

Take a (lemonade) Stand Against Childhood Cancer

Each year, around 1,700,000 people are diagnosed with cancer. According to the American Childhood Cancer Organization, 300,000 of those people are children below the age of 19. These children are forced to go to chemotherapy and radiation instead of going to school. Most have even had an extremely risky surgery by the time they are 10.

Childhood cancer is completely overlooked by the media. In fact, less than 4 percent of the National Cancer Institute's annual budget goes towards childhood cancer research. According to the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation, it is about \$40,000 a night for a child with cancer to stay in a hospital. As well as a tragedy to the families affected, it is also a huge financial burden.

According to the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation, cancer is the number one cause of death by disease among children. With more funding, some of these children could have received better or more treatments, perhaps saving their lives. For families with low income, it is difficult to keep up with medical expenses.

Although there are many childhood cancer research organizations, the media very rarely mentions any. For something so serious, the media should expose more information about it. This will then further donations and fundraising allowing for more research to be done.

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) is a not-for-profit organization that raises money for childhood cancer research. It was started by a four-year-old, Alex Scott, who wanted to help find a cure for the disease that tremendously impacted her life, eventually leading to her death.

ALSF has been extremely successful. In fact, it has fundraised around \$150 million dollars within 15 years since it was started. Many childhood cancer stories have been shared within the organizations community.

Cancer-affected families are the main people who will host the lemonade stands because they have been personally affected by the disease. However, it is time that more of us took a stand against childhood cancer. It is time that we all stand together and realize that these children are being deprived of their lives that haven't even began yet.

With help from everyone, we can make childhood cancer a more noticeable problem to the media. By coming together, we can help raise money that will be used to further help financially unstable families as well as fund research.

It is up to you to take a stand against childhood cancer. Whether this is by a donation or hosting your own lemonade stand, each way is just as impactful as the next.