

FRIEND TO FRIEND

IN THIS ISSUE

TAKING A SWING AT CHILDHOOD CANCER

This year's annual golf tournament raises over \$218,000 for patient programs and parties...

PASSIONATELY SMASHING EVERY EXPECTATION

Memories are made during a once in a lifetime performance at The Fabulous Fox Theatre...

HATS ON DAY

Fun and easy ways to get your business or child's school involved with FOKWC...



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OUR MISSION

Friends of Kids with Cancer is devoted to enriching the daily lives of children undergoing treatment for, and survivors of, cancer and blood-related diseases. Our mission is to be an advocate for these special kids and provide them and their families with the Educational, Emotional and Recreational support needed as a result of the long hours of chemotherapy, illness and isolation.



SOMETIMES ALL A CHILD WITH CANCER NEEDS IS A FRIEND

For as little as \$10 a month, you can change the life of a child... Forever! Become a Friend Forever member today.
www.friendsofkids.com/friends-forever-club.html



WHEN LAUGHTER WAS AN UNCOMMON EVENT...

Pediatric oncology used to be a lonely field – lonely for the patients and families who were often in isolation rooms during long, repeated stays in the hospital, lonely for the medical providers because colleagues could never imagine why anyone would choose pediatric oncology as a profession. Lonely because smiles were often hard to come by.

The field has certainly improved. Cure rates that were just over 50% in the early 90's are now nearly 85%. Unfortunately, as a profession, meeting the "other" non-medical needs of children battling cancer – and their families – has lagged far behind.

A little over 25 years ago, **Friends of Kids with Cancer** formed. Initially, the thought was to provide "a little extra entertainment in the waiting room." There we were, so proud of the fact that we had a VCR library with 18 tapes! But over the years, we learned that educational, emotional, and

recreational assistance are just as important in a child's journey as the medicines they receive.

The impact of Friends is now far beyond what any of us imagined. We provide tutoring in the office, art therapy, real food, programs to integrate children back into school, toys that are REAL toys. And we understand that families have needs, that siblings require special attention, and most important, that our kids should not have their childhood stolen by an unfair disease... this is the spirit of the Friends mission.

We have come to accept everything that Friends provides as necessary, obvious, even normal – but it is truly a "new normal" that is not matched anywhere. When I meet with my colleagues in other cities and states, they are literally amazed (and more than a little jealous) of the services that Friends provides. I hear repeatedly, "Nothing like this exists anywhere..." We are privileged to have many patients that have been



cured of their disease. But the greater satisfaction comes with the realization that so many of our kids have not just survived cancer, they have conquered it. They have smiles on their faces. They have succeeded despite what cancer threw their way. They look toward the future with hope. These things would not be possible without the support of Friends!

And you know what? *Laughter is now an everyday occurrence.*

- Dr. Robert Bergamini, Mercy St. Louis

HAMILTON

WE'RE PASSIONATELY SMASHING EVERY EXPECTATION

"Look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now." – The Schuyler Sisters, Hamilton Musical

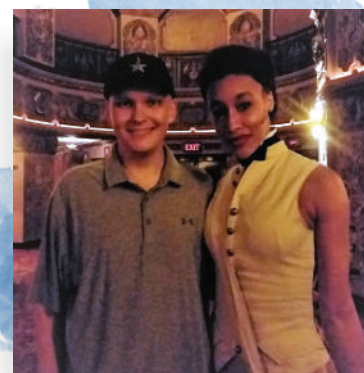
The ups and downs of a child's cancer journey create an alarming number of gloomy days. In an effort to turn one patient's frown upside down, Friends sent **Mitchell** along with his grandma and brother to this season's buzziest Broadway musical- **Lin Manuel Miranda's Hamilton**, a genre defying, rap fueled celebration of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton.

"Thank you so much for helping grant a memory for Mitchell. He had an unbelievable time with his brother and grandma. I cried several times that evening just to see him smile for the first time since treatment started."
(**Darlene, Mitchell's mother**)



Alexander Hamilton had a rather dramatic life. Part of the show's relatability is in the audience seeing themselves in it. The show leads the viewer through revolution, the building of a new nation, and ends with asking, "who tells your story?" Friends of Kids with Cancer believes every patient

deserves to tell their own story. We strive to assist with the childhood chapters and fill them with fun, laughter, and days that feel just plain normal. Like Alexander Hamilton patients involved with our organization are "passionately smashing every expectation," and FOKWC is thrilled to have been able to provide this experience for Mitchell and his family.



Not even the dimly light room could hide Mitchell's radiating smile when a member from the cast paid him a special visit after the show!

WELCOME TO "THE GREATEST SHOW!"

FRIENDS OF KIDS WITH CANCER
26TH ANNUAL

FASHION SHOW & BOUTIQUE

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2018

TICKETS ON SALE

LUNCHEON \$85 PER PERSON

Boutique Shopping 10:00 am | Lunch Served 11:30 am
Fashion Show Immediately Following
Beer & Wine Available

DINNER \$160 PER PERSON

Boutique Shopping & Cocktail Hour 5:30 pm | Dinner Served 7:00 pm
Fashion Show & Auction Immediately Following
Open Bar Available

KIDS HELPING KIDS SPOTLIGHT



RIVALS KIRKWOOD & WEBSTER GROVES COME TOGETHER FOR A GOOD CAUSE

"Cancer affects the lives of the individual but it also affects the lives of the people who surround them."

Over the past ten years, the girls' soccer program at **Kirkwood High School** has dedicated their proceeds from the "Kick for

Cancer" soccer game to Friends of Kids with Cancer, mothers affected by breast cancer, teammates currently in treatment, and other important members of their community. Soccer presents the power of play, strength, endurance and teamwork – skills that can help us face the biggest challenges of our lives!

"Each game is like a battle, much like kids battle with cancer. Each team mate (friend) relies on each other to keep hope when their

spirits are down, persevere, and confidently succeed."
(Karl Hartfelder)

The **10th Annual Kick For Cancer** soccer game between the **Webster Groves Statesmen** and the **Kirkwood High School Pioneers** was held Thursday, April 19, at Kirkwood High. What started as a 1-0 lead quickly overturned in the second half. Webster Groves rallied with a trio of goals downing Kirkwood, 3-1.



Players, parents, and staff have raised **\$34,137** for our programs and services since 2009.



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Baseball season is upon us and hockey is right around the corner! Sporting events are the perfect avenue for creating lasting memories for our patients, their siblings, and parents!

Do You Have Extra Tickets?

We accept tickets for sporting events, concerts, movies, theater shows, museum exhibits and everything in between. If you would like to donate your unused tickets please contact us at 314.275.7440. These simple experiences become highlights for our patients, boost their overall moral, and restore hope for a brighter future during and after treatment.



STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN HATS ON DAY RAISE \$27,346 DURING 2017/2018

There is no greater inspiration than empowering children to help other children...

Hats on Day is a great and easy way for schools, businesses and places of worship to create countless smiles and help kids with cancer... be kids!

Since its founding in 1995, Hats on Day has quickly become more than just a year-round fundraiser. For many this program symbolizes the fight and struggle of loved ones battling cancer and empowers the school/community to rally together with shared support during the child's hardest time.

Side effects associated with chemotherapy and treatment regularly include fatigue, missed days of school, and hair loss. Hats provide the young patient with a "protective shield" safeguarding them from lingering stares and murmurs. In some cases, the

child may also experience a feeling of isolation as they are often the only ones allowed to wear a hat while in class. With this in mind, Hats on Day was created so everyone can wear a hat and provide a welcoming and supportive environment for these special kids.



How does Hats on Day work?

We provide everything you need: Hats On Day stickers, a guide with fun ideas and posters to put up, and informational brochures. Schools, businesses, and churches can participate by paying a dollar to wear a hat. Just pick a date, collect the money that day, and have fun!

(More information can be found on our website under the "Events" tab)

***"Thank You" for being part of Hats on Day this past school year!
You have truly touched the lives of children with cancer.***

Ashton Elementary School (RI)
Aston Elementary School (PA)
Babler Elementary School
Ballwin Elementary School
Barretts Elementary School
Bowles Elementary School
Busch Middle School
Carman Trails Elementary School
Castille Elementary School (CA)
Christian Academy of Greater St. Louis
Clovis High School (NM)
Cohoes Middle School (NY)
Col. John Wheeler Middle School (IN)
Crestview Middle Schools
Eagleswood Elementary School (NJ)
Edwardsville Community Unit School District No. 7 (IL)
Fairway Elementary School
Francis Howell High School
Golden Hill Elementary (NY)
Green Pines Elementary School
Harmony Elementary School (PA)
Henry Elementary School
Hightcroft Elementary School

Holy Family School (IL)
Immanuel Lutheran School
James Ward Elementary School (IL)
Jamestown Elementary School (VA)
Johnsburg Junior High School (IL)
Kehrs Mill Elementary School
Kellison Elementary School
Kingston K-14 Elementary
Leeton R-X School District
Lindbergh Early Childhood Center
Long Elementary School
Marquette Senior High School
Mason Ridge Elementary School
McKelvey Elementary School
Neelyville Elementary School
North County Middle School
North Glendale Elementary School
North Kirkwood Elementary School
Ostego Elementary School (NY)
Pacific High School
Parkway Central High School
Parkway Northeast Middle School
Parkway West High School
Paulsboro Board of Education (NJ)

Reed Elementary School
Ridge Meadows Elementary School
Rockwood Early Childhood School
Rockwood School District Learning Center
Rockwood Valley Middle School
Roosevelt Elementary School (ND)
San Rafael High School (CA)
Selvidge Middle School
Sorrento Springs Elementary School
South Elementary School (IL)
Stamford Central School (NY)
St. Ignatius School
St. Pius X High School
Thompkins Middle School (IN)
Tuscarora Elementary School (NY)
Upper Moreland Intermediate School (PA)
Uthoff Valley Elementary School
Webster Elementary School (IL)
Wentzville South Middle School
Westridge Elementary School
Wild Horse Elementary School
Woerther Elementary School
Woodridge Middle School
Wren Hollow Elementary School

OUR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP



We are young professionals and with the joys of childhood still fresh in our minds, we support Friends of Kids with Cancer in exciting and unique ways.

Our mission is to provide an enthusiastic and energetic base of young professional supporters and future leaders for Friends of Kids with Cancer.

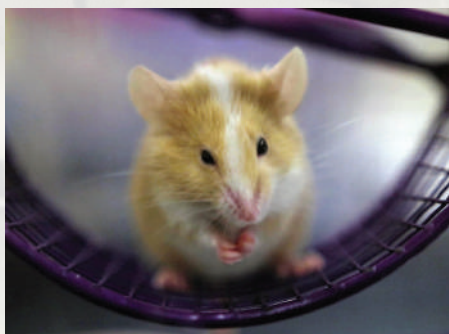
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8TH ANNUAL MOUSE DERBY RUN FOR THE ROSES



The Young Professional Fundraising Committee took a creative twist to the **8th Annual Mouse Race** by transforming the venue into an unforgettable Kentucky Derby themed atmosphere. A myriad of fashion was seen on May 12 from fancy hats and sundresses to bright colored formal attire. Thanks to the support of everyone in attendance, this year's **Mouse Derby Run for the Roses** raised over **\$10,700!**

For those less familiar with mouse races, here's how it works. Mice race six at a time, charging out of little boxes, down their lanes towards the finish line. Similar to horse racing, participants are encouraged to place friendly bets on the mice and cheer them on to victory!

"It's one of my favorite fundraisers and is a great community event for all ages."
(Sharon Roth, participant)

Raffle items and 50/50 along with intermitted games of Mouse Roulette and Heads and Tails added to the excitement of the evening. We'd especially like to thank our 2018 sponsors: **Amerisure, Incentive Concepts, Behlmann Automotive, Red Brick Realty, Pro Tech Collision, Warning Lites of St Louis, R.T. Thomas Insurance, Bentley's Pet Stuff and the Reinberg Family.**



If you missed this year's Mouse Derby and want to be the first to know about our upcoming fundraisers and events, please send your request to our general email at friends@friendsofkids.com, follow us on Social Media, or visit our website at www.friendsofkids.org

BECOME A YOUNG FRIEND TODAY!

As a member of Young Friends, you receive the benefit of social, leadership, networking and volunteer opportunities.

If you have a unique skill or ability you would like to share with one of our committees, please let us know!

Communications: Get the word out!

Development: Attract Sponsors!

Events: Plan fundraising events!

Membership: Recruit passionate young professionals to aid in our mission!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

12 BARS OF CHARITY

Saturday, December 15th 2-6pm
BallPark Village

VOODOO IN THE LOU

January 26th, 2019
Fabulous Fox Theatre

Corporate Spotlight

Premier Processing Systems (PPS) represents the largest provider of debit and credit card acceptance in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to the small-to-medium merchant market. **Joe Oglesby**, longtime supporter of Friends of Kids with Cancer founded PPS in 1994.

Joe's distinct love for our mission began when his niece was diagnosed with a brain tumor. That year, Joe and his friends donated nearly \$2,500 from their annual pig roasting fundraiser. The rest is history! Whether he is sponsoring our Golf Tournament, donating tickets for our patients to attend baseball games, providing credit card readers or updating our equipment, Joe and his staff are always willing to lend a helping hand.

In light of his recent support, we decided to ask miss **Emma** to help us provide an extra special "Thank You." Emma's talents far succeeded anything we could have envisioned and we were awe-inspired by the painting she hand-crafted during her art therapy sessions. The plaque reads:

"My motto is to 'be strong and courageous always.' Thank you for helping Friends of Kids with Cancer. By helping Friends, you help all of us, and you help me to keep being strong and courageous." (Emma, patient age 9)



FEATURED ARTICLES

Helping Kids with Cancer... be kids!



20th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES \$218,000

Despite the inclement weather, 288 "Friends" managed to trudge through wet conditions, play 18 holes, and have a day filled with fun.

Ally Financial served as the tournament's Titanium presenting sponsor. Key supporters included **Dave Sinclair Buick- GMC** with special thanks to **Captiva Marketing** and **Swift Printing** for donating their marketing services.



Players enjoyed an action-packed day beginning with a gourmet breakfast from **Russo's** who also teamed up with **OB Clark's** for lunch, eight hole-in-one chances to win a vehicle, and an abundance of high end beverage stations from **McCormick Distilling** and **Southern Glazer**. Hobnobbing included friends, local celebrities, and sports figures like **Alex Pietrangelo**, Captain of the **St. Louis Blues** and honorary tournament chair. Dinner featured filet mignon, cocktails courtesy of **Lockton Compensation Practice**, and wine from **Cooper's Hawk**.

Funds raised support Friends' Educational, Emotional and Recreational programs allowing us

to expand our art therapy and counseling programs specifically designed to help our kids and their siblings deal with and express a myriad of difficult emotions throughout their cancer journey.



"I'm basically speechless. I can not even begin to tell you how much love and commitment for kids

that I see here!" (Jeff Collier, patient father - with son, Jake)

Special thanks to the members of our non-stop Golf Committees – to our Golf Chairs, **Rick Lommel**, **Bob Nuelle**, and **Matt Biffignani** – and to Auction Chair, **Tracie Ehlert**.

Finally, a warm thank you to all of our players – for their love, passion, and support. Thanks to you, Friends of Kids with Cancer is able to provide something that medicine alone cannot, programs that build self-esteem and improve the quality of life for our kids, and their families.

Mark your calendars: **21st Annual Golf Tournament on May 20, 2019**. Take a swing at cancer and help kids with cancer... be kids!

SPECIAL EVENTS



18th ANNUAL "WALK WITH A FRIEND" 5K RUN | 1 MILE WALK

June 30th proved to be one of the hottest days we've had all summer, but that didn't stop our loyal community of "Friends" supporters from attending our **18th Annual "Walk with a Friend" 5K Run | 1 Mile Walk**. Whether you were an experienced runner or a first-timer, participants of all ages rallied together to raise money and awareness for our special families in need. This year's planning committee embraced every challenge with ease and did a remarkable job rejuvenating an event we have all grown to love.

Santa Needs Help provided exotic animals and parking lot train rides making the kids squeal and giggle with delight. The adjustment in venue was probably the most noticeable change to the overall event.



*"Westminster Christian Academy is beautiful and allowed for over 1,000 guests to enjoy a morning filled with delicious breakfast compliments of **First Watch**, games for the kids, prizes, and so much more!" (Mary McKee, FOKWC Communication Specialist)*

The facilities team and students of Westminster assisted **Big River Running Company** with getting the campus and course ready for a

safe and fun race while **Town and Country Police** and 40+ helpful volunteers ensured the walkers and runners would have plenty of water along the route.

We would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU" to our Corporate Sponsors for underwriting the major costs associated with the

walk/ run: **Captiva, Dirxion, C.H. Robinson, PlanCorp, and Midwest Elevator.**

These past eighteen wonderful years have held some of our fondest memories and we look forward to the next eighteen!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



ANITA HIGGINBOTHAM... QUIETLY "AWESOME!"

Volunteers are an invaluable resource to Friends of Kids with Cancer because of the various roles they are able to play. Lucky for us, **Anita Higginbotham** is willing to help with whatever we throw her way! Most weeks you can find her quietly typing on a computer in the Friends' office, hard at work entering information into our database. While it's not always the easiest task, Anita shows up to help with no questions asked! Her data entry

keeps our mailing list up to date and our records current so that our wonderful donors can be properly thanked.

"I've volunteered at many children related foundations, and I've seen up close the impact of hardships on kids. They are scared, strong and anxious, and a lot of times they aren't able to do things for themselves. The little things and the big things mean a lot to them, and it's easy and FUN for me

to do it for them. It makes me feel good knowing I can help the kids." (Anita)

Anita is also a key player on our Walk committee as well as a generous supporter of our other events and programs. She shares her time and resources with a gracious and humble heart, and we truly appreciate all her hard work, dedication and compassion.

HONORARY & MEMORIAL DONATIONS

HONORARY DONATIONS : (January - June 2018)

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We strive for accuracy and your donation is very important to us. If any of the listed names contain errors, please call our office at 314.275.7440 so we can correct our records. THANK YOU for your support of Friends of Kids with Cancer!

Please Join Us in Celebrating the 9th Annual

**ART FROM THE
HEART**

Thursday, September 13th at 5:30pm

- ♥ A wonderful evening of wine and art
- ♥ 100% collected benefits FOKWC
- ♥ Bid on over 60 pieces of children's artwork created by our Art Therapy patients
- ♥ Taste delectable bites from St. Louis' best

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT: WWW.FRIENDSOFKIDS.ORG

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2018 EVENTS

AUG	18	BLACK SHEEP GOLF TOURNAMENT FOREST PARK GOLF COURSE	OCT	13	COPE PLASTICS INC. 12TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING BELL PARK- WOOD RIVER, IL
SEPT	13	ART FROM THE HEART MUNGENAST LEXUS OF ST. LOUIS	NOV	08	FASHION SHOW & BOUTIQUE RITZ-CARLTON ST. LOUIS
OCT		WINTER COAT DRIVE Help Our Kids & Their Siblings Stay Warm This Winter! Stay Tuned For Dates & Donation Requests	NOV	27	#GIVING TUESDAY Give Back to Your Favorite Chairty This Giving Season! www.friendsofkids.org/donate.html
OCT	1-7	WEST COUNTY RESTAURANT WEEK Each participating restaurant will offer a three course prix-fixe dinner and \$5 of each meal will go directly back to FOKWC!	DEC	15	12 BARS OF CHARITY DOWNTOWN ST. LOUIS

*Please check www.friendsofkids.org or call our office at 314.275.7440 for regular updates regarding upcoming fundraisers, Third Party Events, promotions, and more!