

Welcome to our first official We Believe Newsletter. As most of you know, We Believe Foundation was started after Jake Kirschner earned his angel wings after a very courageous battle with leukemia. The foundation has since grown and changed over the years since then, constantly addressing the need to be flexible and learn where the needs of the oncology kids and their family might be.

About Us - Being our first newsletter we would like to give a little background information!

We Believe has worked with Stone Creek Coffee to set up easily accessible coffee for parents to get to right on the hospital and clinic floors. And so many families understand how difficult it is to get your child to eat during the grueling chemo days, so we have worked to make that available to families whenever they need it while inpatient as well.

We have also partnered with Cedar Crest ice cream, which is now available while inpatient for the families to have 24/7. Kids undergoing harsh chemo sometimes have a difficult time eating, and this difficulty eating is sometimes overcome by the ice cream! Kids love ice cream and are more willing to eat some even though they have anxiety or nausea during treatment.

One of the ways that We Believe is most well known is the tie fleece blankets given to children going through treatment. While Covid has made it difficult to have large blanket making events, please know that we are always looking for donations of money, fleece, or JoAnn Fabric gift cards to be able to continue being able to serve all of the children that need them!

Family Spotlight

One thing we would like to do is start highlighting one family for each newsletter that we do. A family who has been positively impacted by We Believe; in the hopes that it may inspire others to help out and give - and also to help people understand the very real human aspect behind what we do and why we do it!

For this newsletter, we would like to introduce you to Lucas Bryant and his family.

Lucas was diagnosed in 2019 at the age of 6 with a Wilms Tumor. He had emergency surgery to remove the tumor along with his left kidney. After surgery he underwent 19 weeks of chemotherapy. He did great! After 9 months of remission, Lucas relapsed. He began a more intense treatment regimen that consisted of 26 weeks of inpatient

chemotherapy as well as radiation. Throughout the process Lucas faced each round of chemo with a positive attitude and a smile on his face. He was the boy walking through the halls playing the scavenger hunt game and helping his fellow floor-mates find the images. Lucas has now been off of treatment almost one year! He goes back every three months for CTs and Ultrasounds. He is doing great! He is now a very active 9 year old who loves playing soccer, swimming and playing outside. We are so proud of our brave boy who has shown so much strength and courage. 🍷 We are so grateful for our team at CHW, our family, friends and all the organizations like We Believe in Jake that have helped us throughout treatment. We will continue to trust in God and know that He has a plan for each one of us.



All of us also want to thank Lucas and his family for a recent Facebook fundraiser they did to benefit We Believe! The money will go a long way to help benefit other families! If you ever want to do a fundraiser to benefit the organization, please reach out and let us know!