



# Together We Can!



Volume 1, No. 4  
February 2024

– Helping Families Fighting Childhood Cancer –

## Welcome!

This is our fourth UP Lions Serve (UPLS) Childhood Cancer Newsletter for "Yooper" families, our supporters and partners, and anyone who has an interest in childhood cancer. We are so grateful for all of you. Thank you all for your time, your donations and the resources that you have shared. We hope this newsletter will continue to uplift, encourage and inform.

*Together We Can* build a community of support for our families that are battling childhood cancer.

## Mission

Our mission is to serve children and families from the Upper Peninsula who are battling childhood cancer. We believe that when a child is sick, the entire family is affected. Our support focuses on the individual along with the entire family.

The Childhood Cancer program provides grants to families to minimize the financial hardship that is directly attributable to their child's diagnosis. This includes needs for travel, medical and household bills.

We rely solely on donations from private benefactors, sponsors, Lions Clubs and other community organizations, foundations and fundraisers. Every dollar earned goes directly to the families and to the programs that serve them.



## Tour Da Yoop, Eh

By Lion Chris Smith

You are invited to join us on the Tour Da yoop, Eh (TDY) journey whether it be as a supporter, a biker, or a volunteer! 2024 marks the 4th year that Tour Da Yoop, Eh and Upper Peninsula Lions/Childhood Cancer have partnered to bring awareness and raise money for U.P. families battling childhood cancer.

There are many ways to get involved. This could include cheers along the way and at the end of the day in host towns, helping at a hydration station and/or providing food, rider shuttle, vehicle shuttle and more.



Meet at the End of the Day in Host Towns! Or at Hydration Stations along the way or cheer us on if we are passing through your town! Here are a few so mark these locations and dates!

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## SCHEDULE

### Day 1 - Manistique to Escanaba

Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>

- End of Day – Escanaba Dock. More information to come!

### Day 2 - Escanaba to Iron Mountain

Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>

- Kleinke Park Hydration Station
- End of Day – Comfort Inn in Iron Mountain

### Day 3 - Iron Mountain to Ironwood

Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

### Day 4 - Ironwood to Houghton

Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup>

- End of Day – Pizza Party, Super 8 Houghton. More info to come!

### Day 5 - Around Copper Harbor

Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>

### Day 6 - Houghton to Marquette

Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>

- End of Day – More info to come!

### Day 7 - Marquette to Grand Marais

Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

### Day 8 - Grand Marais to Sault Ste. Marie

Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Day 9 - Sault Ste. Marie to St. Ignace

Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Day 10 - St. Ignace to Manistique

Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

- Plaid (Plaidurday) Party – Super 8, St. Ignace. More info to come!

# Tour Da Yoop, Eh

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If you are interested and to learn more, please visit our website.

[www.tourdayoopeh.com/rides/tour-da-yoop-eh-annual-event](http://www.tourdayoopeh.com/rides/tour-da-yoop-eh-annual-event)

We can use as many volunteers as possible for hydration stations, on the route (for example: help to transport riders and bikes on the AAA road) and at the end of the day on all ten days. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please visit and send us an email:

[www.tourdayoopeh.com/rider-central/volunteer](http://www.tourdayoopeh.com/rider-central/volunteer)

\*More information to come on end of day events, interactive activities for the kids and more!



## Mark Your Calendars! Gwinn 5K Walk, Run, Roar for Childhood Cancer

By Lion Kris Patterson

Last summer, the Gwinn Lions Club did the first 5K Fundraiser for Childhood Cancer as part of Gwinn Fun Daze. This event had the biggest attendance ever with 3 families participating that have been affected by childhood cancer. It was a moving and special day for all of us! We are excited to continue to support the District 10 Lions Childhood Cancer program this year and Run, Walk, Roar to fight childhood cancer!

Those that preregister will receive a t-shirt, have a chance at a variety of door prizes and all participants will get a three-dollar coupon to use in the park at any of the participating food vendors. Gift certificates will

also be presented to the top male and female runners!

Gwinn Fun Daze also has an antique vehicle show, duck race, live music, games for kiddos, bouncy houses and food and a variety of vendors. This is a family friendly event and a fun day for all! We hope you can come out and support our Lions Club and childhood cancer. Thank you!

Come and join us and support our Lions Club and childhood cancer! Thank you!



**Gwinn Fun Daze** is June 22, 2024

Information about the event can be found at <https://www.gwinnlionsclub.org/>

For race info and sign-up, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Gwinn/WalkRunRoar>



## DONATION

Sault Ste. Marie Meijer #293 Store Director, Sandra Molosky and Meijer employees present a \$5,000 check to UP Lions Serve Childhood Cancer as part of their giving donation program. Distinct 10 Lions from Brimley, St. Ignace, Negaunee, Engadine-Naubinway and our Lions District Governor, Dan Perkins were present for this honor.

From Ms. Molosky:

Congratulations, we are very excited to partner with the Upper Peninsula lions in their endeavor to help children in the U.P. with cancer!

# Service for a Cause

By Lion Debra Petkus-Perry

“We hope each animal brings great joy to everyone who receives one.”

— Lion Debra Petkus-Perry



Above:  
St. Ignace Lions  
having fun  
stuffing animals.

Below:  
Lions Club  
member Wanda  
Paquin and her  
granddaughter had a fun  
evening making  
stuffed animals.



Above:  
Connie  
Cullip



Above: Debra Petkus-Perry

Members of the St. Ignace Lions Club got together for their favorite project of the year on November 13, 2023. Together they stuffed 84 animals for children who live throughout the U.P.

This was their third year of participating. Many of the Lions were skeptical when first asked to take part because they had never had the opportunity to help make a toy before and weren't sure what to expect.

They soon found it to be a fun and easy project and enjoyed stuffing animals alongside their fellow lions and some guests as well.

## Therapeutic martial arts for kids & teens ages 3-18+



### Equip your child with the tools to find POWER. PEACE. PURPOSE.

The Heroes Circle Pediatric Healing Program teaches martial arts meditation, non-contact movement and breathing techniques designed to empower children to take control of the pain and stress of their illness.

Our evidence-based program is taught in-person and virtually by black belt Therapeutic Martial Arts Instructors and is provided to families at no cost.

Children 3 years and older with ANY pediatric illness, and their siblings, are eligible for the program.

Are you  
ready to join  
our Heroes  
Circle community?  
Get connected  
today!



Michael Hunt  
Therapeutic Martial Arts Instructor  
[programs@kidskickingcancer.org](mailto:programs@kidskickingcancer.org)  
(248) 667-6903

HELP YOUR CHILD FIND HEALING IN OUR UNIQUE THERAPEUTIC MARTIAL ARTS.

[LEARN MORE AT HEROESCIRCLE.ORG](http://HEROESCIRCLE.ORG)

The Heroes Circle is a global healing and wellness initiative inspired by the children of Kids Kicking Cancer. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that offers evidence based martial-arts therapy to kids. Our focus is on pain and stress management for pediatric patients, as well as creating resilience and support for otherwise healthy children. Classes are delivered in person and virtually throughout hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient centers, homes and schools across the United States and globally.

# “Your Child Has Cancer.”

By Kaitlin Guay

*Parent Kaitlyn Guay shares her personal experience with her daughter's diagnosis, and how it has opened her eyes to the many needs to be addressed.*

“Your child has cancer.” Four words that no parent ever wants to hear. Before hearing those words, all I knew about childhood cancer was summed up in the little bald heads of children on St. Jude commercials. I didn’t know that childhood cancer is represented by a gold ribbon. I didn’t know that September is a month dedicated to Childhood Cancer Awareness. Most importantly, I didn’t know all the awful things that those little bald-headed children had to go through to fight for their lives. I didn’t know. Childhood cancer deserves the resources and awareness that other well-known cancers receive because children are our future and children deserve to have a future.

**Childhood cancer affects more children and adolescents than you would think, and more awareness is crucial in leading doctors to make earlier diagnoses.**

My almost two-year-old daughter quit walking and it took almost three months to

get a diagnosis. We went to doctor after doctor, got lab work done on multiple occasions, went to countless physical therapy appointments, and I was mostly made to feel like an overprotective mom because I knew my daughter was in pain, enough pain that she didn’t even want to stand even though prior to when she quit walking she loved going for long walks. Early labs came back with mostly normal results, and I was reassured that she didn’t have anything serious like “cancer,” so it was far from my mind. Had I known how quickly those labs could change because of cancer, I would have fought for all labs to be drawn sooner and more often. More importantly, had the doctor been more aware of how quickly those labs could change, they may have been more proactive in getting my daughter’s lab work done more frequently instead of being convinced it couldn’t be cancer and judging me as I was back in the office with her, crying and begging for answers. Sadly, my experience and feelings of being brushed off by doctors because of not knowing enough about the initial signs and symptoms of childhood cancer is too common with other parents of children fighting cancer because there is not enough awareness.

**Another reason we need more resources and awareness for childhood cancer is to help advance research.**

There are many kinds of childhood cancer, and sadly, too many have no cures. Most of the childhood cancers that do have cures are based off treatment protocols



that were developed decades ago. While the treatment protocols are mostly working to cure certain childhood cancers, treatments are generally long and have so many awful side effects. Several of the side effects that children experience can be lifelong or lead to other health problems throughout the rest of their lives.

**More childhood cancer awareness could also help people be more understanding and empathetic to children and the families affected by it.**

I have been told that we are lucky she has the “good cancer,” and it hurts my heart to hear that because no cancer is good cancer. Children fighting cancer often have severely compromised immune systems so they can’t do some of the things that most children get to do. Some can’t even go to school. If they have siblings, the siblings often miss out on things because

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**CALL TO ACTION:**

**Editors Note: The Alliance for Childhood Cancer will be hosting 2024 Action Days in Washington D.C. on February 13-14. Check out their website for more details.**

**And on September 28, 2023 a bill was introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives called House Bill No. 5062. The bill aims to establish pediatric cancer research, treatment, resources, and education fund in the department of health and human services. It was Introduced by Reps. O’Neal, MacDonell, Dievendorf, Neeley, Rheingans, Hood, Brenda Carter, Glanville and Farhat and referred to the Committee on Insurance and Financial Services.**

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they can't risk getting their sibling with cancer sick. Childhood cancer often causes financial stress on the families because treatment is expensive, some families travel for treatment, and because of their compromised immune system or the level of care needed, sometimes it is safer for one parent to stay home with the child.

My daughter was diagnosed with B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). There is a high survival rate for children with ALL, but the treatment is long and can cause not only horrible side effects as they are being administered, but also lifelong side effects or side effects that come along later in life, years after treatment has ended. Even though she

reached remission after induction, the first phase in her treatment protocol, she still must continue treatment, or she will most likely relapse. A relapse is often harder and harsher to treat. My daughter is doing well and is set to finish treatment with an end date of March of 2024, (which is 802 days from her diagnosis), but they won't consider her cured until five years after that. She will have to go for regular blood tests to make sure she hasn't relapsed and to check her liver and kidney functions. She will have to have heart tests periodically throughout the rest of her life because of the awful "red devil" chemo she received in the delayed intensification phase of treatment. The "red devil" is a chemo that is used to treat many kinds of cancer and is given the name because of the red color and extremely harsh side effects, including

heart problems that could arise at any stage of life after receiving it.

### **Childhood cancer deserves more resources and awareness.**

Stores should be stocking the shelves with gold ribbon merchandise and displaying posters with statistics, sports should have "Gold-Out" games with half-time dedicated to sharing stories like ours, commercials should be talking about the statistics and signs to look out for, and there should be more funding to research childhood cancer to advance the treatments. There should just be more for these brave, young warriors. Childhood cancer shouldn't be something you learn about only when it affects you or someone you love directly. We need to fight for the kids that are fighting for their lives.

## Book Corner

### **The Long and the Short of It: A Tale About Hair**

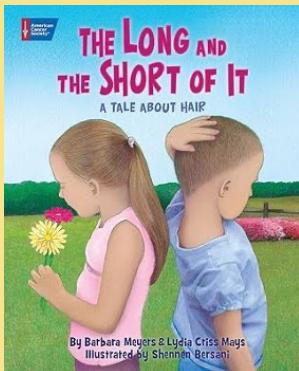
By Barbara Meyers | Grade level: 2-4

Goodreads Rating: 

"With colorful illustrations and a comforting message, this picture book follows the parallel stories of two young girls who are having problems with their hair. One wants to grow her hair longer, while the other, who has lost her

hair during cancer treatment, would just like to have it back. Their friendship leads them to a new understanding of hair loss and the act of giving, and teaches them about courage, generosity, and pride. A helpful reading and discussion guide for parents and a list of fun, related learning activities for kids are also included."

- Goodreads



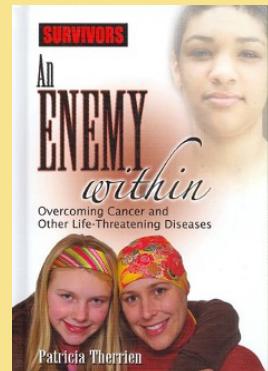
### **An Enemy Within: Overcoming cancer and other life-threatening diseases**

By Patricia Therrien | Grade level: 7-9

Goodreads Rating: 

"Cancer—even the word is scary. For those who have been diagnosed with cancer, or with other serious diseases such as asthma, cystic fibrosis, or diabetes, and for their families, the world can suddenly be frightening, confusing, and unpredictable. When such a diagnosis is given, however, an entire team of people springs into action; doctors, nurses, social workers, and others all step in to do everything they can to help make sure that person survives, and not simply survives the disease but goes on to become a healthy and thriving individual."

- Goodreads



## **WE WANT TO HELP YOU!**

Regardless of the resources that you have available, we know that dealing with cancer stretches those resources – even if you are struggling for the holidays.

We have funds to help with a variety of needs.

For information on how to get help, visit:

<https://uplionsserve.org/childhood-cancer>

Email: lionchris906pcc@outlook.com

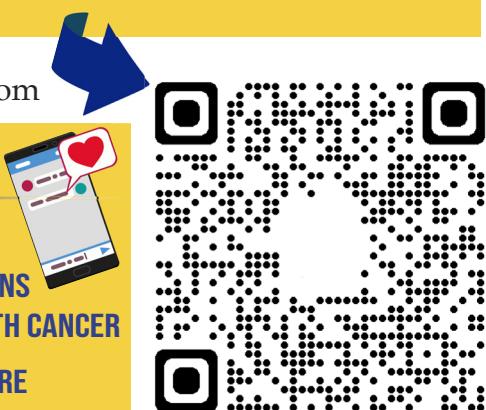
Text or Call Chris Smith: 313-682-8900



# Learn more and stay up-to-date!

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SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[UPLIONSSERVE.ORG/CHILDHOODCANCER](http://uplionsserve.org/childhoodcancer)



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 Find us on: @ UP LIONS SERVE

@ UPPER PENINSULA LIONS  
SUPPORTING KIDS WITH CANCER

@ UP FAMILIES FOR A CURE

## Special Thanks to Lions Childhood Cancer Committee Members

Lion Christine Smith, Engadine-Naubinway Lions & Childhood Cancer Chairman

Lion Debra Petkus-Perry, St Ignace Lions

Lion Deb Kleinbrook, Engadine-Naubinway Lions

Lion Keith Smith, Engadine-Naubinway Lions

Lion Carol Henriksen, Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions

Lion Ron Henriksen, Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions

Lion Gretchen Preston, Marquette Lions

Lion Syd Faassen, Keweenaw Lions

## WE'RE DIGITAL!

You can now see our newsletters  
– including past issues – online at  
[uplionsserve.org/childhood-cancer/newsletter](http://uplionsserve.org/childhood-cancer/newsletter)

Is someone close to you  
battling Childhood Cancer?

We are inviting you to participate in "Kids Corner", a space where every child going through cancer or remission, their siblings, another child family member, a friend or a classmate can share a thought, a short story, quote, or poem. Or draw a picture about their experiences with cancer or just write or draw about something they love. They can talk about a favorite nurse or doctor, something that makes them happy or sad, or makes them feel strong. We invite kids to contribute any media they choose.

Please send any contributions to:

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