



# Together We Can!



Volume 1, No. 1  
April 2023

– Helping Families Fighting Childhood Cancer –

Welcome! This is our first 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 on 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.**

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

## Featured Partner: Northwoods Airlifeline

Northwoods AirLifeLine (NWALL) is our featured partner! NWALL is a non-profit organization of volunteer pilots from Michigan's Upper Peninsula and northeast Wisconsin who donate their time and aircraft to help patients and their families with medical needs for services not found locally.

Children with cancer or other illnesses must travel for medical appointments, care and treatment outside of our area. NWALL not only provides flight transport to these children and their families, but also eases the emotional burden of the time and cost of traveling, sometimes over 900 miles round trip.

Since founding by Lion Bob Larson from Witch Lake in 1989, well over 3000 missions have been flown to destinations in lower Mich-

igan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio and Missouri, all at no cost to the individual.

Thank you, NWALL, for all you do for “Yooper” families! Quote from a U.P. family battling childhood cancer:

“It has been such a tremendous gift, knowing we would be able to make our daughters' appointments in Ann Arbor without having to take two or three days to drive every week. NWALL has made it possible for us to be able to spend more time concentrating on our family's health instead of travel. It has been such a huge relief and we are more grateful than we could ever express.”

To Contact:  
[northwoodsairlifeline.org](http://northwoodsairlifeline.org)  
24 Hour Emergency Line:  
1-800-311-1760



*After learning Elf was Senya's favorite Christmas movie, NWALL pilot Eric Sibley made her day by going Above and Beyond!*

*Senya says, “I'm grateful for my pilots, Eric and Jesse, because they have flown me to my appointments in Ann Arbor. They are both kind and funny. I remember one day when Eric dressed up as one of my favorite Christmas movie characters, Buddy the Elf! Also, I like the view when we fly.”*

## 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

# Tour Da Yoop, Eh™ 2023

UP Lions Serve is gearing up for the 6th Annual Tour Da Yoop, Eh 2023, a 1,200 mile bike tour around the perimeter of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This is the 3rd year that we are proud to partner with Tour Da Yoop, Eh to bring awareness to childhood cancer in the Upper Peninsula and the families that it affects. Last year, the riders raised over \$50,000 for our families and the programs that serve them. Help us cheer them on, support them, bring awareness for bicycle safety in the Upper Peninsula and join the fun. We need you there on the streets, at the hydration stations, and at the Host Towns. I was lucky enough to be along for the 10 days last year, and I know that the riders do it for the kids. When they dig deep, it's you that inspires them, so see you along the way!

- Christine Smith



**More information to come on how to get involved!**



[tourdayoopeh.com](http://tourdayoopeh.com)

Start your adventure!



[@tourdayoopeh](https://www.facebook.com/tourdayoopeh)

[@tourdayoopeh](https://www.instagram.com/tourdayoopeh)

scan to go register  
on our website!



## Book Corner

### When A Kid Like Me Fights Cancer

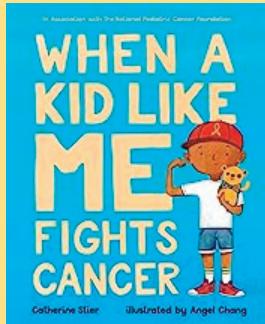
*When A Kid Like Me Fights Cancer* is a book that will speak to children of all ages on their journey.

It takes the perspective of a young boy, just diagnosed, and all the new things he discovers along the way. A line about learning about cancer, "it's just that sometimes something goes wrong inside the body. Then a good kid has to deal with a bad disease."

The story line was developed with encouragement of the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation and authored by Michigan native Catherine Stier, herself a cancer survivor. It has bright and bold illustrations by Angel Chang.

The 32-page book is for ages 2 and up and is published by Albert Whitman & Company. Hardback (2019) and paperback (2021) are currently available on Amazon.

-Review by Debra Petkus-Perry

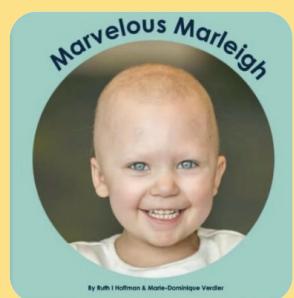


### Marvelous Marleigh

In this real-life picture book, *Marvelous Marleigh* walks us through her treatment and hospital stays in order to learn more about her experience with cancer. Using simple language, real photos, and a fun mirror at the end, young children diagnosed with cancer will identify with Marleigh and be able to reflect upon their own experiences through a shared journey.

We love reading this sweet and simple book to our daughter with neuroblastoma who is almost 3 years old. *Marvelous Marleigh* makes us smile and laugh, but it also opens the door to talk about the more difficult things our daughter has had to go through, as well. I highly recommend this book for families dealing with a childhood cancer diagnosis, along with other young children who may have a sibling, cousin, or friend with cancer.

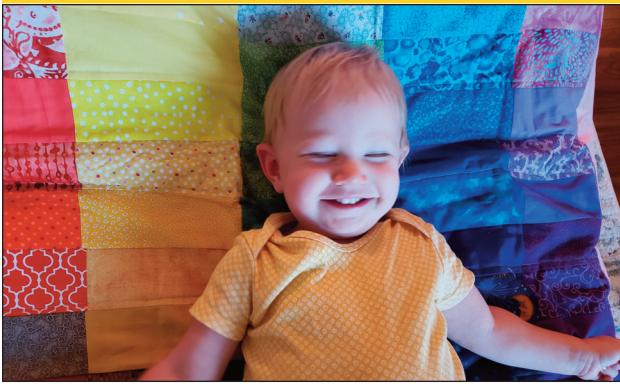
*Marvelous Marleigh* is provided by the American Childhood Cancer Organization as a free resource to families with a childhood cancer diagnosis and is also available for purchase at [www.acco.org](http://www.acco.org)



By Ruth Hoffmann & Marie-Dominique Vardier

-Review by Laura Bronstein

# Kindness is Contagious Around the Upper Peninsula



## The World is like a Quilt

The World is like a Quilt  
Each person, animal,  
Place, thing  
Make up a piece of that quilt.

Each piece adding its own  
Strength  
Weakness  
Color  
Texture  
Shape  
Bending and Supporting  
One another.

I am but one piece appending  
My Strengths  
My Weaknesses  
My Colors  
My Textures  
My Shapes  
To this quilt.

Minute, yet important.  
For someone depends  
On my participation  
In the quilt of life.  
Peace

Lion Deb Kleinbrook  
Engadine-Naubinway Lion

The Northern Neighbors Quilters are making beautiful quilts, port pillows, pillowcases and hats for Upper Peninsula kids that are battling cancer. They meet every week at the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway to work on several community projects!



The St. Ignace Lions club stuffed over 60 animals and sent them to Upper Peninsula families with children with cancer and their siblings too! "Stuffies" were also sent to Kids Kicking Cancer and Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan for the kids that attend their programs.



The Norway High School Leo Club created homemade cards of encouragement for the Upper Peninsula Kids With Cancer to brighten their day! The club, under advisor Tami Slagle, is the student division of the Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions Club.



The District 10 Lions and Bay Cliff Health Camp are partnering together to provide opportunities to build community and provide support for Upper Peninsula children and families impacted by childhood cancer. In an effort to meet your needs, we would greatly appreciate your feedback! Demonstrating an interest is not a commitment to participate, but please only check those activities that you would seriously consider. Your responses will guide our work as we move forward. Please complete the survey and send it to:

Chris Smith, District 10 Lions: lionchris906pcc@outlook.com  
Clare Lutgen, Bay Cliff Executive Dir.: clutgen@baycliff.org

Or mail survey to:

UP Lions Serve/Childhood Cancer  
PO BOX 107 • Engadine, Michigan 49827



## Interest Survey

Child's First Name:

*My family would be interested in participating in the following (check all that apply):*

- A Day at Camp - a fun-filled day held at Bay Cliff (BC) Health Camp
- Family Camp Weekend – an overnight BC camp experience for children and families
- Group Cookout - a cookout at a Marquette park (or similar location)
- Single Event Guided Recreation – kayaking, hiking, beach walk, etc. (various locations)
- Workshops for community building
- Seminars from local professionals
- Receiving a childhood cancer newsletter
- Participating in fundraisers or other events

This survey was completed by: (please print)

Relationship to the child:

**SUPERIOR**  
Health Foundation  
HEALTHIER TOGETHER

Age:

This program is made possible by a grant from **Superior Health Foundation**, a health-centered, grant-giving organization serving the U.P.

# Learn more and stay up-to-date!

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



Lion Christine Smith  
lionchris906pcc@outlook.com  
313-682-8900

Check us out on Social Media



@ UP LIONS SERVE



@ UP LIONS SERVE  
@ UPPER PENINSULA LIONS  
SUPPORTING KIDS WITH CANCER  
@ UP FAMILIES FOR A CURE



## *Special Thanks to Lions Childhood Cancer Committee Members*

Lion Debra Petkus-Perry St Ignace Lions  
Lion Deb Kleinbrook Engadine-Naubinway Lions  
Lion Carol Henrikson Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions  
Lion Ron Henrikson Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions  
Lion Gretchen Preston Marquette Lions  
Lion Syd Faassen Keweenaw Lions



**U.P. Lions Serve  
Childhood Cancer**  
P.O. Box 107  
Engadine, MI 49827

## Upcoming Events

### Tour Da Yoop, Eh 2023

1,200 miles around the UP in 10 days!  
July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>

### Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions Club fundraiser for Childhood Cancer

July 28<sup>th</sup> at Marion Park.  
More details to follow.

### Preslie Pay It Forward Motorcycle Ride

Saturday, August 19, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.  
Main Street Cafe  
321 W. Genesee Street  
Iron River, MI

