



# Equitable Access to Care is Crucial

## to Improving Outcomes for Pediatric Cancer Patients



**For 43+ years, Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation has worked tirelessly to accelerate the development of more effective, less toxic therapies for childhood cancers. With the help of our generous donors, we have invested more than \$61 million into scientific breakthroughs that have not only saved lives but also improved patients' quality of life.**

Despite the progress that has been made, there are multiple factors that affect a child's ability to beat their disease. Around 400,000 children worldwide develop cancer each year, but only half are ever diagnosed. While 80% of children with cancer from higher-income regions are cured, that number drops to less than 30% for children from lower-income regions. Factors such as socioeconomic status and geographic location often limit patients' access to resources.

In 2017, while living and working in California, Dr. Ashley Plant-Fox began refining ideas for a new immunotherapy treatment for diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, a devastating form of pediatric brain cancer. In 2022, with Foundation funding, she began enrolling patients for her trial. By that time, however, Dr. Plant-Fox had relocated to Illinois, meaning that many of the families who had supported her pre-trial research would have to travel cross-country to participate in the trial. Some might not be able to participate at all.

Fortunately, a grant from Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation helped Dr. Plant-Fox expand the scope of her trial, making it available to families at multiple sites, including Illinois, California, Massachusetts and even Canada. This allowed many more patients to participate, providing Dr. Plant-Fox with a wealth of useful trial data while also ensuring children with cancers were able to get the treatment they needed.

### **A Strategic Approach to Ensure Every Child with Cancer Gets the Treatment They Need**

Socioeconomic status and geographic location aren't the only factors affecting access to care for pediatric cancer patients. Studies show these inequities are further exacerbated by differences in age, race and ethnicity. Healthcare inequity is a complex issue, but also a crucial one that needs to be addressed if we are to achieve our vision of making it possible for all childhood cancer patients to beat their disease and enjoy a happy, healthy future.



*powering cures, realizing futures*

In order for us to achieve our vision, equitable care is at the forefront of our strategic initiatives designed to help us address disparities based on race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, and geographic location, ensuring that all children have equitable access to childhood cancer research, treatment and care.



# Strategic Initiatives

How Your Donations Expand Access to Pediatric Cancer Treatment



## Clinical Trials

Prioritize and expand support for clinical trials that specifically target diverse populations and underrepresented communities.



## Technology and AI Sector

Support efforts to leverage AI by utilizing predictive models that advance pediatric cancer care through personalized treatments, improve outcomes and expand access to innovative therapies.



## Access to Care

Increase patient enrollment in clinical trials on a local, national and global level. Provide financial support for families who need to travel in order to access clinical trials, experimental therapeutics or treatment innovations not currently available at their local hospitals.



## Survivor Scholarship Program

Fund the next generation of data analysts, oncologists, researchers and nurses while empowering childhood cancer survivors to pursue a happy, healthy, productive future.

## Help Us Achieve Our Goal of Providing Equitable Care to All Pediatric Cancer Patients

No child with cancer should ever be deprived of the care they need for any reason, least of all because of their race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status or geographic location. Expanding access to equitable care requires hard work, meticulous planning and, most importantly, community support.

That's why Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation is embarking on its most ambitious fundraising effort to date. We're seeking to raise \$25 million over the next five years to fund our strategic initiatives to ensure equitable care for childhood cancer patients across the US. Are you ready to join us in building a brighter future where no child gets left behind? Together, we can make a brighter future for children and families faced with pediatric cancer.