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CieSam & Friends

Childhood Cancer Foundation



CieSam & Friends
CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION



Mission... Principles... and Goals



Mission

The mission of the Cienna & Friends Childhood Cancer Foundation is to educate, support, serve and advocate for children with neuroblastoma, their families and the professionals who care for them.

Principles

We believe that...

Childhood cancer is a lifelong impact on children and their families.

When a child is diagnosed with cancer, it affects the entire family in many complex ways and affects each family member differently.

Only children who have or had cancer can understand what it is like to have childhood cancer, and only their parents can understand what it is like to be a parent of a child with cancer.

Only families who have had a child die from cancer can understand what it is like to lose a child this way.

Children with cancer have a right to the highest possible quality of life, regardless of their diagnosis or prognosis.

Goals

Advocate for children who have or had cancer and their families

Educate families through community outreach about Neuroblastoma

Support children with cancer and their families by networking and providing opportunities for personal interaction

Raise public awareness about Neuroblastoma

Raise awareness among survivors, families and professionals of the lifelong psychosocial impacts of childhood cancer

Provide a sense of community and continuity in the midst of turmoil



What is Neuroblastoma?



Neuroblastoma is: Cancer that arises in immature nerve cells and affects mostly infants and children.

A sarcoma which is made up of primitive neural tissue, developing most often in the brain or in the adrenal glands above the kidneys and frequently spreading to other organs. This cancer most often strikes children under 10.

A neuroblastoma is a tumor of the neural crest tissue of the sympathetic ganglia and adrenal medulla. It is one of the most common malignant tumors of infants under 5 years old.



Your support goes a long way...



CieSam and Friends is dedicated to helping find a cure for Pediatric Cancer and by your participation this evening you are helping us make a difference. All proceeds made from this evening's auction will be donated to the following organizations:

University of California San Francisco Children's Hospital
Dr. Katherine Matthay, Professor
44 Montgomery Street, Suite 2200
San Francisco, CA 94104

Funds allocated to the Pediatric Oncology Neuroblastoma Research Center

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
1275 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Funds allocated in Honor of Paige Alexandria Balut to support Katie's Find a Cure, Oncology Neuroblastoma Research

A portion of tonight's Fund-an-Item donation's will be used to help a local family that is currently suffering the early stages of Neuroblastoma. The remaining balance will be used to assist other families as needed throughout the coming year.

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A Letter From The Heart of a Mother



Welcome to the 6th Annual CieSam and Friends Childhood Cancer Foundation Auction. Your presence at this event tonight is appreciated as we continue with our mission of advocating for children with cancer.

CieSam...a name that came together a few short years ago when this auction was founded. The foundation is named after two beautiful girls who had something terrible in common. Cienna, a sweet, loving, willful girl, and Samantha, an energetic, charismatic, feisty girl were both fighting neuroblastoma during this time. Although Samantha lost her battle three years ago, she lived life more fully than many ever do. And Cienna, we continue to celebrate her life and rejoice as she continues to beat the odds.

As a parent of a child with cancer, I remember the hardest part of this ordeal was watching Samantha suffer through the pain of the disease, as well as the treatment. In reality, I could only comfort and support her, but there was nothing I could do to take away the hurt. As with any parent, I am sure I would have traded places with Samantha in a heartbeat.

But, in life those options are not real.

So, we gather tonight to make a difference in the lives of many children like Cienna and Samantha in the only way we can...to give hope.

There is hope that someday there will be a cure for neuroblastoma and other childhood cancers. There is hope that no child will have to deal with the daily side effects of cancer treatment. There is hope no child will have to live with the pain that comes with a disease such as cancer.

And, there is hope no child will die from cancer.

Supporting the CieSam Foundation is one way we can help give hope to these kids. Thank you for bringing hope with you tonight.

Your generosity during the auction is very much appreciated.

Please, enjoy the evening and be sure to dance.

Samantha would have wanted it that way!

With gratitude,

Michele Webb

Samantha's mom

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