



In 2016, an old friend and classmate of mine lost a lifelong battle with cancer. We attended preschool and elementary school together, went to countless birthday parties, and participated in the same girl scout troop. She was an amazing artist from a young age, and when she got older she tried her hand at acting. She was a beautiful human and a beautiful soul.

She was diagnosed with bone cancer when we were in fourth grade. I can still remember the bump on her knee. I think we were about nine years old because she was diagnosed not too long after my grandmother passed from ovarian cancer. She started chemo, shaved her hair, and wore bandanas just like my grandma. She came to school when she could. Looking back it was pretty remarkable how her experience taught a group of obnoxious nine-year-olds to put their differences aside, even for brief moments, to support a friend.

Over the years she had several re-diagnoses and remissions until she passed at the age of twenty-five. We reconnected a few times as young adults, and I am very grateful for those moments now. Her passing hurt in a different way. Of course it's different when the person you lose is so young, but more than that, I had always thought of her as unbeatable. I took advantage of the fact that she would always come out stronger on the other end of cancer. I never thought it would actually take her so soon.



THE LLS CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE

CURES AND CARE FOR CHILDREN

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is taking on children's cancer from every direction, disrupting the status quo with our bold vision for young patients – to not only survive their cancer, but thrive in their lives after treatment.


\$50 MILLION
MULTI-YEAR
ENDEAVOR


40%
OF PEDIATRIC CANCERS
ARE BLOOD CANCERS


APPROXIMATELY
80%
OF CHILDHOOD
CANCER SURVIVORS
develop one or more
chronic health
conditions as a result
of their treatment


ONLY
4
ONCOLOGY DRUGS
have been approved
for first use in children
in 40 years

RESEARCH
INVESTING IN BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH

LLS IS COMMITTING
\$25 MILLION
to new grants to support childhood cancer
research over the next five years.
LLS has a long history of supporting some of the
most impactful research to advance lifesaving
therapies for children with blood cancers.

PATIENT EDUCATION & SUPPORT

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT FOR
PATIENTS, PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS
LLS believes no one should have to face cancer
alone. We are expanding our robust array of
support, education and financial services for
young patients and their families.



POLICY & ADVOCACY

We are driving policies to advance research for
childhood cancers and breaking down barriers
to treatments and care.



**MORE THAN
100,000**

VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES

join our Office of Public Policy in advocating for
policy changes at the state and federal level.

OUR MASTER CLINICAL TRIAL - LLS PedAL

LLS is leading a global precision medicine
clinical trial to test multiple targeted therapies for
children and young adults with acute leukemia.

LLS PedAL will align scientific, medical,
corporate and regulatory partners to test
multiple targeted therapies simultaneously at up to

200

CLINICAL SITES IN THE UNITED STATES
& AROUND THE WORLD.

For more information
on the LLS Children's
Initiative, visit www.LLS.org/childrens-initiative

The [LLS Children's Initiative](#) is a multi-year collaboration with a goal of raising \$100 million dedicated to advances in pediatric blood cancer treatment and services. A staggering **40% of pediatric cancers are blood cancers**, and approximately 80% of pediatric cancer survivors develop one or more chronic health conditions as a side effect of their cancer treatment. But only four oncology drugs have been approved for first use in children in the past forty years.

If you'd like to support the LLS Children's Initiative, I invite you to donate to my campaign for the [The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Man & Woman of the Year Competition](#). **My team, the Sgt. Bobby's Full-of-Hearts Club Band, is on a mission to raise \$81,000 USD by June 18th**. Every dollar donated counts as one vote for Sgt. Bobby's.

DONATE HERE:

<https://pages.lls.org/mwoy/calso/los21/clewis>

Thank you for joining us in this fight against cancer.

EVERYONE WINS WHEN CANCER LOSES

With Love and Light,
Casey and the Sgt. Bobby's Full of Hearts Club Band

