Realizing Futures:

Advancing Survivorship and Mental Health

At Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation, our vision is to make it possible for all children to beat their disease and to achieve their full potential so they can realize happy, healthy, productive futures. To do that, we need to remember that cancer is more than just a physical disease. For many patients and their families, it's also a life-altering journey.

Aleksandra was 13 years old when she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. As a result, she didn't get to enjoy what many people would consider a normal childhood. "Instead of sleepovers, movie nights and giggling over boys, I spent high school trapped at home very sick and with only my mom for company," she recalled. "Because you spend so much time sick and alone during treatment, it is easy to feel abandoned and afraid."

Fortunately, Aleksandra was able to survive cancer–and her feelings of isolation–thanks in part to the many medical professionals, counselors, and advocates who helped her through her journey. With financial assistance from the Foundation's Survivor Scholarship, Aleksandra is now studying to become a Family Life Specialist so she can do the same for others.

Comprehensive Cancer Treatment Encompasses Both Mental and Physical Health Care

Children undergoing cancer treatment endure immense physical, emotional and psychological challenges. The stress of frequent hospital visits, painful procedures and social isolation can lead to significant mental health issues both during and long after treatment. Moreover, pediatric cancer survivors face unique and ongoing challenges that extend beyond their medical treatment, including long-term health issues, learning disabilities and significant financial strain.

As a result, the depression rate among childhood cancer survivors is about 40.8%, significantly higher than the national average. Around 75% of children diagnosed with cancer also experience PTSD symptoms during or after treatment. If we are to truly empower patients and survivors to live their best lives, we cannot limit ourselves to addressing only short-term physical health. We must also prioritize patients' long-term health, mental well-being and overall quality of life.

PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

powering cures, realizing futures

Survivorship and Mental Health Ensure a Brighter Future for Pediatric Cancer Patients

With the help of our generous donors, Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation has been able to invest more than $61 million into research to accelerate cures and innovate new therapies. We still have a long way to go. Two out of three childhood cancer survivors will have long-lasting chronic health conditions from treatment.

That's why we believe it is vital to support survivorship and mental health for childhood cancer patients. As part of our institutional priorities, Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation is embarking on strategic initiatives designed to help us address the mental and emotional needs of pediatric cancer patients and survivors so that we can achieve our vision of ensuring pediatric cancer patients lead fulfilling, productive lives.

Strategic Initiatives

Join Us In Empowering Children To Thrive Beyond Cancer

Research for Chronic Health Problems

Fund research and initiatives focused on preventing late effects and developing interventions for patients currently facing these challenges to improve short and long-term outcomes and quality of life for pediatric cancer survivors.

Psychosocial Interventions

Invest in psychosocial programs designed to alleviate the emotional and psychological distress associated with childhood cancer. These interventions aim to support survivors and their families in adjusting to life during and after treatment, fostering resilience and long-term mental health.

Technology and AI Integration

Support research utilizing innovative research tools, data analysis platforms, and AI-driven approaches that enhance cancer treatment and survivorship care, such as predictive models that help oncologists anticipate complications or long-term treatment side effects, enabling tailored treatment plans that reduce the likelihood of adverse outcomes.

Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies Experiences

Expand opportunities for children and their families to engage in joyful, active experiences that promote physical and emotional well-being. By fostering environments where children can laugh, connect and thrive, we aim to support their overall health and resilience, helping them to overcome their disease and lead fulfilling, productive futures.

Let's Work Together to Transform Pediatric Cancer Survivorship & Mental Health

Treating pediatric cancer should not require families to jeopardize their children's mental health to preserve their physical health. Here at Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation, we believe that a future where childhood cancer survivors have access to all the resources necessary for them to live their best lives is achievable. Our strategic initiatives have been meticulously crafted to help us make our vision a reality.

Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation is embarking on its most ambitious fundraising effort to date, with the goal of raising $25 million over the next five years. The need for pediatric cancer survivorship and mental health support is as pressing now as ever. Together, we can make a brighter future for children and families faced with pediatric cancer.