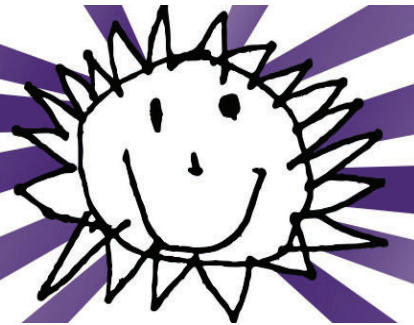




Jason's Friends  
Foundation



## Call to Courage

Jason's Friends Foundation Semi-Annual Bulletin Published Spring 2023



### 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 financial assistance, advocacy and encouragement.



### Impacting Wyoming Families

In February 2023, we reached another milestone in our foundation. Since our beginning in 1996, we have disbursed over \$7 million to Wyoming families whose children suffer from childhood cancer, brain tumors or spinal cord tumors.

In 2022, Jason's Friends expended over \$750,000 to Wyoming families in our program. This was a 65% increase from 2021. This number is a reflection of the overall increase in financial assistance along with the demand for short and long-term lodging in Denver and Salt Lake City.

Jason's Friends Foundation is currently assisting 151 Wyoming families. Each family is eligible to receive financial assistance while their child is in treatment, ill as a result of treatment and for follow-up appointments in the years to come.

We help with travel expenses, including fuel, airline tickets, food and lodging, in addition to vehicle maintenance to ensure each family has a reliable vehicle to get to and from out of state appointments.

We help with household bills back home in Wyoming, including house or rent payments, utilities, phone bills, vehicle insurance and vehicle payments.

Medical bills continue to be another hardship for our families. In 2021, Jason's Friends began reimbursing for the sick child's annual medical insurance deductible.

These numbers represent many stories of the financial stress relief we bring to Wyoming families facing their most difficult battle - having a child with cancer.

### From our Executive Director

Happy spring! I am proud to report that nearly \$400,000 was raised at the 25th Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends on March 4th in Casper and Gillette. It was an amazing anniversary celebration! Thank you to the corporate, lane, prize, and silent auction sponsors, the amazing group of volunteers who gave their time, talent and energy and the many, many more donors who made this event so successful.

We are here for these families in their moments of emotional and financial crisis. We lend a helping hand, thanks to the support of donors and supporters like you. This generosity makes an enormous difference in the lives of the Wyoming children and families known as Jason's Friends.

Every year I am in awe of the amount of support we receive for our annual fundraiser. Just another reason I love this great state of Wyoming. Thank you!

*Christie Robinson*, Executive Director

### 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

Email: [info@jasonsfriends.org](mailto:info@jasonsfriends.org)



## PLEASE JOIN IN HONORING OUR HEROES WHO ARE FIGHTING OR HAVE OVERCOME THEIR ILLNESS

### April Birthdays

Julia, 6 - Lander  
Kaycen, 9 - Big Piney  
Andrea, 19 - Riverton  
Avy, 17 - Casper  
Logan, 8 - Torrington  
Jacob, 18 - Gillette  
Courtney, 20 - Casper  
Daizy, 12 - Lovell  
Nathan, 17 - Casper

### May Birthdays

Gracie, 8 - Riverton  
Kamden, 7 - Gillette  
Hailey, 16 - Casper  
Kyle, 8 - Casper  
Dominick, 5 - Jackson  
Ava, 13 - Cheyenne  
Emily, 19 - Cheyenne  
Kellan, 18 - Sheridan  
Brayton, 14 - Douglas  
Noah, 17 - Rock Springs

Alak, 6 - Casper

### June Birthdays

Chase, 16 - Casper  
Raiden, 18 - Lander  
Annamarie, 14 - Cheyenne  
Miles, 10 - Arapahoe  
Casyn, 4 - Sheridan  
Rowan, 15 - Laramie  
Quintin, 11 - Moorcroft  
Brayden, 9 - Torrington  
Elizabel, 21 - Evansville  
Parker, 17 - Riverton  
James, 6 - Green River  
Albert, 9 - Rawlins  
Emma, 20 - Casper  
Hisham, 9 - Sheridan

### July Birthdays

Adelaide, 17 - Cheyenne  
Mary, 3 - Casper  
Jonathan, 14 - Rock Springs  
Jase, 10 - Casper  
Baily, 21 - Cheyenne  
Colter, 10 - Evansville  
Caleb, 11 - Douglas  
Mary Ann, 18 - Sheridan  
Mason, 20 - Mills

Kenneth, 11 - Cheyenne

Joshua, 16 - Gillette  
Josephine, 9 - Laramie

### August Birthdays

Derek, 19 - Laramie  
Thomas, 21 - Sheridan  
Emma, 19 - Mountain View  
Emily, 19 - Rock Springs  
Trenten, 18 - Manderson  
Reed, 5 - Torrington  
Logan, 9 - Lander

Avaleena, 15 - Sheridan

Atticus, 18 - Cheyenne  
Brayde, 19 - Laramie

### September Birthdays

Tabitha, 11 - Rock Springs  
Freya, 12 - Sheridan  
Matthew, 19 - Rock Springs  
Ellie, 12 - Buffalo  
Owen, 6 - Jackson  
Carson, 13 - Rozet  
Amillia, 7 - Riverton  
Hayden, 2 - Alpine  
Lincoln, 20 - Gillette  
Alexa, 18 - Casper  
Briley, 13 - Gillette



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

**Chloe, Gillette - age 15 months**

**Izibelle, Alpine - age 13**

### GRIEF CAMP



### Kids Grief Camp hosted by Central Wyoming Hospice & Transitions

This FREE camp is for kids ages 6-16 who have experienced a death in their immediate circle of friends or family within the last month to three years. They will learn coping strategies to handle their grief experiences through their work with the horses from Reach 4A Star Riding Academy. Two camps are offered in Casper: June 21-23 or June 28-30. Kids from around the state are welcome. For more information, call (307) 577-4832.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Derek, Laramie  
Raiden, Lander  
Tori, Cheyenne  
Brayde, Laramie  
CJ, Cody  
Atticus, Cheyenne  
Chayse, Casper



Congratulations to our Jason's Friends kiddos who have recently celebrated their wishes. We value our partnership with Make-A-Wish Wyoming and enjoy sharing their program with our families!

Paisley, 4, Riverton  
Disney World  
Kellan, 17, Sheridan  
Hawaii  
Haven, 16, Torrington  
Disney World  
Shelby, 17, Wright  
Hawaii



### 15th Annual Canyon to Curve Fun Run/Walk



Registration: 7:30am  
Where: Casper Boat Club  
Start time: 8:30am  
Details: Includes breakfast  
\$40 entry fee/\$45 day of  
Registration form at  
[www.casperboatclub.com](http://www.casperboatclub.com)  
Mail registration form  
and entry fee to:  
Casper Boat Club  
PO Box 2123  
Casper, WY 82602



# Camp Courage Wyoming

Camp Courage Wyoming will be held August 11 - 14, 2023 at Crooked Creek Guest Ranch near Dubois, Wyoming. Ten families will be chosen to attend the 11th 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 excursions, art projects, 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](https://jasonsfriends.org/camp-courage).

**Deadline to apply for Camp is June 1, 2023**

## HOW CAN YOU HELP CAMP COURAGE WYOMING?

#1: Camp Courage Wyoming is excited to announce a partnership with Walmart Registry for Good. By purchasing items from our registry, you can help provide the needed supplies for camp this coming year. From snacks, arts and crafts and outdoor camping needs, there are several items on our wish list to choose from. If you are interested in helping, please scan the QR code below or search for Camp Courage Wyoming at [walmart.com/registry](https://walmart.com/registry). Donations can be shipped directly to our office.



Scan me!

#2: Monetary donations can be made directly to support Camp Courage Wyoming by visiting the website [jasonsfriends.org](https://jasonsfriends.org), clicking on the DONATE button and selecting "Camp Courage" as the donation type.





# 25th Annual Bowl for Jason's Friends

On behalf of the 151 Jason's Friends families, we want to extend a huge thank you to all who sponsored, donated and participated in the 25th 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

Albany Lodge  
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Blueprint Energy Partners  
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Mesa Natural Gas Solutions  
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ONEOK  
Peden's  
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Renewal by Andersen  
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Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children  
Rocky Mountain Oncology  
Sheet Metal Specialties  
Stifel Nicolaus and Associates  
Surfin Smiles  
Team Networks  
Todd and Tami Milliken  
Townsquare Media  
Well Water Solutions  
Williams, Porter, Day and Neville  
Wyoming Machinery



## Jason's Friends Staff

Christine Robinson, Executive Director  
Ali Pousha, Family Support Coordinator  
Marissa Pierantoni, Program Assistant

## Jason's Friends Volunteer Committee

Lisa Eades, Karla Dundas, Emily Dinkel, Karel Loraas,  
Christi Geuke, Laura Claunch, Katie Ingram, Trish Henriksen,  
Heather Loraas, Joan Mills, Megan Phillips, Erin Graham,  
Heather Clapp, Amanda Disney-Whitt, Jenny Benardis



A special thank you to Dave & Katey Stevenson and Kristine Clyde for their hard work to make Bowl for Jason's Friends a success in Gillette, Wyoming. They raised over \$15,000! Thank you to Camelanes, Mike Divis and all of the bowlers and supporters who came out to our first annual event in Gillette.



# 2023 Bowl for Jason's Friends Lane Sponsors

#1 Properties of Casper - Tina Harper

71 Construction

Albertsons

Aspen Ridge Dental

Atlas Firms

Atlas Reproduction

Automation & Electronics

Banner Wyoming Medical Center

Bar-D Sign

Black Hills Energy

Bloedorn Lumber Company

Blue Chip Machine

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Boatright Development

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Cabinet Design Firm

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Caspar Building Systems

Casper Family Vision Clinic

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Casper Vision Center

Cassity Dental Arts

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CEPI

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Darrell and Carol Lemmon

Designs by Tisa

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Don's Mobile Carpet

Dr. David A. Ellbogen, MD

Dr. Todd and Nancy Witzeling

DXP

Eades Construction

Eggington's

Elkhorn Valley Rehabilitation Hospital

Encompass Energy Consulting

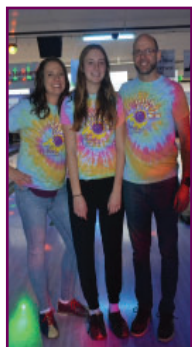
Fiber Chem

Fischer Body Shop

Flanigan's Furniture Outlet

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Gastroenterology Associates



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Greiner Ford of Casper

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Silver Fox Steakhouse

Sloanes General Store

Smile Doctors Braces by

307 Orthodontics

Smith RV Sales and Service

SNS Outfitter & Guides

Sprecher Electric

Spruce2 Beauty Bar

Sunrise Baptist Church

Superior Signs

Taco John's

Team Brice

The Smile Academy

Ugly Bug Fly Shop

US Bank

Visit Casper

Walsh Drive Self Storage

& Interstate Storage Solutions

Wells Dentistry

Western Energy Fabrication

Western Sign & Design

White's Mountain Motors

WyHy Federal Credit Union

Wyoming Behavioral Institute

Wyoming Building Supply

Wyoming Cardiopulmonary Services

Wyoming Center For Sight

Wyoming Community Development Authority

Wyoming Gun Company

Wyoming Livestock Roundup

Wyoming Trailers

Zimmerman Family Foundation

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

## Gillette Corporate Sponsors

County 17 News

## Gillette Lane Sponsors

307 Realty Team

Basin Electric

BXP Operating

Campbell County Medical - Pediatrics

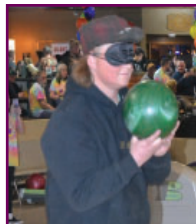
Eagles

Keyhole Outdoor Living

Rick & Lori Pieper

TCRI Energy Services

WYCAM Construction





# In Memory of Linda Chivers

*written by Christine Robinson, Executive Director*

I had the huge blessing of volunteering, working with and learning from Linda at Jason's Friends Foundation over the past 16 years.

I was a young, eager to help 22-year-old who was introduced to the foundation by a fellow volunteer. I was roped in and never left. I am glad that I didn't, as so many long-time friendships were made and, of course, I wouldn't have met Linda. I met her when she started as a part-time employee of Jason's Friends in 2006. She quickly showed me how much she cared about these families we were helping and remembered everything about each one of them. She was the perfect fit for Jason's Friends.

She was instrumental in taking the foundation to the next level. She created an accounting system in which her banking background came in quite handy, along with a family filing system. She started a "What's Happening" newsletter to keep the volunteers up to date on the doings of the foundation. These are just a few of the amazing things she did, there are too many more to list.

When I started as an employee in 2015 with Jason's Friends, Linda was the best mentor anyone could have asked for. She was patient but straight forward and worked hard. Linda was left-handed. I always gave her a hard time about those darn backwards checkmarks and the Pilot #7 blue gel pens that were the only pens she would use.

She had beautiful handwriting and always knew the right words to say and write in the moment. Filing was her least favorite task, hence a large pile would collect on her desk. I think she knew large piles weren't my thing and it would eventually drive me crazy enough that I would make that pile disappear.

She taught me how to be a shining light in these families' lives, to listen to their needs and go above and beyond to help. There was a family returning from Denver from a bone marrow transplant that had a laundry list of things that needed to be done to their home to make it safe for their son. She orchestrated a group of volunteers to clean and paint the family's home for their arrival. We made a big difference that day. Linda made life-long friends from the bonds she had with these families.



One of the hardest things about being a part of Jason's Friends is when we lose a child. I was so scared to attend a child's funeral but Linda helped me, being right by my side for my very first one. They don't get any easier. She made every effort to be at all of their funerals no matter where they lived. One cold, wintery February she made her brother, Charles, drive us ladies to a child's funeral in Riverton. He was happy to do it.

After Linda retired in 2018, I continued to look to her for guidance. If I had a question, she always had the answer or suggested a solution. She continued to offer her time at the annual fundraiser. Volunteers knew her as the cake lady. Linda loved cake and ensured that every year we



had sheets cakes to share with the hundreds of bowlers who came out to celebrate the event. She also continued to help us in the office. Her requirement to help: NO filing and NO answering phones

(she had hearing aids). She always told you exactly her thoughts, never sugar coating.

These are quotes Linda picked for our memorial acknowledgment letters to families who had lost a loved one and chose to donate to Jason's Friends.

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

"Where there is love, there is peace. May you find comfort in the loving memories you hold within your heart for there is peace in knowing that love never leaves." By Clyde Campbell

Sadly, Linda passed away on November 7, 2022. Let us remember those special memories we hold for our dear Linda in our hearts.

Thank you Linda for everything you did for Jason's Friends Foundation. We love you, you are greatly missed.

Gifts  
received  
IN LOVING  
Memory

Linda Chivers  
Craig Rahman  
Francis Smith  
Payton Borden  
Kenny Simonton

Marilyn Van Hise  
Manny Gallegos  
Rhonda Gallegos  
Todd Miller  
Carol Neuns



# THANK YOU

The Harvey Rude and Harold Siems families have been donating bicycles and gift cards for helmets each Christmas to Jason's Friends for many years. The recipient of the bicycle in 2022 was 10-year-old Sadie from Douglas, diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia in February of 2022.

(Below) Sadie with her new bicycle.



Thank you Facebook users for choosing Jason's Friends for your birthday fundraisers!

Jason's Friends was one of the beneficiaries of the St. Patrick's Day 2023 Pub Crawl. The event had another amazing turnout! Thank you Kalen Marketing Solutions for your ongoing support.



Derek, one of our cancer warriors, supporting in Laramie!

We were chosen by Jersey Mike's Subs to be the charity for March Month of Giving. It was widely supported in Casper and Laramie! Check presentation featured cancer warriors Parker and Chayse.



Buffalo High School Student Council with the help of their school district was able to raise over \$2,758 for Jason's Friends. Thank you students and staff!

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

Thanks to the donors who contributed to the 2022 Holiday Drive. Over \$30,000 was received to support our Wyoming families. Your continued support is invaluable!



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: WHY DO YOU SUPPORT JASON'S FRIENDS FOUNDATION?



Laura Stalkup has been close friends with the Eades family for many years. As kids, her boys and Jason played and fished together. Laura and her family were there for the family during the most difficult time, when Jason was sick and laid to rest.

Laura was one of the friends that sat around a table over 26 years ago brainstorming how they could do something in Jason's memory. That was when the name "Jason's Friends Foundation" was born. Laura began as a volunteer bringing food to families who had a child with cancer. She volunteered for over 20 years helping families and with Bowl for Jason's Friends annual fundraiser before retiring in 2017. She continues to financially support Jason's Friends.

"I am proud of the progress and growth Jason's Friends Foundation has made since the start in 1996," Laura said in a recent interview. "Donations made to Jason's Friends go to the families who have a child with cancer and those donations stay in the state of Wyoming. Children are the best resources for our future and taking care of them is what we need to do."



**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.



**Like Jason's Friends  
Foundation on Facebook!**

**Jason's Friends Foundation Staff**

**Christine Robinson**, Executive Director (part-time)  
[christine@jasonsfriends.org](mailto:christine@jasonsfriends.org)

**Ali Pousha**, Family Support Coordinator (part-time)  
[alissa@jasonsfriends.org](mailto:alissa@jasonsfriends.org)

**Marissa Pierantoni**, Program Assistant (part-time)  
[marissa@jasonsfriends.org](mailto:marissa@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  
fuel to travel to a doctor's appointment or a  
hospital cafeteria card for meals?



The vital help Jason's Friends Foundation provides to our Wyoming 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](http://jasonsfriends.org/donate).