



Together We Can!



Volume 1, No. 2
July 2023

– Helping Families Fighting Childhood Cancer –

Welcome! This is our second 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



Heroes Circle Kids Kicking Cancer

By Lion Debra Petkus-Perry

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.

Lion Christine Smith
UP Lions Serve Co-Founder
Upper Peninsula Lions
Childhood Cancer Chair

Power. Peace. Purpose. Three little words that take on a big meaning as a mantra of empowerment for a child caught in a whirlwind of procedures and treatments that can leave them feeling weak, vulnerable, and not in control.

By turning to Heroes Circle, also known as Kids Kicking Cancer, children and adults will be introduced to tools of imagery, empowerment, relaxation and movement in a unique non-contact way martial arts approach that allow them to self-regulate and overcome pain during moments of extreme stress.

The program has been around since 1999 when it was developed by Rabbi Elimelech Goldberg, who has a first-degree black belt, and is a clinical assistant professor in pediatrics at Wayne State University School of Medicine. He and his wife lost

a child to leukemia in 1982.

Since then, Heroes Circle has spread to twenty-one states and ten countries. They hold classes in lower Michigan and at camps. You don't have to travel to be a part of it, as they also offer on-line courses so you can participate in the comfort of your own home.

Michael Hunt (pictured right) is a Senior Martial Arts Therapist who teaches you to "breathe in the light and push out the darkness." As a twenty-plus year cancer survivor he knows it works because he was enrolled in it as a youngster when it first began.

He was a guest speaker at the Lions April District Convention. He encourages all to become a member of the Heroes Circle, at no charge, and take part in this program that will teach kids to push out the bad feelings like



pain, fear and anger. It improves compliance which contributes to kids being a part of their healing.

Parents can register their child, teen or young adult and siblings are invited as well. There is never a charge for their services. Upon registration they will receive a super power kit. The adventure begins at heroescircle.org

See more information on Kids Kicking Cancer on the next page!

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:

UP Lions Serve/Childhood Cancer • PO Box 107 • Engadine, MI 49827



By Chelsea Kleikamp

Shortly after his 3rd Birthday, our son Camden was given the opportunity of a LIFETIME. The social worker from his transplant hospital had referred him to the Michigan Chapter of the *Make-A-Wish Foundation* – and he was approved! Later that Spring, Camden's "wish" to meet the one & only Mickey Mouse came TRUE!

On 5/1/23, Camden & family were flown to sunny Orlando, FL for his wish-trip! We arrived later that afternoon & checked in to the magical "Give Kids the World Village!" This venue is a Wish Family EXCLUSIVE resort located in Kissimmee, FL – a resort where EVERYONE there "just gets it." A place where Wish Kids are honored like the warriors they truly are!

During his *magical* wish-trip, Camden & our family got to experience the very BEST of what Orlando offers. We visited all FOUR Disney Parks, both Universal Studios/IOA, AND SeaWorld in just five short days. We were able to meet COUNTLESS "characters," ride tons of rides, and eat ALL the good snacks.

Camden's "wish" came true in such a BIG way, and we are truly FOREVER grateful to Make-A-Wish Michigan for making it all happen for him! He was able to meet Mickey, Goofy, Donald, & the WHOLE gang!! We even got to "dine with the orcas" at SeaWorld!

Our entire family is left with a LIFETIME of memories we will cherish forever! It was truly EVERYTHING our son could have ever *dreamed of...* and SO much **more**!

After returning home, we were looking for a way to "give-back" to the foundation that made this all possible for our son. Recently, Camden's Mother, Chelsea, has started the process of becoming a "Wish Granter."



The Kleikamp family: Chris, Chelsea, Brayden, & Camden

To learn more about the Michigan Chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation visit: www.makeawishmichigan.org. Make sure to catch the next newsletter to hear about the various "Wish-Granting" Foundations serving children of the UP!

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.



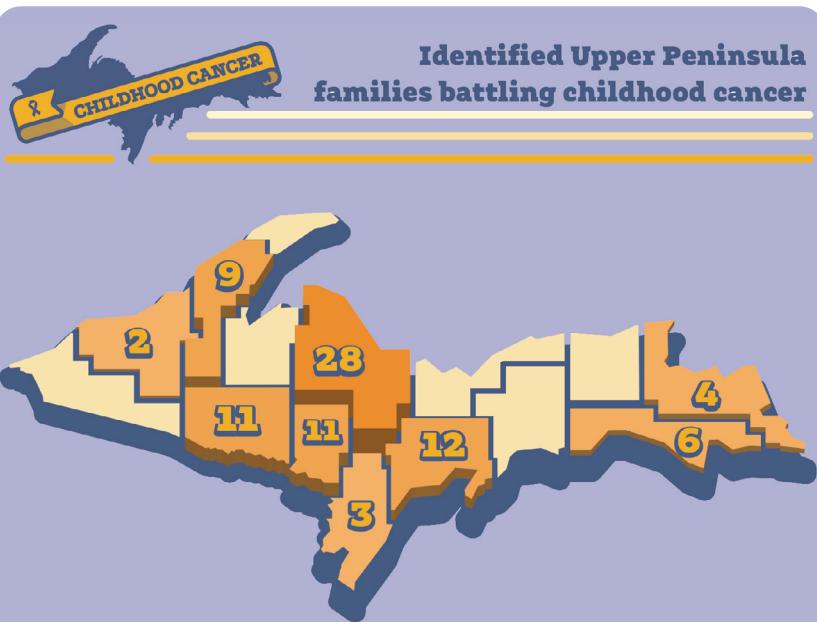
Our evidence-based program is taught in-person and virtually by black belt Therapeutic Martial Arts Instructors and is provided to families at no cost.

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
(248) 667-6903



Identified Upper Peninsula
families battling childhood cancer

Average mileage for
treatment downstate

425 - 575 miles

Average mileage for
treatment in Wisconsin

334 - 450 miles

Children diagnosed
with cancer in Michigan

470 in 2021

The Upper Peninsula has the highest
number of children diagnosed per capita.

Contact us

uplionsserve.org/cc

/uplionsserve

@uplionsserve

U.P. Lions Serve - Childhood Cancer is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We support families who have a child that has been diagnosed with cancer in the Upper Peninsula.

Tour Da Yoop, Eh July 28th - Aug 6th



<https://www.tourdayoopeh.com>

Tour Da Yoop, Eh™ 2023 Special Events

**FRIDAY,
JULY 28TH**

OFFICIAL START AT COMFORT INN IN MANISTIQUE.

6 - 8AM Live Radio Broadcast with interviews, music and fanfare.

4 - 6PM Day 1 Finish @ Municipal Dock in Escanaba. Riders will jump in Lake Michigan. Please come and meet the riders!!!

**SATURDAY,
JULY 29TH**

3 - 5PM CT Marion Park, Norway Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions Club and Leo Club Hydration Station at Marion Park.

**MONDAY,
JULY 31ST**

6 - 7PM, HOUGHTON - Day 4 Ambassador Pizza Party on the back deck of the Super 8. Please join us for pizza and meet the riders!

**WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 2ND**

SECOND YEAR RIDING THE HILL FOR RYLAN

7:30 - 8AM, HOUGHTON - Start at Super 8 Motel in Houghton. This is the second year receiving a Bike Proclamation for Bike Day in the Keweenaw. This year we are encouraging everyone that owns a bike to take a safe bike ride, ride to work, or ride to summer class.

4 - 7PM, MARQUETTE - Day 6 Finish @ McCarty's Cove. Riders will jump in Lake Superior. Party @ 906 Adventure Base Camp. You are all invited to join us and meet the riders!

Tour Da Yoop, Eh
wants to make sure that
you know how grateful
we are for your support
during our 10 day
journey around the
beautiful Upper
Peninsula. Come join
us, meet the riders and
cheer them on!

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

BENEFIT FOR MASON

Diagnosed with DIPG. Hometown: Bark River, MI

Cheeseburgers & Fixings! Friday, July 28 • 10am-1pm

Pinecrest Medical Care Facility. Learn more: bit.ly/MasonDIPG
Pre-orders welcome! Call/text 906-295-1761

BENEFIT FOR LIZ VANDEHHEY

Diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia on May 16, 2023.

Hometown: Menominee, MI. Benefit hosted by Ali Wesolowski.

Raffles - Auctions - Music | Saturday, August 12 • 2:30pm
Embers 1871, W3529 Co Rd B, Peshtigo, WI • Info: bit.ly/VandeHey

PRESLIE'S PAY IT FORWARD CANCER RIDE

Event Sponsored by Thomas Macch and Julie A. Becker

Saturday, August 19 • Sign Up & Kick Off starts at 10am

Main Street Cafe, 321 W Genesee St. Iron River, MI 49935

Learn More: bit.ly/Preslie

I WALK WITH MASON WALK-A-THON

Diagnosed with DIPG. Hometown Bark River, Michigan. Sponsored by Wellspring Community Church and Paul Sandy Culbertson.

Sunday, August 20 • 5pm

Bandshell in Ludington Park, Escanaba • Info: bit.ly/MasonWalk

KAMBRIA'S KREW - CHADTOUGH DEFEAT DIPG FAMILY PARTNER COLOR RUN

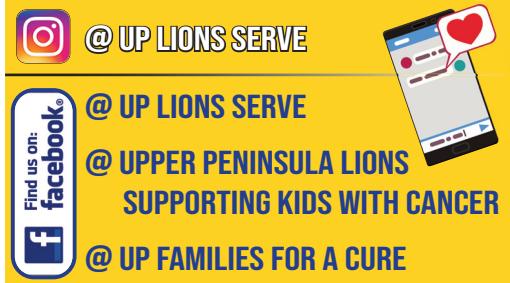
Saturday, August 26 • 4:30pm • Municipal Dock, Escanaba, MI

Learn more: bit.ly/KambriasKrew

Learn more and stay up-to-date!

Lion Christine Smith
Engadine-Naubinway
Lions Club
313-682-8900
lionchris906pcc@outlook.com

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
UPLIONSSERVE.ORG/CHILDHOODCANCER



Special Thanks to Lions Childhood Cancer Committee Members

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

Book Corner

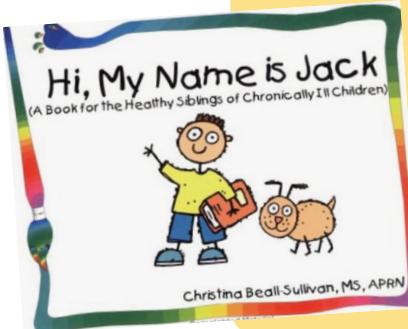
Book Review: *Hi, My Name is Jack*

by Christina Beall-Sullivan

This is a children's book specifically designed for the healthy siblings of chronically ill, disabled or dying children. The book addresses and focuses upon some of the feelings that may be experienced by healthy siblings. This book is unique in that it is not illness specific and does not focus on the illness itself. It is appropriate for a variety of illnesses and medical situations. *Hi, My Name is Jack* is a wonderful resource and tool to facilitate communication in families with a chronically ill, disabled, or dying child. It is appropriate for children between the ages of 3 and 12.

From the Author: This book was created as a result of my experiences as a neonatal intensive care nurse practitioner. *Hi, My Name is Jack* gives healthy siblings a voice and a tool for expressing their individual feelings.

The feelings discussed in this book are significant for children of all ages, including adults. Even young children may use the pictures in the book to create their own stories. Please use this book as a tool to allow others to express their feelings and most certainly to explore your own.



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