


CHILDREN'S
CANCER FUND OF NM

2021 Annual Report



Our Mission:

Established in 1972, the Children's Cancer Fund of New Mexico exists to help New Mexico's children with cancer and their families cope with the day-to-day financial, educational and emotional needs of living with and fighting cancer.



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Childhood Cancer Statistics

Childhood cancer remains the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. Every day, 42 children are diagnosed with cancer and the average age of diagnosis is six. Cancer affects all ethnic, gender, and socio-economic groups and more than 40,000 children undergo treatment for cancer each year. In 2021, forty-eight children were diagnosed with cancer in New Mexico.

The causes of childhood cancers are largely unknown, and for the most part they cannot be prevented. A few conditions, such as Down syndrome, other specific chromosomal and genetic abnormalities, and ionizing radiation exposures, explain a small percentage of cases. Children with AIDS have an increased risk of developing certain cancers, predominantly Non-Hodgkin lymphoma and Kaposi sarcoma.



60% of children who survive suffer devastating late effects such as secondary cancers, muscular difficulties, and infertility.

There are approximately 375,000 adult survivors of children's cancer in the United States.

In the last 40 years, the overall survival rate for children's cancer has increased from 10% to nearly 90%, but for many more rare childhood cancers, the survival rate is much less.

12% of children who are diagnosed with cancer do not survive.

Children's Cancer Fund of New Mexico History

In 2021, forty-eight children in New Mexico were diagnosed with cancer. They suffer painful procedures and distressing side effects. Many treatments last for years, putting terrible emotional and financial burdens on these children and their families. Sadly, not all children survive their cancer journey. In 2021, seven children died as a result of their cancer.

Established in 1972, Children's Cancer Fund of New Mexico (CCFNM) helps to ease these burdens. Local and independent, CCFNM is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization, that depends on donor dollars to provide essential services for these children and their families.

CCFNM works directly with the Pediatric Oncology clinic providers to stay in touch with the day-to-day needs of both patients and families. CCFNM provides toys, art supplies, movies, games and other items to the playroom at University of New Mexico Children's Hospital to make clinic visits more tolerable. Snack closets are also maintained by CCFNM providing nourishment to children while recuperating from early morning treatments and to families whose children are hospitalized for long periods of time. CCFNM maintains a direct presence with an office located at University of New Mexico Children's Hospital, offering hands-on financial and emotional support to families. CCFNM offers individual counseling services to children and their families at no cost to them.



Erin's Place

Albuquerque is the only location of pediatric oncology care in the State of New Mexico. Some children being treated for childhood cancer must travel several hours to and from Albuquerque for their medical care. Different treatment protocols and reactions to medication may require that some families temporarily relocate to Albuquerque for their child to receive the medical care they need. Sadly, not every child's disease is responsive to treatment and requires end of life care where pain and symptoms need to be managed. The only pediatric hospice program in New Mexico is also located in Albuquerque and only serves families living within an approximate 50-mile radius. This makes it necessary for families to decide whether their child remains in the hospital to die or to take them home, where specialized pediatric hospice care is not available. In addition to managing pain and symptoms, hospice also offers critical emotional and spiritual support, providing respite care and supporting the family through bereavement.

Our mission is to provide a home away from home for children to receive pediatric hospice care when it is not available in their hometowns. At Erin's Place a child will receive end of life care in a peaceful atmosphere where they can spend the end of their life as fully and with as much dignity as possible. Erin's Place may also serve as a temporary home for families whose children are required to stay in Albuquerque for extended periods of time because of their treatment protocols and their state of health.

Number of Families Housed in Erin's Place: 14



Programs and Services

The Problem:

As soon as most families absorb the reality of a childhood cancer diagnosis, their attention turns quickly to the issue of what treatment will cost and what impact that cost will have on family finances.

The major expenses of a cancer diagnosis and treatment are associated with direct costs of medical care: that is, the charges for hospitalizations, clinic visits, tests and procedures, medications, services of physicians and other professionals, and various types of treatment, surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, and/or stem cell and bone marrow transplants.

Families also face many indirect costs, or out-of-pocket expenses when a child has cancer. These expenses can be for travel, gas, parking, lodging, meals during clinic visits and hospital stays, extra child care costs for siblings or the patient, special foods and nutritional supplements, wigs, and other special equipment.

Additionally, a child's treatment plan can cause parents to lose time at work and, in some instances, salary. It can even necessitate one parent having to quit their job, or take an extended leave of absence. Costs increase as treatment is extended, or if there are complications with treatment.

The diagnosis, treatment and late effects of cancer can cause great emotional strain on those children diagnosed as well as their families. Counseling costs are oftentimes unaffordable even for co-payments. The mental well-being of these children is important to their physical health.



The Solution:

The Children's Cancer Fund of New Mexico helps families with these issues by providing the following programs and services:

- Education and information about childhood cancer including treatment and support options provided in the form of a parent handbook.
- Assistance for transportation costs to and from the clinic in the form of gas and transportation vouchers.
- Food and grocery vouchers to help parents feed their families during lengthy appointments and prolonged stays away from home.
- Prizes for children to help minimize the trauma of painful procedures such as spinal-taps, bone marrow biopsies, chemotherapy treatments and prolonged hospital stays.
- Scholarship assistance to students who have undergone treatment for childhood cancer in New Mexico and wish to continue their education beyond high school.
- Mutual support through educational conferences, social activities and support groups.
- Individual counseling for children, their siblings and their parents.
- Funeral assistance to families in need.

CCFNM 2021 Highlights



July 2021: CNM Security hosted a July summer night drive-in movie well stocked with popcorn and candy. Families were able to enjoy a showing of Coco under the stars. Along with the movie, AFD Firefighters and CNM Fire Science Program presented their fire trucks and allowed kids to climb in, explore and hang out with the crew.

August 2021: Ms. Shunnae Love, owner of Flower Loop, hosted a “Flower Power” Boot camp for all our aspiring florists. Love instructed her students on how to assemble an arrangement, what their birth flower is, and how flowers help us!



September 2021: September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. During the month, CCFNM sent families to the zoo and worked with the UNM Women’s Soccer and Football Team to raise awareness. During the soccer match, the team partnered with the Davis family and raised funds for CCFNM. The month was wrapped up with a football game. Families enjoyed a tailgate and cheered on the lobos. During both games, patients were invited on the field for a moment of recognition and awareness—along with a win from both teams! Be Bold, Go Gold!

October 2021: UNM Athletics continued to show support to CCFNM by allowing us to host a Halloween Party for families at the football stadium in October. Over 25 families dressed up for an afternoon with jumpers, treats, pumpkin painting, and a show by Science Girl.

Also, during the month of October, a private donor sent families to McCall’s Pumpkin patch where they were able to pick a pumpkin and spend the day on the farm.

We see over 200 families a year from all over New Mexico! This year to spread extra Holiday Cheer we offered tickets to River of Lights or funds they could use for an event in the family’s community during the month of December.



Photos top to bottom: Flower Day group, Nery and Louie Lobo, Caden at McCalls

Children's Cancer Fund of New Mexico

Revenue versus Expenses

For Year Ended December 31, 2021 (audited)

Total Income for 2021: \$815,085

Total Expenses for 2021: \$748,607

Net Income: \$66,478

