

PRESS RELEASE

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COLORADO LEADS NATION IN PEDIATRIC CANCER COLLABORATION

Multiple organizations dealing with pediatric cancer now freely exchange information and collaborate with one another as they each combat different aspects of the disease. The Colorado Kids Cancer Association, the pediatric arm of the Colorado Cancer Coalition, is the exemplary pediatric group in the nation and serves as a template for other states to follow.

“Colorado Kids Cancer Association boasts ground-breaking collaboration,” stated Joan Slaughter, Executive Director of The Morgan Adams Foundation. “All of us are dedicated to helping youngsters stricken with this disease while we move toward eliminating childhood cancer. The coalition shows strength in numbers – and in knowledge. “It’s remarkable what all can be accomplished when we work together – and we all want the same thing – a cure for cancer and optimal care and support for children stricken by the disease,” she continued.

Utilizing the resources provided by members of the Colorado Kids Cancer Association, various needs that the families and the children have during diagnosis and treatment can be easily addressed. In a determined effort to provide support for the entire continuum of care for children with cancer, some of the organizations address the future by supporting research in the causes and treatments for these diseases while others address every day living needs.

The design and development of Colorado Kids Cancer Association followed the lead of the Colorado Cancer Coalition, or C-3, which until now, did not have a pediatric focus. Colorado Kids Cancer Association has assumed the role of Pediatric Task Force and hopes to give pediatric cancers a voice. The Colorado Kids Cancer Association would like to thank Senator Mark Udall for his support of childhood cancer awareness by sponsoring the Senate Resolution for the 2009 National Childhood Cancer Awareness Day and also, former Senators Hillary Clinton and Wayne Allard for their dedication in 2008 for the first Childhood Cancer Awareness Day.

The inter-agency exchange has been spectacular. “By coming together around a common table, we are able to see collaboration actually happen,” stated Tammy Krause, Executive Director of the Gabby Krause Foundation. Members are able to network, share resources, continue to learn about the services provided within our community, and

(More)

Press release – 2

Colorado Leads Nation in Pediatric Cancer Collaboration

provide support to newly-emerging organizations.”

The need for this organization is evidenced in the grassroots support and tremendous state-wide appeal Colorado Kids Cancer Association has seen. Member organizations include both large and small entities throughout Colorado, including: American Cancer Society, Angel Flight – West Colorado Wing, Brent’s Place, Cancer League of Colorado, Children’s Hospital Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, Colorado Cancer Coalition, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Cops Fighting Cancer, Country Kids with Cancer, Creston J. Walker Foundation, CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation, Dani’s Foundation, First Descents, Gabby Krause

Foundation, Gilda's Club, Gold Ribbon Families, Heroes Forever, Jason's Friends Foundation, Just in Time Neuroblastoma Foundation, Kaden's Kamp Foundation, Kayla Weber Believe Foundation, Kelsey's Kids Foundation, Kyle O'Connell Foundation, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Colorado, Marc Apondaca Jr. Children's Glioma Foundation, McKaila J. Steffes Foundation, Morgan Adams Foundation, Miracle Party Foundation, MyLifeLine.org Cancer Foundation, Patient Services Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundation, Parent Allies for Love and Support, Project Linus, Rocky Mountain Chapter-The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Rocky Mountain Pediatric Oncology, Ronald McDonald House, Roundup River Ranch, Sky High Hope Camp, Starlight Children's Foundation, St. Christopher Inn , Stephen T. Marchello Foundation, Super Sibs, Tanner Seebaum Foundation, Teen with a Dream Foundation, There With Care, and Wapiyapi.

Initially proposed by Adele Gelfand, Executive Director of Brent's Place, Colorado Kids Cancer Association meets bi-monthly and the steering committee consists of Joan Slaughter, Tammy Krause and Aaron Smith.

"We view this as a huge leap forward in cancer care," Aaron Smith, Executive Director of Wapiyapi concluded. "As cancer research progresses, our hope is that someday we won't even need such an inter-agency exchange."

For more information visit www.cokidscancer.org