



First Year a Success!

For The Kids Foundation has just completed its first year in operation and it has been a success! There has been a lot of work put in behind the scenes to get this organization up and running.

The first few months were spent organizing a board of directors, approving by-laws, obtaining a logo, getting IRS approval for 501c3 designation and registering with the State of Florida plus much more.

The next step was to open a bank account, establish a web site and develop business needs such as letterhead, business cards and other business essentials.

Soon after it was off to do some fundraising. Through many generous donations

and recycled can drives the Foundation was able to raise sufficient funds to begin planning events and to outline specific programs to implement.

It bears mentioning that all staff and board members of the foundation are strictly on a voluntary basis. The foundation does not spend any of its funding on salaries or unnecessary costs to perform its routine operations.

Partnerships with members of the community were developed that will help facilitate the events and planning that the foundation continues to carry out.

The next step was to begin planning for the future. The board began discussing plans for future events,

special gifts and more. Planning was also started on future fundraising in the community.

The first event was held at the Children's Hospital and soon after gift requests came in from the Child Life Specialists. The pictures are worth a thousand words. There are more plans in the future to bring smiles to these kids and help them and their families have a brighter day.

The Foundation is working closely with other groups to bring more fun and exciting events to the hospital to further our goal of helping children fight cancer. Check out the website for information on future events and happenings.

Benefiting The Kids

In May 2008 the foundation held its first ever event at the Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

Professor Patches, a local magician (Keith Raygor), came in and gave the kids a great show! Once the show was complete the kids were

treated to cake, cookies, snacks and drinks. Each child that attended was also given a goody bag with magic themed items inside.

After several requests from children at the hospital in July the Foundation provided two PlayStation 2

Guitar Hero guitars and games and a Hannah Montana Dance Revolution Dance Mat for Sony PlayStation to the Oncology Unit of the Children's Hospital.

Bringing smiles to the faces of the children and helping to break the monotony of the hospital stay is one of the goals the Foundation seeks out. So far, mission accomplished!

The work of the Foundation will continue to help the kids that it serves through the partnership with the Pediatric Units at the Children's Hospital and with the donors and volunteers that have stepped up and helped out.



Message From the Founder / President

Have you ever been faced with a life altering situation, one that was out of your control and the only thing you could do was embrace it and hope for the best?

How about a dream, have you ever had a dream that you were so passionate about and you would stop at nothing to get it to fruition? Did that dream come true? Can you sit back and see that dream working and feel like you are on top of the world?

Well let me tell you that I have been faced with that life altering situation when my son was diagnosed with Leukemia. I then had a dream to help the other kids that are battling these same types of illnesses. The dream was to make them smile and to give them a moment in their life where they could forget about all the trials and tribulations they are enduring.

The dream has come true and I cannot put my feelings into words to explain to you how I feel about being able to help these kids!

Although I have accomplished my dream I will not stop there. My plans are bigger, my dream continues to grow. There is no telling what the future will hold, but my plans for the future are great! I will continue to direct the Foundation towards the goals we have set and do so with the least amount of cost to the Foundation. I have poured my heart, soul, time and my own money into this dream and I will not let it fade.

You have received this publication because you have helped our foundation in some way or another. You have helped bring smiles to the faces of children who

are facing more in their lives than most of us will ever face in our lifetime. Their lives have been threatened with an illness and they need us now more than ever.

You have helped me make a dream come true through helping those kids. For that I say thank you! You should feel proud of being a part of something so awesome.

Please visit our website to stay current with events, news, pictures and information updates;

www.4thekidsfoundation.org

Thank you again for your support and we look forward to hearing from you again in the future.

- Sean Hoover, President

Pictures of Smiles and Good Times



Around The Corner—Hospital Prom

Do you remember your Prom? Do you remember how much fun you had, the laughs, the special moments and the feeling of getting ready for such a big night? What if you couldn't have attended Prom due to illness or being hospitalized. What if you were afraid of getting dressed up and going to such an important event because you had no hair. I am here to tell you that this happens every year in this world. Many children do not get the chance to be "normal" and attend such functions for the very same reasons. Well, we here at the For The Kids Foundation are going to change that.

Plans are already in the works for an exciting event that we are sure will bring smiles to everyone who attends. Currently the Foundation in conjunction with the Child Life Specialists at the Southwest Florida Children's Hospital are working on hosting a Prom at the hospital. This event is sure to draw many kids with no restrictions on age for those who attend. The goal is to provide a Prom event to those who may be hospitalized due to illness, those who may never get the opportunity to attend their own prom in the future and to those who may be too embarrassed or ashamed of their physical looks or abilities.

By holding a Prom at the hospital the kids can enjoy a great night of food, music, dancing and entertainment without having to be ashamed or embarrassed or because they may not ever get the chance again. This will be the first event of its kind in Southwest Florida and it is sure to be a success. We are hoping to raise funds to make this an annual event at the hospital.

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Each year well over 10,000 new cases of childhood cancer among children aged from 0-14 will be diagnosed in the United States. The number is even greater if you factor in those children aged 15-18. More than 1,500 will lose their battle to cancer each year among children ages 0-14; one third of which will be from Leukemia. Cancer is officially the second leading cause of death in children, out numbered only by accidents.

Early detection of cancer, no matter what age, is paramount in order to have a successful outcome and treatment plan. However, most cancers present symptoms that are most often treated as common colds or flu's. Although mortality rates for childhood cancer has declined more than 48% since 1975, there are still too many deaths from cancer.

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, please help out by volunteering at your local hospital, advocating for legislation to continue to help funding research and treatment, donating to your favorite cancer related charity or learning about childhood cancer and educating others about this horrible disease.



Signs and Symptoms of Childhood Cancer

Parents know best when their children are sick or present unusual symptoms. This is why parents should be cognizant of their child's health and well being all the time. Most symptoms presented are not unusual in and of themselves unless they persist or worsen.

Most common symptoms that persist are an unusual mass or swelling, unexplained paleness or loss of energy, sudden tendency to bruise, a persistent localized pain, prolonged unexplained fever or illness, frequent headaches often with vomiting, sudden eye

or vision changes and excessive or rapid weight loss. Leukemia often has with it bone and joint pain, weakness, bleeding and fevers. Brain cancers may cause headaches, nausea, vomiting, blurred or double vision, dizziness and difficulty in walking or handling objects. Neuroblastoma, a nervous system cancer, usually occurs as a swelling in the abdomen but can occur anywhere. Wilms tumor, a kidney cancer, may be recognized by a swelling or lump in the abdomen. Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and Hodgkin Lymphoma can cause swelling of the lymph glands in the neck, armpit or groin accompanied by weakness and fever. Rhabdomyosarcoma, a soft tissue sarcoma that can occur in the head and neck, genitourinary area or trunk and extremities can cause pain, and or a mass or swelling.

As you can see a lot of the symptoms associated with childhood cancer present like a normal cold, flu or illness. This accounts for many misdiagnoses of cancer patients and delays treatment for children. Awareness is the key and early detection is paramount.

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Fighting Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders

Look inside to see how you were able to
help a lot of sick kids smile,
feel better and have fun at the hospital!

www.4thekidsfoundation.org