The True Story of the Stand That Started it All

For months, 4-year-old Alexandra "Alex" Scott had asked her parents about hosting a lemonade stand. After fighting neuroblastoma for three years already, a brand new treatment called MIBG had made her feel significantly better. One day her mom, Liz, finally asked, "Alex, what do you want to buy so badly?"

Alex replied, "I'm not keeping the money, I'm giving it to my doctors so they can help kids the way they helped me."

How could her parents say no to that? They thought it was adorable their daughter was going to cure cancer with a lemonade stand. When Liz said she would raise $5 or $10 dollars, resolute Alex responded, "I don't care, I'll do it anyways."

The night before the big day on July 1, 2000, Alex picked out her outfit and had her Cheerios ready so she wouldn't be late. Alex woke up at 7 am, and someone was already knocking at their door.

The person was heading out of town, but wanted to donate to Alex's Lemonade Stand before she left. It was a sign of things to come. People flocked to the stand all day long. Alex rung guests up with her kid-sized cash register. She made the lemonade, and tasked her dad, Jay, with restocking the lemonade mix supply. Jay wound up making several trips to the grocery store for more.

One gentleman even lugger a giant jug of coins he had been saving for 17 years to their door. Alex's mission finally clarified what he had been saving them for. When the last cup of lemonade sold, Liz asked Alex how it went.

"That was the best thing that ever happened to me," she said.

Today, the $2,000 raised at that first stand has transformed into more than $200 million total raised for the kids Alex set out to help way back then. Now more than ever, it's critical to continue what she started. This year, Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) is looking back at the remarkable acts of others that were inspired by Alex.

With your help, we can ensure childhood cancer research continues on the upward trajectory that began with one girl's dream that a lemonade stand could cure childhood cancer.

Read the incredible stories and help catalyze the next two decades of change at AlexsLemonade.org/20-Years.

1. Alex at her first stand, 2000; 2. Hero Lily at her world record lemonade cup, 2015; 3. The King of Prussia Girls at their lemonade stand, 2004; 4. Riley and hero Jeremy at their stand, 2012; 5. Hero Tony at the Lemon Ball, 2018
Meet Abbie and the ALSF-Funded Trial That Saved Her Life

FOUR days before Abbie turned 12, her world turned upside down. Abbie had been experiencing frequent headaches and nausea, which eventually led to complex partial seizures. Her diagnosis: a stage one ganglioglioma. Ganglioglioma are slow-growing tumors, but because of their location in the critical structures of the brain, they can wreak havoc on children.

Surgeons were able to remove 90% of the tumor during a nine-hour surgery. For the next year, Abbie would endure 12 immunotherapy drugs, with traditional chemotherapy. The trial is open at several sites across the country in Georgia, Florida and Colorado.

Abbie continued on the trial through her freshman and sophomore years of college. In May 2020, Abbie graduated from UGA with a major in human development and family sciences and a minor in psychology.

"Without the flexibility of Dr. Johnson's clinical trial, I don't know if I would’ve felt well enough and have had the time to balance my college life and treatment," said Abbie. Abbie continued on the trial through her freshman and sophomore years of college. In May 2020, Abbie graduated from UGA with a major in human development and family sciences and a minor in psychology.

Delivering the Breakthrough Treatment That Kids Deserve

PROMISING new research from ALSF-funded researchers Oren Becher, MD from Lurie Children’s Hospital and Northwestern University and Robert Wechsler-Reya, PhD from Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute is moving towards a clinical trial for medulloblastoma, the most common malignant pediatric brain tumor.

"ALSF has provided tremendous funding for this project and all the research leading up to this point," said Dr. Wechsler-Reya, who received his first ALSF grant in 2009 and has been studying medulloblastoma for more than 20 years.

Dr. Theodore Johnson, an ALSF-funded researcher at Augusta University, said Abbie. "Without the flexibility of Dr. Johnson's clinical trial, I don't know if I would've felt well enough and have had the time to balance my college life and treatment," said Abbie.

Abbie was not going to defer anything. She moved into the dorms early at the University of Georgia (UGA), while simultaneously enrolling in an immunotherapeutic clinical trial with Dr. Theodore Johnson, an ALSF-funded researcher at Augusta University. ALSF funds Dr. Johnson through the Bio-therapeutic Impact grants program.

Immunotherapy, which harnesses the body's immune system to attack cancer cells, has shown success in treating certain types of pediatric leukemia. Dr. Johnson's trial combines Inoximod, an immunotherapy drug, with traditional chemotherapy. The trial is open at several sites across the country in Georgia, Florida and Colorado.

Abbie continued on the trial through her freshman and sophomore years of college. In May 2020, Abbie graduated from UGA with a major in human development and family sciences and began her career as a registered behavior technician at an autism center.

Meet Abbie and the ALSF-Funded Trial That Saved Her Life

As the trial is set to open at multiple sites this fall, Dr. Wechsler-Reya and Dr. Becher are continuing to study the potential of this trial drug as a therapy for children with high-grade gliomas like diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG). The project studied the combination of immunotherapy with a drug called tumor necrosis factor (TNF). The therapy eradicated medulloblastoma with the p53 mutations in lab tests, essentially melting the tumor away.

As the trial is set to open at multiple sites this fall, Dr. Becher and Dr. Becher are concluding an upcoming article that highlights the potential of this trial drug as a therapy for children with high-grade gliomas like diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG).

"It is important to recognize that children with cancer are the most vulnerable people in our population and we can’t back down. The need to support childhood cancer research has never been greater," said Dr. Wechsler-Reya.

"We are at a real risk of losing an entire generation of cancer researchers," said Dr. Monje. "WE ARE AT A REAL RISK OF LOSING AN ENTIRE GENERATION OF CANCER RESEARCHERS," said Dr. Monje.

Putting the “Super” in SuperSib

PROUD SuperSib Mallory wouldn’t be who she is without her younger sister Kelly. It was devastating when Kelly lost her battle with osteosarcoma, but her fight taught Mallory the importance of always having hope. Mallory dedicated her senior basketball season to raising money for childhood cancer research.

How COVID-19 is Impacting Childhood Cancer Researchers

WHEN COVID-19 forced all but essential employees to work from home, childhood cancer researchers were faced with the same shutdown. Dr. Michelle Monje, an ALSF-funded researcher who studies high-grade gliomas, had less than 12 hours to shut down her lab at Stanford when shelter-in-place orders went into effect on March 16.

"Our research is urgently needed," said Dr. Wechsler-Reya. "Our research is urgently needed."
A CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER
Miriam Silva, USA Ambassador Mrs. New Jersey 2020, found innovative ways to hold her lemonade stands this summer – offering individual water bottles with lemonade packets for a safe, ‘on the go’ option. She even broke her $150 fundraising goal by raising nearly $1,000 for childhood cancer research and is still going!

$30K, 2,000 PUSH-UPS, 1 DAY
Although Afleet Alex did not win the Kentucky Derby in 2005, Terry never forgot the story of the girl who shared the horse’s name. This year, he’s pledged to perform 2,000 push-ups in one day to honor the $2,000 Alex raised at her first stand. In the past, Terry and his colleagues at Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC have held stands, and Terry’s $30,000 accomplishment pushed them past their goal to raise $100,000 in four years.

RUNNING THE MILLION MILE FOR A MILLION-DOLLAR SMILE
After learning that she and her 3-year-old daughter Emma shared Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome (BWS), Crystal wanted to challenge herself to really go for gold during The Million Mile - so she has committed to 100 miles and $2,000 as a Gold Medal Miler for kids with cancer. Go Crystal!

To learn more, visit TheMillionMile.org.

SUPPORTER SHOUT-OUTS

1. A CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER
Miriam Silva, USA Ambassador Mrs. New Jersey 2020, found innovative ways to hold her lemonade stands this summer – offering individual water bottles with lemonade packets for a safe, ‘on the go’ option. She even broke her $150 fundraising goal by raising nearly $1,000 for childhood cancer research and is still going!

2. $30K, 2,000 PUSH-UPS, 1 DAY
Although Afleet Alex did not win the Kentucky Derby in 2005, Terry never forgot the story of the girl who shared the horse’s name. This year, he’s pledged to perform 2,000 push-ups in one day to honor the $2,000 Alex raised at her first stand. In the past, Terry and his colleagues at Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC have held stands, and Terry’s $30,000 accomplishment pushed them past their goal to raise $100,000 in four years.

3. RUNNING THE MILLION MILE FOR A MILLION-DOLLAR SMILE
After learning that she and her 3-year-old daughter Emma shared Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome (BWS), Crystal wanted to challenge herself to really go for gold during The Million Mile - so she has committed to 100 miles and $2,000 as a Gold Medal Miler for kids with cancer. Go Crystal!

To learn more, visit TheMillionMile.org.

Giving $5 or more a month can support kids fighting cancer today, tomorrow and every year to come.

Sustain critical childhood cancer programs with your monthly gift by going to AlexsLemonade.org/One-Cup-Newsletter.

LOVE PLAYING VIDEO GAMES?
Or know someone who does? Whether you’re a casual or pro gamer, you can play for a good cause as a Gamer for Kids with Cancer. Gamers collect pledges and donations for pediatric cancer research while playing the game of their choice, so the more you play, the more you raise – that’s a win for you, and for kids fighting cancer! Visit AlexsLemonade.org/Gamers to sign up today.