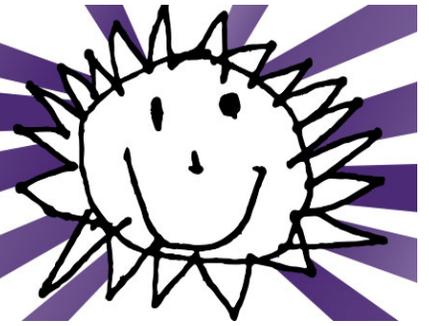




Jason's Friends
Foundation



Call to Courage

Jason's Friends Foundation Semi-Annual Bulletin Published Fall 2020



Our Mission

To assist Wyoming families whose children suffer from cancer, brain tumors or spinal cord tumors by providing non-medical financial assistance, advocacy and encouragement.



FROM OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I may have a new title, but I am not new to Jason's Friends Foundation. I have been the Program Director since July 2015 and involved with Jason's Friends for nearly 20 years wearing many different hats, including



volunteer, Bowl for Jason's Friends chairman and board member. I was promoted to Executive Director in July and look forward to continuing the strong work we do. I have a true passion for this foundation and helping Wyoming families dealing with childhood cancer. As a parent of a three-month premature baby who was sent out

of state, I understand the challenges that families face with being away from home and the financial stress that comes with having a sick child.

I have lived in Casper the majority of my life, attending Verda James Elementary, Centennial Junior High and graduating from Kelly Walsh High School. I stayed in Casper and attended Casper College, graduating from the University of Wyoming/Casper College program with a Bachelors in Business Administration. Before coming to Jason's Friends as an employee, I worked at Wells Fargo Bank for 18 years. I am married to Robert and we have two children, Druw, 13 and Caitlin, 11. In my spare time, I enjoy playing/coaching volleyball and scrapbooking.

Since 1996, Jason's Friends Foundation has provided over \$5,500,000 in assistance for non-medical expenses. So far in 2020, we have enrolled 19 new children bringing the number of families enrolled in our program to 138 and nearing a 20% increase in financial assistance from 2019.

September was National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and the month we honor our Wyoming children with cancer. Jason's Friends featured stories of children enrolled in our program on our Facebook page during the month. If you haven't had a chance to read them, I urge you to do so. You will be inspired by stories of strong and brave kids facing the battle of their lives.

Mark your calendars and join us for the upcoming 23rd Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends event Saturday, March 6, 2021 at El Mark-O Lanes in Casper. I hope to see you there!

Thank you for your ongoing support of Jason's Friends. I am excited to continue the amazing work we do!

Christie Robinson, Executive Director





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



October Birthdays

Kolton, 15 - Douglas
August, 8 - Gillette
Stevie, 13 - Gillette
Rahne, 16 - Riverton
Patrick, 11 - Cheyenne
Joshua, 20 - Rawlins
Brooke, 18 - Gillette
Jared, 14 - Lovell
Francheska, 13 - Lusk
Jason, 10 - Sheridan
Jaeson, 15 - Riverton
Teagan, 12 - Cheyenne
Tennyson, 8 - Cheyenne
Taylor, 15 - Laramie
Shelby, 15 - Wright
Kaylee, 19 - Laramie

December Birthdays

Trippy, 15 - Rock Springs
Travaras, 13 - Cheyenne
Bracken, 16 - Green River
Asher, 11 - Sheridan
Macey, 21 - Byron
Nathan, 19 - Kaycee
Emmie, 6 - Cheyenne
Hunter, 19 - Cheyenne
Illiana, 1 - Cheyenne

January Birthdays

Karina, 19 - Casper
Henry, 9 - Hillsdale
Olivia, 21 - Gillette
Parker, 10 - Mills
Elijah, 16 - Cheyenne
Haukea, 5 - Casper

February Birthdays

Matthew, 12 - Thayne
Michael, 18 - Afton
Ivy, 21 - Big Piney
Alexis, 20 - Lovell
Aubry, 17 - Sheridan
Cesar, 16 - Rawlins
Zerrian, 14 - Thermopolis
Sophia, 9 - Cheyenne
Ella, 12 - Jackson
Sage, 6 - Rock Springs
Jaeden, 18 - Worland
Evelyn, 6 - Casper
Anthony, 11 - Casper
Ayden, 13 - Cheyenne
Amanda, 20 - Casper
Jaden, 19 - Cheyenne

March Birthdays

Callie, 10 - Evanston
Trevor, 19 - Lovell
Amaya, 19 - Sheridan
Samantha, 21 - Cody
Silas, 11 - Cody
J.R., 16 - Newcastle
Brooklyn, 6 - Casper
Amaya, 18 - Sheridan



November Birthdays

Austin, 10 - Laramie
Colton, 15 - Cheyenne
Paden, 14 - Lander
Marley, 12 - Casper
Kyle, 21 - Laramie
Treston, 10 - Worland
Demetrius, 14 - Cheyenne
Austen, 21 - Casper
Aavah, 7 - Cowley
Connor, 8 - Gillette
Odalys, 10 - Rock Springs
Adalee, 11 - Casper
Henry, 10 - Casper
Bobby, 21 - Superior
Hunter, 7 - Gillette
Jacob, 7 - Cheyenne
Airabella, 4 - Cheyenne
Emery, 5 - Cheyenne
Charles, 5 - Cheyenne
Ivie, 3 - Rock Springs

There are ways you can give today while still preserving your assets for retirement and providing for your family. You can support our mission without impacting yourself or your family. Here are some gifts anyone can afford to make:

Gifts from a Will or Trust: Designating us as a beneficiary in your will or trust is a simple way to commit to our cause, and it will not affect your cash flow during your lifetime. In addition, it's easy to revoke this type of gift if your situation or goals change.

Beneficiary Designations: Naming us as the beneficiary of a retirement plan, financial account, or annuity is another easy way to help further our mission. You can continue to benefit from these assets during your lifetime. A beneficiary designation can also be changed at any time.

Life Insurance: If you have an old, unneeded life insurance policy, you can donate it to us and take an immediate tax deduction. You can also name us as a beneficiary of your policy.

Appreciated Securities, Real Property: If you own securities or real estate that you no longer need or wish to sell, a gift of these assets is another way that you can benefit us without impacting your cash flow. You may also benefit from capital gains tax avoidance by giving, rather than selling, these assets.

IRA Distribution: If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 from your IRA each year. Your gift will qualify for your required minimum distribution, and you will not have to pay federal income tax on the amount transferred directly from your IRA to us.

Life Estate: If you own your home and wish to remain living there, you can transfer the inheritance rights to your home (farm or vacation home) to us while retaining the right to use the home during your lifetime. Enjoy the added benefit of an income tax deduction.

Tangible Personal Property: If you have valuable assets such as artwork, collectibles, jewelry, etc., that you no longer want or need, consider giving these assets to us and benefit from an income tax deduction this year.

Please contact us to learn more about these types of charitable gifts.

This information is not intended as tax, legal, or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

Camp Courage Wyoming

Camp Courage Wyoming was held July 31 - August 3, 2020 at the Crooked Creek Guest Ranch in Dubois, Wyoming. Ten families attended the 8th 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 family camp that includes components for the children with cancer, their parents and their siblings. Activities include horseback trail rides, ATV rides, archery, art projects, movie nights, a social hour for the parents, and much more. This year featured Chad Lore and Casper Comedians Care. 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 9th Annual Camp Courage will take place Friday, August 6 - Monday, August 9, 2021. Applications will be available through the Jason's Friends office or at jasonsfriends.org beginning March 2021.

Thank you to the Tonkin Foundation and the Kim and Jody Brown Family Foundation for making 2020 Camp Courage Wyoming a huge success!

Want to help send a family to Camp Courage 2021? Donations can be made directly to support Camp Courage by visiting the Jason's Friends website jasonsfriends.org.



"Beautiful scenery. Location was easy to find. Would come here with my family again!"

"LOVED the weekend, we were able to relax a lot."

"Camp is awesome because loving people run it!"

"Thank you so much for this. We are grateful and feel so lucky to attend. Everything was so nice! We really needed some time to wind down after the past year and this was just the ticket! The facility – the cabins, food, activities were amazing. Meeting so many new people and making new friends was the best. This was a once in a lifetime experience for us and we are so grateful!"



Go **Gold** for September Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

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

Childhood Cancer Facts

Pediatric cancer is cancer in a child or teen who is younger than 20 years of age. Many different types of cancer can occur in young people, including cancers that are often seen in adults as well as cancers that are unique to children.

More than 15,000 cases of pediatric cancer are diagnosed in the United States each year. The most common types are leukemia, lymphoma, and brain cancer.

Cancer is the number one cause of death by disease among children.

About 1,190 children under the age of 15 are expected to die from cancer in 2020.

About 11,050 children in the United States under the age of 15 will be diagnosed with cancer in 2020.

Because of major treatment advances in recent decades, 84% of children with cancer now survive 5 years or more. Overall this is a huge increase since the mid-1970s, when the 5-year survival rate was about 58%.

Possible late effects of cancer treatment include:

- Heart or lung problems due to certain chemotherapy drugs or radiation therapy to the chest area
- Slowed or delayed growth and development in the bones or overall
- Changes in sexual development and ability to have children, learning problems, and increased risk of other cancers later in life

More than 95% of childhood cancer survivors will have a significant health related issue by the time they are 45 years of age.

Sources: American Cancer Society, Coalition Against Childhood Cancer and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Lisa Eades, Volunteer President/CEO, at the City of Casper council meeting September 1, 2020 accepting the Proclamation to observe September as National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Casper.



Meet Ellie

Ellie is an eight-year-old girl from Buffalo. She is in second grade and has always been a very smart, playful, and kind little girl. In March 2020, she started to have one eye that was not tracking properly and was also experiencing headaches. After some testing, we discovered that Ellie has a rosette-forming glioneuronal tumor on her brainstem. She had four brain surgeries this spring. The first surgery was to biopsy the tumor and figure out what it was and how to treat it, and all of the other surgeries were to stop the hydrocephalus that was being caused because of the location of the tumor. The swelling, or hydrocephalus, was eventually stopped by placing a shunt in Ellie's brain. Unfortunately Ellie's tumor could not be removed because of the location on the brainstem. However, Ellie was a good candidate for radiation therapy. Through this whole process Ellie has remained remarkably strong and positive. We are a very close family consisting of JD (Ellie's dad) Tiffany (Ellie's mom) and Jameson (Ellie's 7-year-old brother). We love spending time together outdoors or watching a movie. In the fall, Ellie will have an MRI that will show us how her cancer has responded to the radiation treatment. We have all been so proud of Ellie's strength and her determination through this process. She has been such an amazing young lady.



Submitted by Ellie's parents

Meet Jacob

Jacob is a 15-year-old boy who is very active in all aspects of life. He is very kindhearted and always considerate to others. Jacob is involved in cross country, basketball and track during the school year. He is very dedicated to his academics and is a 4.0 GPA student. He loves playing the piano and online gaming with his buddies in his "spare" time. In the spring of 2020 our lives as we knew it came to an abrupt halt. Not only were we in the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was then that Jacob was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma, a rare cancer that



affects 1-3 people out of a million. After meeting with the incredible staff at Children's Hospital Colorado, it was determined that the best treatment for this condition was to undergo 25 radiation treatments then a surgery to remove the remaining tumor. The surgery was a success

and the healing process is underway. Jacob's attitude has been extremely positive and he has rarely complained. He has unconditional faith and is looking forward to putting this chapter in his life in the past. **Submitted by Jacob's parents**

Go **Gold** for September Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

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

Meet Addilyn

Addilyn (Addy) was diagnosed with AML leukemia on December 1, 2019. She was immediately admitted to Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City after a late-night visit at Intermountain Medical Center. The week of Thanksgiving, Addy started screaming every day and every night. This was not a normal baby cry; it was a cry as if she was in pain. Her face was so swollen she could barely open her eyes. She would nap for three hours at times throughout the day. Addilyn and her mom were cleaning her room one day and out of nowhere Addilyn couldn't walk. It was as if she hurt herself, although nothing happened to her. Her mom thought that she was just fatigued and was hoping for her to be better the next day. As a couple days went by, symptoms were not improving. Her symptoms were actually getting worse. She went to her primary doctor in Rock Springs. Her doctor did not know exactly what was wrong with her but ordered an X-ray of her hips and legs to make sure he wasn't missing anything. Addilyn was taken to the hospital for X-rays, results came back clear. Her parents took her to the hospital the very next day to get a second opinion. The doctor looked at her, did not do blood work or a urine sample and sent her home and told her parents that she had viral symptoms, and nothing would be better for her than over the counter cold medicine. Addilyn's parents went right over to the store to buy her the best cold medicine and Pedialyte popsicles, etc. Symptoms were still not improving after a couple days. Addilyn looked up at her mom and dad and her eyes were filled with blood spots all under her swollen eye lids. That is when her mom and dad said enough is enough and took her to Salt Lake City to get checked. The doctors immediately did blood work, a urine sample and a physical exam. Within a couple of hours, the doctors had results and sort of knew what she had and admitted her to Primary Children's Hospital. That night, her parents were informed that their baby had leukemia. It was one of the worst nights any parent could ever imagine. Their family made life changing decisions and decided what would be best for their little girl. Her dad would remain in Rock Springs to work and visit on the weekends. Mom would stay in Salt Lake and move forward with chemotherapy rounds. The first couple months were so heartbreaking and terrifying with so many procedures and a lengthy time in the ICU. Addy was so strong and brave with every little thing she had to do. In a way, she knew she was getting the help she needed. Her mom never left her side and was so excited to see her dad on the weekends. Addilyn soon made friends in the hospital. She would ride her red wagon everyday and interact with the nurses and doctors as if they were her friends as well. She quickly learned how to take her own vitals including her heart rate, temperature, and blood



pressure. Addilyn proceeded with four rounds of chemotherapy. During her fourth round of chemo, her blood work showed that she had developed leukemia blasts in her blood. It was quite a large amount, so things took a turn in treatment. As days went by the blasts doubled. The doctors informed Addilyn's parents they performed so many rounds of intense chemotherapy that the risk of performing more chemo would increase the risk of affecting her other organs. The doctors felt that her cancer was so aggressive that the more chemo given, the stronger her cancer would react to the treatment and increase her leukemia cells. Addilyn's parents were back where they started the day they were told that she had leukemia. They had two choices. They could either go home and enjoy family time and stop treatment or try a study chemo that could be done at home that had no evidential support of it working. Obviously, they decided to try the study chemo and provide her medications in a more home-like situation. Addilyn was soon in a ton of pain and was given pain medication every two hours. Not many days after leaving the hospital she was put on oxygen and a pulse oximeter 24 hours. Her parents had to suction her mouth of blood frequently. The cancer was causing her gums to cover her teeth and she was unable to keep her binky in her mouth. Her parents took every day to heart that they spent with their little girl. Addilyn progressively got worse as the days went by, to the point where she became immobile. The study chemo was not helping and the main focus at that point was to keep her comfortable. Addilyn's parents took her to get blood transfusions at the hospital as part of her daily routine. They seemed to help her, some days more than others. One day while waiting for her blood, Addilyn's heart rate began to drop. The nurses looked at her parents and asked them if they wanted them to perform CPR. The nurses took turns resuscitating Addilyn. After thirty minutes trying to revive their little angel, she passed away in her parents' arms on May 31, 2020. Addilyn had such a fighting, sassy, loving personality that touched everyone's heart. She will sincerely be missed by all who knew her, especially by her parents. **Submitted by Addilyn's parents**

Meet James

James was diagnosed with leukemia in October 2017. He was two years old. One morning he had no energy, looked exhausted and pale, so I took him to the doctor. After blood tests, doctors hooked him up for blood transfusions and said he was being life flighted to Salt Lake. My heart dropped out of my chest. His mother flew with him and I drove. It was the longest drive of my life. After arriving, the oncology team told us the treatment plan. With only a few extra hospitalizations James was able to stay on track. He is now five years old in kindergarten and is cancer free! He has a wonderful sprit and heart for others and is always fun to have around. **Submitted by James' dad**

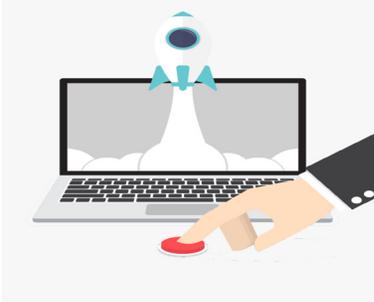


In remembrance of a Jason's Friends child who has gained her angel wings this year...



Addilyn (1)

After several months of hard work, we are excited to announce the launching of our newly updated Jason's Friends website. Please check it out at jasonsfriends.org



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.

You can support us by shopping at AmazonSmile and selecting Jason's Friends as your nonprofit choice. We will receive a portion of your purchase total.



\$200 million donated to charities

Shop at smile.amazon.com or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app to generate donations. amazon.com

Jason's Friends has partnered with Angel Flight West. Angel Flight's mission is to deliver health and hope using donated flights to serve people with healthcare or other compelling human needs. They link volunteer pilots and commercial airlines with people who require air travel to access non-emergency care and other essential services. Patients must be traveling for care at major research hospitals, children's hospitals, specialized treatment centers and more.

For more information, please visit their website at angelflightwest.org, email info@angelflightwest.org or call 888-4-AN-ANGEL.



Though we are enjoying fall, the holiday season is coming soon. We invite you to help our 138 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 \$75 for their Thanksgiving meal. For Christmas, we give our active families \$100 for each child in the family under the age of 18 so parents can 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 jasonsfriends.org and comment "2020 Holiday Drive" or mail your donation to 340 W B Street, Suite 101, Casper, WY 82601.

THANK YOU!

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 at christine@jasonsfriends.org.



save the date!

23rd Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends
Saturday, March 6, 2021
10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. El Mark-O Lanes
Casper, WY



THANK YOU

The 28th Annual API Chili Cook-Off was held on February 15. Thank you to the API Board of Directors for the \$4,500 donation to our cause. Thank you for supporting Jason's Friends for over 10 years.

Gillette College Nursing Students organized a Glow 5K Run in Gillette for February 27th to benefit Jason's Friends. Unfortunately the event was cancelled due to COVID-19. Thank you to the nursing students who collected money for the event in support of us.

Taking care of our families' lodging needs in Salt Lake City and Denver was a difficult task prior to forming partnerships. Thanks to Brent's Place - Aurora, The Drury Inn & Suites - Denver Central Park and Hampton Inn & Suites Salt Lake City/University-Foothill for partnering with us and making lodging so much easier for our families and us.



Thank you for donations made in memory of the following:

Derek Creager

Jeff Creager

Charlotte Haass

Leroy Gimbel



In Loving Memory

We received a grant from the Wyoming Community Foundation!



Thank you Wyoming Community Foundation - Casper Board for the ongoing support of the Brent's Place Lodging Project. This enables our families to stay in a home away from home while they are away for weeks and sometimes months.

Last spring Dean Morgan Junior High and CY Middle School held a contest to see who could gather the most donations for Jason's Friends. The total monies received was over \$2,000. Nice work students and staff!

Thank you Wild Wild Rags and Buck and Mary Brannaman for your continued support.

Leaving a legacy that helps others long after you are gone can make a tremendous impact on a nonprofit. That is just what Lee Castellow did. Thank you for choosing us as one of the causes to carry on your legacy for many years to come.

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

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the social workers that we have the privilege of working with on a daily basis. THANK YOU for all you do for our Wyoming families.

Is your child battling cancer?

Do you know a family who has a child with cancer, brain tumors or spinal cord tumors that 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



Jason's Friends
Foundation

340 W B Street Suite 101
Casper, WY 82601



Sadly,
there will be others.
Leave a legacy
of support.

Jason's Friends Foundation Board of Directors

- Lisa Eades - President/CEO
- Tisa Bilek - Vice President/Secretary
- Rocky Eades - Treasurer
- Karl Killmer - Director
- Risa Petrie - Director
- Karel Loraas - Director
- Brooke Eades - Director
- Phil Schmidt - Director

Jason's Friends Staff

- Christine Robinson**, Executive Director (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.