page about some of the Wyoming kids that are, or have been, part of our program. Thirty powerful and heartfelt stories were presented - one for each day of the month. We hope you had the opportunity to read them. They are still available to see and read. Visit our Facebook page and "Like" Jason's Friends Foundation.

Mark your calendars and join us for the upcoming 21st Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends event. It takes place on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at El Mark-O Lanes in Casper. This is our primary fundraiser. It is a fun event involving nearly 1,000 bowlers and even more donors and sponsors. Hope to see you all there!

Kris Endes, President/Executive Director



Happy Birthday my friend

PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING
THESE HEROES WHO ARE
FIGHTING HARD OR HAVE
OVERCOME THEIR ILLNESS

October Birthdays

Kolton, 13 - Douglas
August, 6 - Gillette
Stevie, 11 - Gillette
Rahne, 14 - Cheyenne
Tayah, 21 - Douglas
Kira, 20 - Casper
Patrick, 9 - Cheyenne
Joshua, 18 - Rawlins
Brooke, 16 - Gillette
Jared, 12 - Lovell
Francheska, 11 - Lusk
Jason, 8 - Sheridan
Jaeson, 13 - Riverton
Teagan, 10 - Cheyenne
Tennyson, 6 - Cheyenne

November Birthdays

Austin, 8 - Laramie
Colton, 13 - Cheyenne
Paden, 12 - Lander
Marley, 10 - Casper
Kyle, 19 - Laramie
Treston, 8 - Worland
Demetrius, 12 - Cheyenne
Austen, 19 - Casper
Aavah, 5 - Cowley
Connor, 6 - Gillette
Odalys, 8 - Rock Springs
Felicity, 20 - Gillette



December Birthdays

Trippy, 13 - Rock Springs
Travaras, 11 - Cheyenne
Ariana, 21 - Laramie
Asher, 9 - Sheridan
Michaela, 20 - Gillette
Brenden, 20 - Gillette
Macey, 19 - Byron
Nathan, 17 - Kaycee
Emmie, 4 - Cheyenne
Hunter, 17 - Cheyenne

January Birthdays

Karina, 17 - Casper
Zander, 6 - Cheyenne
Olivia, 19 - Gillette

February Birthdays

Matthew, 10 - Thayne
Ivy, 19 - Big Piney
Alexis, 18 - Lovell
Aubry, 15 - Sheridan
Cesar, 14 - Rawlins
Zerrian, 12 - Thermopolis
Sophia, 7 - Cheyenne
Ella, 10 - Jackson
Sage, 4 - Rock Springs
Jaeden, 16 - Worland
Austin, 21 - Cheyenne

March Birthdays

Callie, 8 - Evanston
Trevor, 17 - Lovell
Amaya, 17 - Sheridan
Samantha, 19 - Cody
Silas, 9 - Cody
J.R., 14 - Newcastle

Rodeo Kid

The College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) features the best of the best in college rodeo. It is where the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association crowns individual event champions. More than 400 cowboys and cowgirls from over 100 universities and colleges compete in Casper annually. This year, the Children's Western Wish Foundation selected a Wyoming child to grant a wish to and honor during a special ceremony at the CNFR. On June 10, 2018, Adalee was honored at the CNFR as this year's CNFR Children's Western Wish Recipient.

Adalee was diagnosed at age six with Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH). She experienced LCH in the bones of her sinuses and toward her brain. She endured aggressive weekly chemotherapy for a year. Today, Adalee is a thriving nine-year-old who started the third grade this fall.



Adalee at her cancer-free party on January 7, 2018

THANK YOU!

Triple V Rodeo
Children's Western Wish Foundation
Murdoch's

**PRCA Rodeo
“A Tribute to The Great American Cowboy”**

**Saturday,
November 3, 2018
7:00 PM**

The Arena at Central Wyoming Fairgrounds

Colter is the 2018 “A Tribute to the Great American Cowboy” Western Wish Recipient



Camp Courage Wyoming

Camp Courage Wyoming was held August 10-13, 2018 at Crooked Creek Guest Ranch near Dubois, Wyoming. Ten families attended the 6th annual childhood cancer camp. The camp is funded through grants, sponsors and private donations which enable families to attend Camp Courage free of charge.

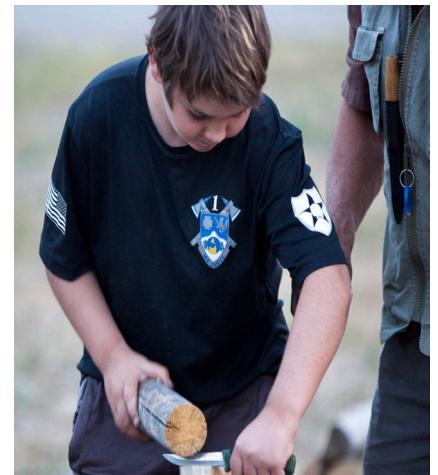
Camp Courage is a family camp that includes components for the children with cancer, their parents and their siblings. Activities include horseback trail rides, ATV trail rides, art projects, fishing, movie nights, a social hour for the parents, entertainment and more. This year also featured a mini petting zoo and a visit from the Wyoming Highway Patrol, Chad Lore and Joe Brandl. It is a fun family weekend of recreation and camaraderie.

Wyoming families who have a child under the age of 18 who has been diagnosed with cancer are encouraged to apply. Children who are in treatment, post-treatment or who are long-term survivors are welcome. The 7th Annual Camp Courage will take place August 9-12, 2019. Applications are available through the Jason's Friends office or at jasonsfriends.org/camp-courage beginning in March 2019.

Donations can be made directly to support Camp Courage by visiting the Jason's Friends Foundation website jasonsfriends.org, clicking on the DONATE button and selecting Camp Courage as the donation type.



"It's so relaxing!
Love this place/people!"



"We loved everything and would definitely want to come again."

"Staff and volunteers are always great. We enjoy this time away."

"You guys put a lot of thought into activities that meet everyone's needs, very relaxing, and fun weekend!"

Go Gold for September Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Thank you to our Jason's Friends families for sharing your child's cancer journey...

Meet Hunter

Earlier this year, four-year-old Hunter was diagnosed with Burkitts Lymphoma. The doctors found the cancer in his jaw, pancreas, gallbladder and kidneys. Since he was diagnosed on May 7, 2018, Hunter has been away from his home in Gillette, meeting with doctors and receiving chemotherapy treatments in Denver, Colorado.



He just finished up his fifth round of chemo and is awaiting more tests. His family is praying that his cancer is gone so that they can return home to their family and friends.

Meet Sage

Sage was only two-years-old when her parents noticed that she was exhibiting symptoms that warranted concern. She would get bloody noses during her nighttime baths, she bruised easily and suddenly had no appetite. After a visit to her pediatrician and several blood tests, the family was on their way to Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City where she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.



Over the next seven months, Sage underwent weekly chemotherapy treatments through a chest port catheter that her doctors surgically placed in her chest. On top of this, little Sage had chemotherapy injected into her spine under anesthesia and took oral medications as well. During this time, the family had to be extremely careful about who she was around because of her weakened system. The ability for Sage's blood to clot was also compromised and, as such, she had to undergo many blood and platelet infusions.

After months of intensive treatment, sweet little Sage entered into the maintenance phase of her treatment in March of this year. This means that she must undergo monthly IV chemo treatments and spinal chemo every three months. While this will continue for 18 months, Sage's family is thrilled that she will soon be able to do most of the things three-year-olds get to do—including starting preschool in Rock Springs and taking her second session of swimming lessons! Sage's family says they are "beyond blessed to have such wonderful doctors on our team and the most supportive families, friends and community at our backs. There are no words to explain how grateful we are for the support!"

Meet Jesse Ray (JR)

13-year-old JR was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma in May of this year. He has undergone five rounds of chemo at Denver Children's Hospital and has one more round to go before the doctors do another round of testing and scans to assess his progress. As a result of his compromised immune system, JR has battled bacterial pneumonia and multiple Clostridium difficile (C-diff) infections.



Throughout the ordeal, JR and his family have remained hopeful and extremely grateful for the outpouring of love and support from Wyoming residents. Jason's Friends' partnership with Brent's Place, a housing facility in Denver for families who have children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses, has been a huge blessing for the family. Being displaced from their home in Newcastle for months on end and away from other family members has been particularly hard, but having a temporary home has provided comfort to JR and his family and made each day a little easier. JR and his family continue to find things to be thankful for and are hopeful that JR is on the downhill slide!

Meet Teagan

Teagan's battle started in kindergarten when her parents noticed that she was struggling with weight gain and extreme tiredness that sometimes caused her to sleep through dinner. After numerous visits to a local Urgent Care and no answers, Teagan's mother found a doctor in the yellow pages. This doctor took one look at Teagan

and urged the family to take her to the ER right away. After conducting blood tests, the ER doctors approached Teagan's family and uttered words that no parent ever wants to hear. They said, "We're so sorry, but we think your daughter has cancer. She needs to get to Denver Children's Hospital right away."



In January of 2015, the doctors in Denver diagnosed Teagan with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). She spent two weeks at Denver Children's Hospital before returning home to Cheyenne, where she continued with at-home treatments for two years. The first few months were extremely difficult for Teagan. Her liver and spleen were so enlarged that she waddled when she walked and her medications led to diabetes, requiring multiple insulin shots each day. Teagan also suffered major muscle loss and had to undergo physical therapy.

Today, Teagan is a happy and healthy fourth grader who loves to swim. This past summer, she was chosen by her doctor at Denver Children's Hospital to be one of two Patient Ambassadors for the Inaugural Swim Across America - Denver open water swim event. Just keep swimming Teagan!

Go Gold for September Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Thank you to our Jason's Friends families for sharing your child's cancer journey...

Meet Samantha

Samantha (Sami) was only 13-months old when she was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma. At the time, the family was living in New Jersey and took Sami to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for treatment. After 18 months of treatment, including five rounds of chemotherapy, surgery, two stem cell transplants, radiation and Accutane therapy, Sami completed treatment in September 2002 and remains in remission today.

While Sami has completed most of her oncology follow-ups, some chemotherapy can cause long-term side effects and, in Sami's case, her treatment caused hearing loss. She cannot hear many high frequency sounds, wears bilateral hearing aids and continues to be

monitored by an audiologist and a cardiologist.

Despite these long-term effects, today Sami is a happy and thriving

18-year-old who has an undying love for horses. At the age of four, following her treatments, Sami began riding horses and always wanted a white horse in her backyard. It was this love that, in 2009, inspired the family to move to Cody, Wyoming – a place where they owned land and one day planned to retire.

Sami blossomed in Wyoming, where she continued to ride and developed into an avid horsewoman. She also was active in band, performing with the Wyoming All State Marching Band for two years and traveling to Hawaii and to California to perform in the famous Rose Parade. In May, Sami graduated from Cody High School and was honored to have her oncologist in attendance to watch her walk across the stage and be presented with her diploma. Her doctor said it was the first graduation he had ever been invited to.

Sami wants to become a horse trainer and is now pursuing a double major in Equine Science and Equine Management at Central Wyoming College.

Congrats Sami – the sky is the limit!



Meet Kolton

In 2011, after complaining of an earache, Kolton's parents took him to a doctor who said that five-year-old Kolton had a run-of-the-mill ear infection. The following evening, however, Kolton's parents noticed that he was holding one of his eyes closed while watching TV. When they asked why he was doing this, young Kolton told his parents that he was seeing two of everything if he kept both eyes open. The next

morning, Kolton's parents took him to the doctor again. This time, the doctor conducted a CT scan and found a tumor.



Kolton and his family immediately headed to Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children in Denver, where they found out that five-year-old Kolton had Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma. Initially, surgery was not an option because the tumor was too involved. As such, Kolton underwent 28 days of radiation and 43 weeks of chemotherapy.

The treatment seemed to have helped but then, in 2013, scans revealed that Kolton's tumor was back. This time, doctors operated on Kolton to surgically remove the tumor. Following surgery, Kolton underwent another 40 weeks of chemotherapy. After he finished his chemo treatment, Kolton and his family spent seven weeks in Bloomington, Indiana where Kolton underwent 32 Proton Radiation therapy treatments. Today, while Kolton continues to travel to Denver for regular scans, he is a happy 7th grader at Douglas Middle School.



Sami with Snow, Echo and Bailey



Wyoming Cancer Coalition and Jason's Friends Foundation hosted the 2nd Annual Healing Awareness Retreat on September 29th at the Sunburst Lodge in Casper. The retreat was for parents who have lost a child to cancer. The retreat focused on specific stages of grief, creating an overall awareness of the grieving process, establishing lasting and loving memories of the child, releasing the trauma and building positive memories.

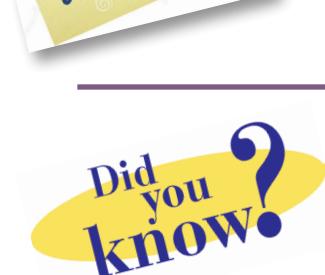
You can support Jason's Friends by shopping at Amazon smile and selecting Jason's Friends as your non-profit choice. We will receive a portion of your selected purchase total.

amazon smile

Are you a cancer survivor seeking scholarships?

Apply for the American Cancer Society Great West Division Scholarship. Packets can be requested by calling the Great West Division Patient Service Center at 1.866.500.3272 or the National Cancer Information Center at 1.800.ACS.2345.

**21st Annual Bowl
for Jason's Friends**
Saturday, March 2, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.



Did you know?

- In the U.S., 15,780 children under the age of 21 are diagnosed with cancer every year.
- The overall five-year survival rate for childhood cancer is close to 80%.
- 1 in 285 children will be diagnosed with cancer before their 20th birthday.
- 43 children per day or 15,780 children per year are expected to be diagnosed with cancer.
- More than 95% of childhood cancer survivors will have a significant health-related issue by the time they are 45 years of age. These health-related issues are side-effects of either cancer or more commonly, the result of its treatment.

Wyoming Cancer Coalition and Jason's Friends Foundation hosted the 2nd Annual Healing Awareness Retreat

on September 29th at the

Sunburst Lodge in Casper. The retreat was for parents who have lost a child to cancer. The retreat focused on specific stages of grief, creating an overall awareness of the grieving process, establishing lasting and loving memories of the child, releasing the trauma and building positive memories.

***** **Spirit of Giving HOLIDAY DRIVE** *****

Though we are enjoying fall, the holiday season is coming soon. We invite you to help our 123 Jason's Friends families 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 gift card for their Thanksgiving meal.

At Christmas time, we give our active families a \$100 gift card for each child in the family under the age of 18 for the parents to use to purchase Christmas presents. With your help, we can make the holiday season a little brighter and spread much needed love and joy to these families. Click DONATE at www.jasonsfriends.org and comment "2018 Holiday Drive" or mail your donation to 340 W. "B" Street, Suite 101 Casper, WY 82601.

THANK YOU!



Jason's Friends Foundation Board of Directors

Lisa Eades - President

Tisa Bilek - Vice President/Secretary

Rocky Eades - Treasurer

Karl Killmer - Director

Karel Loraas - Director

Risa Petrie - Director

Phil Schmidt - Director

WE ARE SEARCHING...

Jason's Friends is looking for volunteers to build our Bowl for Jason's Friends fundraising team. Meetings are held weekly during the months of January through 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.

THANK YOU



Kohl's employees assembled welcome baskets for the 10 families attending Camp Courage Wyoming in August 2018. Thank you for giving back to Jason's Friends through Kohl's Cares.

We received a grant from the Wyoming Community Foundation!



The Wyoming Community Foundation is a statewide nonprofit, partnering with people like us to strengthen Wyoming communities. In 2017, WYCF granted \$6.3 million to area nonprofits.

Thank you Joseph Scott Foundation for your generosity and ongoing support of Jason's Friends Foundation. Words cannot express how appreciative we are!

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

Jordy Quilts continue to be enjoyed by Jason's Friends children during their cancer treatments. When a family enrolls in our program, they are sent a welcome box that includes one of these beautifully handmade quilts by a Casper mom. Thank you so much for the time and love you put into these quilts.

We appreciate the continued partnership with **Make-A-Wish Wyoming**. They make dreams a reality for these children fighting tough battles.

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

We were chosen as the recipient of Subaru's "Share the Love" event by White's Mountain Motors. During the month of December, a portion of Subaru sales were donated back to Jason's Friends.



Thank you TW Foundation, Goodstein Foundation and Myra Fox Skelton Foundation for the grants to continue the Brent's Place Lodging Project.

On Wednesday, September 12, 2018 Jason's Friends Foundation was presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. We were also given a tour of their Dry Fork Station facility.



Pictured left to right: Heather Levin and Christine Robinson during a tour at Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Pictured left to right: Mike Clyde, Ashley Fraser of Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Christine Robinson, Heather Levin of Jason's Friends Foundation



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



Sadly,
there will be others.

Leave a legacy
of support.

Create a Lasting Legacy by Including JFF in Your Estate Plans

Would you like to leave a lasting legacy and continue to make an impact in the lives of Wyoming children who are battling cancer long after you are gone? Consider making a gift to JFF in your will, estate

plan or by beneficiary designation. These gifts are easy to make and will allow you to continue to use your assets during life. By leaving us a gift after you are gone, you will be able to sustain our mission and live on in the hearts of the children

we serve. For more information, please reach out to us at (307) 235-3421.



Jason's Friends Staff

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

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

Heather Levin, Program Coordinator (part-time)
heather@jasonsfriends.org



Like Jason's Friends Foundation on Facebook!

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.