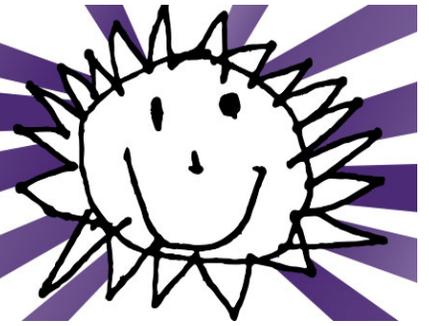




Jason's Friends
Foundation



Call to Courage

Jason's Friends Foundation Semi-Annual Bulletin Published Spring 2019



Our Mission

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



Impacting Wyoming Families

Since our beginning in 1996, we have disbursed nearly \$5 million to Wyoming families who have a child who suffers from childhood cancer, a brain tumor or spinal cord tumor. When a child is diagnosed with cancer, the family is quite often thrown into a financial crisis and engulfed in a chaotic new environment that is both frightening and confusing. When that happens, we are here to lend a helping hand.

Jason's Friends Foundation currently has 125 Wyoming families enrolled in our program. Each of these families is receiving critical assistance for their financial needs while their children battle childhood cancers, brain tumors 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.

We help with non-medical expenses such as travel out of state to pediatric cancer facilities for treatment, including fuel, food and lodging. Additionally, back at home, we also help with essential household bills to assure the house or rent payment is made, utilities and other everyday bills are paid.

Is your child battling cancer?

Do you know a family who could use our help?

Contact us TODAY!

Visit us online: jasonsfriends.org

21st Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends

As we finalize the details of this year's major fundraising event, Jason's Friends Foundation would like to extend one last note of gratitude to the citizens of our community and state for their astonishing support.

Over \$330,000 was raised at the 21st Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends, which took place on Saturday, March 2. Tireless teams of bowlers collected donations from family, friends, companies and strangers. Our corporate and business sponsors offered unwavering support. Countless others donated day prizes and silent auction items. Volunteers gave their time, talent and energy. It was a widespread effort and enormous success.

Jason's Friends Foundation exists because of Wyoming's people and their incredible spirit of giving. Your generosity makes an enormous difference in the lives of the children and families known as Jason's Friends. Many, many thanks from all.

President/Volunteer Executive Director

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



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

April Birthdays

Zachary, 20 - Casper
Sophie, 18 - Lyman
Andrea, 15 - Riverton
Jace, 21 - Lander
Brayden, 6 - Laramie
Courtney, 16 - Casper
Daizy, 8 - Cowley

May Birthdays

Seth, 20 - Rock Springs
Xavier, 20 - Casper
Ava, 9 - Cheyenne
Emily, 15 - Cheyenne
Rayshawn, 8 - Rawlins
Brayton, 10 - Douglas
Jose, 13 - Rock Springs
Noah, 13 - Rock Springs
Dominic, 21 - Casper
Hailey, 12 - Casper
Dominick, 1 - Jackson
Sherilyn, 18 - Casper

June Birthdays

Alexandra, 18 - Casper
Chase, 12 - Casper
Delaia, 8 - Casper
E.J., 19 - Mills
Annamarie, 10 - Cheyenne
Triton, 9 - Riverton
McKenzie, 5 - Green River
Hannah, 16 - Dixon
Elizabel, 17 - Evansville
Parker, 13 - Riverton
Logan, 9 - Bar Nunn
Emma, 16 - Casper

James, 4 - Green River
Albert, 5 - Rawlins
Haylin, 14 - Powell
Hisham, 5 - Sheridan
Billy, 20 - Jackson

July Birthdays

Ethan, 19 - Casper
Jonathan, 10 - Rock Springs

Jase, 6 - Casper

Baily, 17 - Cheyenne
Colter, 6 - Evansville
Caleb, 7 - Douglas
Mason, 16 - Mills
Kenneth, 7 - Cheyenne
Joshua, 12 - Gillette

August Birthdays

Derek, 15 - Laramie
Lekiesha, 19 - Gillette
Thomas, 17 - Sheridan
Jazmine, 19 - Casper
Avaleena, 11 - Sheridan
Brayde, 15 - Laramie
Emily, 15 - Rock Springs
Logan, 5 - Lander
Mayson, 10 - Casper

September Birthdays

Bailey, 20 - Torrington
Carson, 9 - Rozet
Steven, 20 - Lander
Lincoln, 16 - Gillette
Freya, 8 - Sheridan
Alexa, 14 - Casper
Briley, 9 - Gillette
Alex, 18 - Casper

Rodeo Kid

Each year, the Tribute to the Great American Cowboy Rodeo holds a special ceremony, honoring a child through Children's Western Wish Foundation. Colter was the 2018 wish recipient.

In September 2015, two-year-old Colter and his family experienced the most frightening moment of their lives. Colter's mom had taken him to the doctor because he was experiencing severe bruising. The doctor ordered bloodwork for Colter and 90 minutes later, Colter's parents received the dreaded call. The doctor told them that Colter had Leukemia and, from that moment on, their lives were forever changed in a big way.

Colter and his family were immediately flown to Denver where weekly chemotherapy treatment began right away. Soon after, little Colter started a more aggressive form of chemo, which required a 24-hour minimum hospital stay at Denver Children's Hospital.

About one year after Colter's initial diagnosis, he entered in to maintenance treatment, which consisted of monthly trips to Denver for more chemo and spinal taps. Then, in December of 2017, Colter was rushed to Denver for emergency surgery to remove fluid from around his heart. Following the surgery, Colter had a long winter filled with colds and ER visits.

Today, Colter is five years old and loves spending time at his home in Casper with his parents and big sister Khloe. Colter continued his until January 18, 2019 and is now in remission.



7-year-old Colter at "A Tribute to the Great American Cowboy" Rodeo, November 3, 2018.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE 2019 HIGH SCHOOL &
COLLEGE GRADUATES!**

Lexie, Casper
Jazmine, Casper
Joshua, Rawlins
Dominic, Casper
Alexis, Lovell



Camp Courage Wyoming



Camp Courage Wyoming will be held August 9-12, 2019 at Crooked Creek Guest Ranch near Dubois, Wyoming. Ten families will be chosen to attend the 7th annual childhood cancer camp. The camp is funded through grants and private donations, which enable families to attend Camp Courage free of charge.

Camp Courage is a camp for the entire family and includes components for the children with cancer, their parents and siblings. Activities include horseback riding, ATV trail rides, art projects, fishing, movie nights, a parent social hour, entertainment and much more. It is a fun family weekend filled with 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 with a recent diagnosis, as well as long-term survivors, are welcome. Applications are available through the Jason's Friends office or at jasonsfriends.org/camp-courage.

Deadline to apply for Camp is June 1st.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

You can't see, smell or taste radon, but it could be present at a dangerous level in your home. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America and claims the lives of about 21,000 Americans each year. In fact, the EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General urge all Americans to protect their health by testing their homes, schools and other buildings for radon.

Exposure to radon is a preventable health risk and testing radon levels in your home can help prevent unnecessary exposure. If a high radon level is detected in your home, you can take steps to fix the problem to protect yourself and your family.

The Casper-Natrona County Health Department through the Wyoming Cancer Program provides home radon kits. Each kit covers approximately 2000 square feet. The first kit is \$7. A second kit, if needed, is \$5. They are located at 475 S. Spruce St., Casper and kits are available at the front desk. For more information, please call Rob Johnston at 307-287-6530.



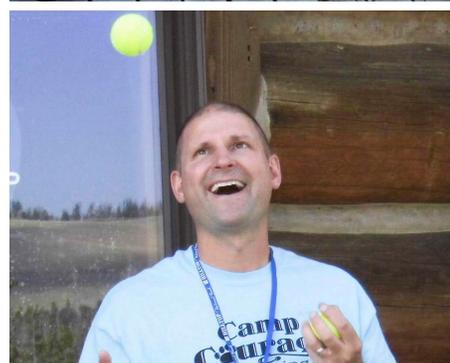
"It's so relaxing! Love this place/people!"

"Very valuable to connect with other families."

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

"It was a great adventure that we will remember for a long time."

"Our son was able to connect with other kids that have gone through similar experiences as he has."



21st Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends



On behalf of the 125 Jason's Friends families, a huge thank you to all who sponsored, donated and participated in the 21st Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends. You have made a great impact on Wyoming families whose children suffer from childhood cancers, brain tumors or spinal cord tumors.

THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS!

Corporate Sponsors

Forever & Best Friends Sponsors*

107.9 Jack FM
AM 1400

AMBI/Oil City Printers

Casper Orthopedics

Casper Star-Tribune

First Interstate Bank

Health One

Hilltop National Bank

K2 Radio

K2TV

KFNB-FOX

KGWC-TV 14 CBS

Kirkwood Oil and Gas

KISS FM

Kitchen Connections

McMurry Foundation*

Mesa Natural Gas Solutions

MeTV

MPI Warehouse Specialty

My Country 95.5

Oil City News

Peden's

Pepsi

Peterbilt of Wyoming

Pizza Hut

R & R Rest Stops

Renewal by Andersen

Robert Vigneri, MD

Rock 96.7

Rocky Mountain Oncology

Rocky Mountain Power

Sheet Metal Specialties

Stifel Nicolaus & Associates

Team Networks

Well Water Solutions and Rentals

Williams, Porter, Day and Neville

Wyoming Machinery



Jason's Friends Volunteer Committee

Christine Robinson, Chairman - Program Director

Lisa Eades, Volunteer Executive Director

Heather Levin, Program Coordinator

Karla Dundas, Emily Dinkel, Toni Billings, Karel Loraas, Linda Chivers, Brenda Hurless, Laura Claunch, Katie Ingram, Trisha Henriksen, Heather Loraas, Heather Clapp, Erin Graham, Jenny Dundas

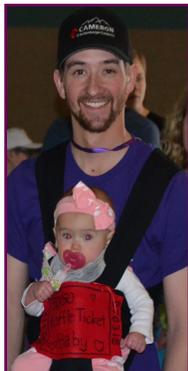
Email info@jasonsfriends.org to inquire about volunteering.



Thank you to the many businesses and individuals that provided prizes and auction items!

2019 Bowl for Jason's Friends Lane Sponsors

#1 Properties of Casper/Tina Harper
 307 Orthodontics
 71 Construction
 Advanced Family Dental
 Albertsons
 Aspen Ridge Dental
 Automation & Electronics
 Bar-D Sign
 Barten Services
 Barten Trucking
 Bloedorn Lumber Company
 Blue Cross Blue Shield
 of Wyoming
 Blueprint Energy Partners
 Builders FirstSource
 Butch and Karen Killion
 C & C Supply
 Carpet Creations
 Carpet One Casper
 Caspar Building Systems
 Casper Community Foundation
 Casper Medical Imaging
 Casper Surgical Center
 Casper Vision Center
 Central Wyoming Skin Clinic
 CEPI
 CK Mechanical
 Cloud Peak Energy Resources
 Continental Divide Dogsled Adventures
 CPA Consulting Group
 CY Trailers
 Darrell and Carol Lemmon
 Deer Creek Dental
 Designs by Tisa
 Divergence
 Creative
 Don and
 Laura Claunch
 Don's Mobile
 Carpet
 Dr. Todd and Nancy Witzeling
 DXP/Quadna
 Eades Construction
 Eagles Soaring
 Eggington's Restaurant
 Elkhorn Valley Rehabilitation Hospital
 Fiber Chem
 First American Title Insurance
 Fischer Body Shop
 Flanigan's Furniture Outlet
 Forrest and Debbie Chadwick
 Fremont Motors
 Fun Stuff Too!
 Gastroenterology Associates
 Goolsby, Finley & Associates
 Gorman Funeral Homes



Greater Wyoming Federal Credit Union
 Greiner Ford of Casper
 HI Power
 Honda of Casper
 Hunting Energy Services
 Interstate Storage
 Solutions
 ITC Electrical
 Technologies
 Jesse Florquist
 Insurance Agency
 Jonah Bank of
 Wyoming
 Killmer & Associates
 Kindel Concrete
 Lamar Advertising Company
 Larry and Linda Kloster
 Laura Stalkup
 Lavin Tile & Stone
 Lenhart, Mason & Associates
 LifeTime Health
 & Fitness
 Lisa Burrige
 & Associates
 Marsh
 Properties
 McDonald's
 Merritt and Margaret Benson
 Mobile Concrete
 Modern Electric
 Mustard Seed Home Garden and Gift
 Nerd Gas Company
 North Platte Physical Therapy Pediatrics
 Occasions by Cory
 Optimal Physical Therapy
 Outpatient Radiology
 Peak Asset Managers - Mark Petrie
 Porter Muirhead Cornia Howard
 Poplar Wine & Spirits
 Power Service
 PowerQuip Corporation
 Prairie Pella Wyoming
 Propel Product Management
 Qdoba
 Randall L. Griffith, DDS
 Richardson Trucking
 Riddle's Jewelry
 Rocky Mountain Title Insurance
 Rod Barstad's Paint & Auto Body
 Rodney C. Hill, DDS
 Rory Shogren Agency
 Roto-Rooter Sewer & Drain Service
 RR/C Collision Center
 Sams Quality Motors
 Schwartz, Bon, Walker & Studer



Silver Fox Steakhouse
 Sinclair Oil Casper
 Skogen, Cometto & Associates
 Smile Doctors by Braces U
 Smith RV Sales and Service
 Sprecher Electric
 Stapp Interstate Toyota
 Sunrise Baptist Church
 Superior Signs & Supply
 Taco John's
 Team Brice
 The 307 Sunrise
 The Edgeworth Real Estate Firm
 The Hangar
 The Hurless Family
 The Masterson Family
 The Smile Academy
 Thunder Basin Orthopaedics
 Tidbits
 Todd and Tami Milliken
 Trigger Energy Services
 TST Landscaping
 Ugly Bug Fly Shop
 US Bank
 Walsh Drive Self Storage
 Wattis Ranch
 Western Energy Fabrication
 Western Sign
 White's Mountain Motors
 Wold Foundation
 WyHy Federal Credit Union
 Wyld Gear
 Wyoming Building Supply
 Wyoming Cardiac & Thoracic Surgery
 Wyoming Cardiopulmonary Services
 Wyoming Center For Sight
 Wyoming Community Development
 Authority
 Wyoming Financial Insurance
 Wyoming Medical Center
 Zimmerman Family Foundation



Triton - One of Jason's Friends

By Brooke Eades, JFF Board Member

In September 2016, Jessica and Daniel Fritz sat down and listened as a doctor said four words that would change their lives forever – “Your child has cancer.”

Jessica knew that something was wrong with their then 6-year-old son Triton when, less than a week earlier, his skin began taking on a yellow tint. Fearing that there could be something wrong with his liver, Jessica brought him to the hospital to get his blood tested. Upon seeing the test results, their family doctor in Riverton knew something was wrong and told the Fritz family to take Triton to Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah.

It was there that they learned that their blue-eyed boy had

Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS), a rare soft cell cancer that had attacked his liver. Triton is only the third child on record to have RMS form a tumor in this particular location. Triton immediately began chemotherapy treatments and underwent 27 rounds of radiation in the year following his diagnosis.



“Triton basically had to be his own guinea pig because there really were no identical cases out there,” explained Jessica. “Because of how rare it is, his treatments have been based on ‘similar situations.’ With the lack of information, his treatments have been a battle.”

In July of 2017, Triton's test results showed no signs of RMS and the family excitedly went back to their Wyoming home. Then, on Christmas Eve, Jessica noticed that Triton's eyes and skin had taken on a familiar yellow tint.

“I knew the cancer was back,” said Jessica. “But we wanted to wait until after Christmas before opening the door to the chaos that is childhood cancer.”

The day after Christmas the family headed to Salt Lake City where they learned that the cancer had returned. For the next year, Triton continued with treatments and underwent an exploratory surgery to see if the doctors could perform a liver transplant and remove and replace part of Triton's pancreas. The doctors in Salt Lake City explained that there was nothing they could do.

“He just had so much life in him, so the idea of sitting there and letting the cancer take over his body was just too horrifying,” said Jessica. “When you know your kid is potentially dying, it breaks something in you. But it also makes you more determined and more intent on helping your kid fight the fight.”

Triton and his family did keep fighting. The Fritz family scoured the country to find a doctor who would be willing and able to perform the procedure. They found one at Georgetown University Hospital and, in November of last year, they traveled to Washington D.C. to check 8-year-old Triton into the hospital. He was put on the transplant list a week later.



“Now it's a waiting game,” said Jessica. “We are embracing D.C., as best we can, as our temporary new home while we wait for an available liver and pancreas.”

Help from Jason's Friends

When Jessica found out that Triton's name had made it onto the transplant list, she called it a miracle. While Jessica is overjoyed that they have made it this far, she is quick to recognize that there were moments when she and Daniel were not sure whether they were going to be able to financially afford the journey.

Six months into Triton's treatments, expenses were quickly piling up. With all of the back and forth trips out of state and the cost of lodging, the Fritz family was beginning to fall behind on their bills. With three other children back home, Jessica and Daniel starting to wonder how they were going to keep going.

“I didn't know what we were going to do. We couldn't afford anything with all the back and forth trips, and I was worried we were going to end up homeless,” said Jessica. “It's a horrible thought that your kid could die because you don't have enough money to get them where they need to be.”

And then Jason's Friends Foundation stepped in. Jason's Friends Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to Wyoming families who have children diagnosed with cancer or a brain or spinal cord tumor. Jason's Friends helps with travel expenses (fuel, lodging, airfare, meals) and everyday living expenses (house and rent payments, car payments, phone bills, utility bills etc.) so that Wyoming families can focus on what is most important – their children.

“In all honesty, I don't know where we would be without the help from Jason's Friends,” said Jessica. “I don't know how we would have been able to keep our home without their assistance.”

Support for Jason's Friends

Talking to families who have received help from Jason's Friends, similar stories and sentiments are echoed. When a child is diagnosed with cancer in Wyoming, the family is immediately forced to travel out of state to seek medical attention because there is not a primary cancer treatment center for children in Wyoming. By providing financial assistance, Jason's Friends provides Wyoming families peace of mind, knowing that they will not have to worry about losing everything they own.

But Jason's Friends cannot do it alone. Every year in March, they hold their primary fundraiser of the year – Bowl for Jason's Friends. This year, the 21st annual event took place on March 2 at El Mark-O Lanes in Casper and the total funds raised totaled over \$330,000. It was a state-wide event that would not have been possible without the tremendous support of the Wyoming community.

A Waiting Game

In early February, Jessica, Daniel and Triton remained in D.C., waiting for a perfect match to provide Triton his new liver and pancreas. In between weekly chemo treatments, Jessica and Daniel continued to try to give Triton every opportunity to enjoy just being an 8-year-old boy.

“Some days you are helping your kids be kids, and some days you are talking about heaven as if it's just a room next door and that death is nothing to be scared of,” said Jessica. “As parents, we have to do our best to support our kids.”

Jessica urges her fellow Wyomingites to show their support for families like theirs by donating, volunteering and lending a helping hand to Jason's Friends Foundation.

“I encourage everyone to help out in any way they can,” said Jessica. “Jason's Friends has been a tremendous blessing to us. There's no way to put it into words.”

Follow Up to Triton's Story

On February 24, Triton's family received the call they had been waiting for – there was a liver match. The family rushed to the hospital to undergo several tests and prepare for surgery. The transplant and whipple procedures took place the following morning. Triton has exceeded all expectations with the recovery process and was discharged from the hospital one month later. He continues to grow stronger and looks forward to returning home to Wyoming with his family soon.





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

Thank you to the Wyoming Community Foundation, Joseph J. Scott Foundation, Kim and Jody Brown Family Foundation and McMurry Foundation for their ongoing support of our organization. Words cannot express how appreciative we are!



Thank you Florquist Family for raising awareness for Jason's Friends at the 2019 Wyoming State Winter Fair in Lander.

Jason's Friends was honored to be invited to speak at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Casper for their Lenten Mission Festival. Thank you for your support!

Mesa Natural Gas Solutions finds it important to give back to the communities in which they are a part of. Mesa has partnered with Jason's Friends and manufactured a special edition generator in hopes to bring awareness and help raise funds for our great organization. Be on the lookout for the special generator at events this summer!

(Right) Christine Robinson, Program Director and Heather Levin, Program Coordinator tour the Mesa facility and accept a generous donation from Max Renton, Marketing Manager



Thank you Myra Fox Skelton Foundation, Wyoming Community Foundation, Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation, Goodstein Foundation and Wells Fargo Foundation for your ongoing support of the Brent's Place Lodging Project!



Thank you Tonkin Foundation and Rose Community Foundation for your grants to fund Camp Courage Wyoming!

On their Day of Service, students from St. Anthony's Tri-Parish Catholic School helped Jason's Friends. Students and teachers assembled bowler donation packets for Bowl for Jason's Friends. Thank you for choosing us!

Thank you Board Members for your hard work and dedication to Jason's Friends!

Lisa Eades, Rocky Eades, Karl Killmer, Tisa Bilek, Phil Schmidt, Risa Petrie, Karel Loraas and Brooke Eades

6th Annual St. Patrick's Day 5k Pub Crawl

Jason's Friends Foundation was once again one of the beneficiaries of the 6th Annual St. Patrick's Day 5k Pub Crawl. The event had an amazing turnout and a great time was had by all. Jason's Friends received \$3,000! Thank you Wind City Physical Therapy and all the participating locations, breweries and sponsors of the Pub Crawl.



27th Annual API Chili Cook-Off



The 27th Annual API Chili Cook-Off was held on February 16. Our volunteers had a wonderful time at the People's Choice booth. Thank you to the API Board of Directors for your continued support.

We appreciate our reoccurring monthly donors.



Students from Woods Learning Center helped Jason's Friends for their Day of Caring. Custom Valentine's Day cards were made for every child in our program. The children loved receiving these special cards made by other kids and teachers.



Jason's Friends Foundation

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

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



Akeylah, 1 - Cheyenne



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 Foundation Staff

Lisa Eades, Volunteer Executive Director
lisa@jasonsfriends.org

Christine Robinson, Program Director (part-time)
christine@jasonsfriends.org

Heather Levin, Program Coordinator (part-time)
heather@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!