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Bear Necessities™
PEDIATRIC CANCER FOUNDATION



His
My name is Bear and my
Mom named this foundation
after me to help other kids
with cancer in all sorts
of ways.

My friends and I want to
thank you for your help.
if you want to know more
about Bear Necessities or
further events you can call:

Thanks Love Bear.

Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation, founded in 1992, has a mission to eliminate pediatric cancer and to provide hope and support to those who are touched by it. CEO and President Kathleen A. Casey and her eight-year-old son Barrett "Bear" Krupa started Bear Necessities during Bear's five-year struggle with cancer. Bear's dream was that every child battling cancer would have the same support that he received from his friends and family. From that simple dream, Bear Necessities was born.

Since inception, over 80% of all donations received go directly to help a child, fund a Bear Discoveries grant, or a Bear Empowerment grant.



The Bear Hugs Program supports cancer patients (ages 0-19), as well as their immediate families that face the many challenges that accompany the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric cancer. Our outreach serves both in state and out of state children that are being treated at one of the nine major Chicago area hospitals with pediatric oncology departments. A Bear Hug is a customized experience that brightens the life of a child going through cancer. The Bear Hugs Program also provides immediate family support for financial burden and essential needs.



Bear Discoveries awards medical research grants nationwide primarily to junior investigative researchers each year who make meaningful advancements and discoveries towards finding a cure and therapies for various types of pediatric cancer.



Bear Empowerment awards support service grants across the nation to pediatric oncology facilities and organizations each year for programs or projects that directly impact patients, their families and hospital facilities.

Did you know...



13,500 U.S. children will be diagnosed with cancer this year



Cancer is the #1 disease killer in children under the age of 15



1 in 300 boys and 1 in 333 girls will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20



Every 3½ minutes a child is diagnosed with cancer



The average age of diagnosis for childhood cancer is 6 years old – The potential years of life saved for each child with cancer is 66 years



Each school day 46 children are diagnosed with cancer – that is two classrooms of children

Bear Necessities provides services to children (ages 0-19) diagnosed with any form of pediatric cancer. Bear Necessities has the ability to continue to provide assistance to a child and his or her family through multiple diagnoses, if necessary.

(Includes data from CureSearch)



Making Music—Amelie's Bear Hug:

Amelie is a six-year-old girl from Brookfield, IL who is known for loving everyone she meets. She loves being “girly,” wearing pretty dresses, the color pink and playing with her dolls, but she also loves to be outside riding her bike or scooter around the neighborhood. Amelie’s mother and father, Lillian and Alex, say, “She is a very good big sister to her baby sister, Lela, even when she wasn’t feeling well throughout treatments.” While Amelie was being treated at Loyola University Medical Center for Leukemia, she had expressed that she would really like to learn how to play the violin. The request for music lessons became a reality through the Bear Hugs Program. Amelie was eager to meet her violin teacher, Emilia, who came to her house and gave her the first lesson. After their 30 minute session together, Emilia shared with Amelie that she was “a natural” and would be continuing to provide lessons for her throughout the year! Amelie’s Bear Hug has sparked her musical creativity and she is enthusiastic to keep playing the violin and is looking forward to learning other instruments such as the piano.

Meeting a Star—Aleksander's Bear Hug:



Aleks is nine-years-old and has a smile that never fades. His two sisters (who share the title triplet) with Aleks, and his parents, Nada and David, say, "He is truly happy each and every day." He loves being in 3rd grade and taking art classes after school with his sisters. Despite being diagnosed with a brain tumor and being treated at Children's Memorial Hospital, nothing has stopped Aleks from living and loving life. He enjoys playing computer games, listening to music, going to Magic Quest, and joking around with his friends and cousins. Through Bear Necessities' Bear Hugs Program Aleks and his family were able to travel from their hometown of Naperville, IL to the Bradley Center in Milwaukee, WI to see his favorite music artist, Lady Gaga! Aleks and his family were greeted by Lady Gaga's staff who brought them backstage to meet the pop star in person. Aleks took some photos and shared the silly bracelets he brought for Lady Gaga, which she wore throughout the entire concert! Aleks enjoyed every minute of the concert and couldn't wait to show all his classmates the photos of him with Lady Gaga the next day!

BEAR NECESSITIES

PEDIATRIC CANCER FOUNDATION

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Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation urges you to join us in our fight against this devastating disease and, at the same time, bring joy and the promise of hope into the lives of these children and their families.

Pediatric cancer is a disease that not only affects the patient, but also the extended family members and friends. It presents needs and challenges that continue to go unmet due to the lack of government and private funding.

Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation is a unique organization, meeting many of these very important needs that no other organization is doing today.

The words children and cancer shouldn't go together; only with your help can we ultimately put an end to this devastating disease. Until then, won't you please be part of Bear's dream to reach out to children like him across the United States who courageously wage their battles each day?

Help us give hope, when hope is hard to find.

Thank You!



Kathleen A. Casey
CEO / President

For more information and to find out how
you can make a difference in the life of a child battling cancer,
call 866.309.BEAR (2327)
or visit www.bearnecessities.org



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