



SEPTEMBER IS CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Our Founder Alex Scott

Back to School: Living the Childhood Kids Deserve

NINE MONTHS INTO

Sebastian's life, Aidelyne wasn't sure if her son would one day get to go to school.

It started after a routine check-up where Sebastian hadn't put on any weight. Then, he lost weight two weeks later from a sudden vomiting episode. His pediatrician found a strange lump on the right side of his body and sent him to the nearest children's hospital in Miami. There, an ultrasound confirmed a mass, doctors transferred Sebastian to the ICU to get his blood pressure under control, and he received both a CT scan and biopsy.

The next morning, baby Sebastian was diagnosed with Stage III neuroblastoma.

Aidelyne did not know how long Sebastian's fight would last, or what would happen at the end of it. She was referred to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) through her social worker at a crucial time: it was 2020, and your donations not only provided financial relief for her family during the pandemic, but also hope, as she held on tight to dreams of Sebastian taking first-day-of-school pictures and wearing a graduation cap.

Sebastian began treatment.



He was given chemotherapy to shrink a tumor so large it was pressing down against his kidneys, causing high blood pressure – two issues that have resulted in permanent damage. His cancer was more aggressive than expected, so Sebastian received blood transfusions, braved a 10-hour surgery, had six rounds of chemo and then switched to a daily chemo pill to combat it – a lot for a child less than 3 years old.

In September 2022, Sebastian finally rang the bell to signal the end of his treatment. Aidelyne was over the moon to share his kindergarten graduation photo in June earlier this year.

“ALSF is the future for us, and all children fighting this horrible disease,” said Aidelyne. “Sebastian will be going into the first grade this upcoming school year!”



What's inside? Brand new research breakthroughs and the newest class of young investigators you're supporting!



We're moving one million miles and raising millions for kids with cancer this September during The Million Mile! **Check out our progress and join in at [TheMillionMile.org](https://www.themillionmile.org).**

Your Support = More Breakthroughs



**Funding
180 Grants
Right Now**

EVER SINCE ALEX'S FIRST LEMONADE STAND, our mission has been the same: to help doctors help kids with cancer. That's led to more than 1,500 research projects funded across the globe, **including nearly 180 grants that are currently in progress right now thanks to your support!**

We wanted to share a small slice of the impact you've made for kids with cancer.

The Start of Breakthroughs: ALSF Young Investigator Grants

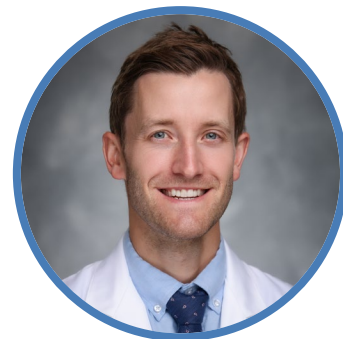
The most amazing breakthroughs don't start in the lab — they begin in the hearts and minds of young scientists. For early career researchers working to establish their labs, grant funding like the ALSF Young Investigator Grant is invaluable. In 2025, we funded 20 more of these projects focused on leukemia, brain tumors like medulloblastoma and ependymoma, osteosarcoma, neuroblastoma, CAR-T immunotherapy, and other urgent topics in childhood cancer.

These early investments lay the foundation for discoveries that can lead directly to cures.

“Without dedicated support from organizations like ALSF, groundbreaking ideas and transformative strategies for treating pediatric cancer may never be fully explored or developed,” said 2025 grantee Dr. Peter Hendrickson of Duke University. “ALSF grants go beyond just providing essential funding — they validate novel research directions, enabling

early career investigators like myself to build credibility and momentum, rapidly translating discoveries into real-world improvements.”

Dr. Hendrickson is using his grant to better understand a rare soft-tissue sarcoma by studying how specific proteins drive tumor growth — and whether targeting them can stop it.



Dr. Peter Hendrickson

Applications for next year's crop of Young Investigators opens this fall, and **we're committed to increasing our investment in these early career researchers whose bold ideas are fueling the next generation of breakthroughs for kids with cancer.**

Hope for the Deadliest of Pediatric Brain Tumors

Exciting new research brings us one step closer to curing deadly childhood brain tumors. Our grantees Dr. Mariella Filbin ('A' Award Grant, Crazy 8 Pilot Grant) and Dr. Carl Koschmann (Young Investigator Grant) discovered that the targeted drug avapritinib shows promise in treating certain types of high-grade gliomas. These types of pediatric brain tumors can be among the most deadly and hard-to-treat of all childhood cancers.

“My earlier ALSF grant allowed the start of the underlying methods that made this work possible,” said Dr. Filbin.

Both Dr. Filbin and Dr. Koschmann used prior funding from donors like you to make discoveries in the lab which helped push the research towards testing a specific drug in a clinical trial. In early studies, the treatment slowed tumor growth and

extended survival in both lab models and clinical trials for children who relapsed. While more research is needed, these findings represent a major step forward in providing new hope to children battling brain tumors.



Dr. Mariella Filbin



Dr. Carl Koschmann

Did you know that genetic ancestry might matter in determining cancer prognosis?



A team of researchers, funded in part by your support, published their findings in the journal *Blood Cancer Discovery* showing that certain mutations present in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL), which accounts for 12-15% of childhood leukemia diagnoses, can lead to a poorer prognosis in children of non-European backgrounds.

The study team analyzed the DNA of 1,309 children and young adults with ALL (and with a range of genetic ancestries) who participated in a large U.S. clinical trial.

By considering genetic ancestry, pediatric oncologists might be able to better assess whether a leukemia diagnosis is low or high-risk and make better decisions around treatment. **Not only could this knowledge improve cure rates, it could also help limit long-term treatment side effects by allowing doctors to give lower doses of toxic therapies.**

The team included several researchers your donations helped support: David Teachey, MD (Single-cell Pediatric Cancer Atlas Grant), Kai Tan, PhD (Single-cell Pediatric Cancer Atlas Grant), Stephen Hunger, MD (Crazy 8 Grant), and Caroline Dioro, MD ("A" Award Grant)



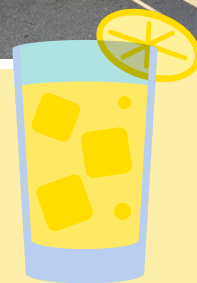
Thank You for the Biggest Lemonade Days Ever

WE'VE NEVER SEEN A BIGGER SPLASH OF LEMONADE to start the summer! This June, there were more than **3,600 stands** turning lemons into lemonade in all 50 states, raising more than \$1.8 million for kids with cancer. How sweet! With numbers like these, we can fund more groundbreaking research grants, bringing more cures to more kids. Some early career grants you might have heard of, like the Young Investigator Grants, help promising scientists bring their new and innovative ideas to the childhood cancer field. Others, like our Center of Excellence Grants, give established researchers the means to expand access to clinical trials for new treatment

options that give families hope – and change the future for all kids fighting cancer.

Ever since our founder, Alex, held her first lemonade stand 25 years ago, we've seen the lemonade movement grow year after year. It's thanks to you, our supporters, who donate time, energy, and the money you raise so that Alex's legacy continues to give families a community and kids chances at cures.

Whether it's ten dollars or thousands, every bit is helping make a difference, one cup at a time!



Sign up to host your own lemonade stand any time of the year at AlexsLemonade.org/Lemonadestand.

You're Giving **Hope** to Heroes



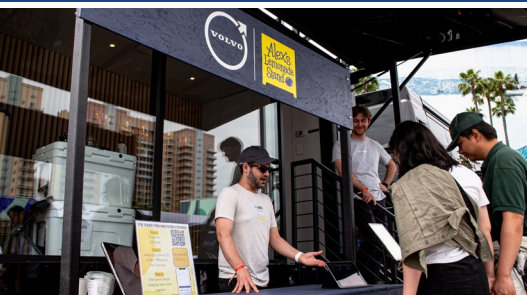
"Alex's Lemonade Stand has been a huge help to us in providing hotels and covering travel costs for Everett's treatments through their Travel For Care program." - Kiersten, mom to childhood cancer hero Everett



"ALSF is an ultimate mechanism that raises funding and awareness for the dire need of continued research into the causes and lasting impacts of childhood cancer." - Kristopher, dad to childhood cancer hero Adalyn



"ALSF's work touches all of the important pieces of the childhood cancer experience. We have hope that through research support, improved treatments and even cures can be found. But ALSF also supports families while they are in the trenches of cancer treatment." - Brittany, mom to childhood cancer hero Alice



Make A Difference for the Cost of One Cup of Lemonade a Month



Join the One Cup at a Time Club to give monthly to fund childhood cancer research.

Your sustaining gifts will help fund future research projects and give hope to families every month - the amount is up to you!



Scan to Register

VOLVO

- Partner since 2004
- \$14M+ raised to help kids fight cancer
- Volvo Cars has donated annual portions of car sales, sponsored special events and participates in The Million Mile in September with teams across the globe



- Partner since 2005
- \$18M+ raised to help kids fight cancer
- Every year restaurants transform into lemonade stands as they host their annual summer campaign by collecting donations, donating proceeds from specialty lemonades and holding fundraising events like bake sales or car washes



- Partner since 2011
- \$12M+ raised to help kids fight cancer
- Each summer Power supports Alex's through employee payroll contributions, kickball tournaments, auctions, lemonade stands, and engaging with our childhood cancer families

3 Ways You Can Turn Lemons into Lemonade Today



- 1. Host a Lemonade Stand**
Register online to host your very own fundraiser



- 2. Participate in an Event**
Whether you're into family-fun, food or fitness - find a special event that's right for you



- 3. Make a Difference**
Give online with a one-time or monthly donation



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