

Ohio Lions Pediatric Cancer Foundation (OLPCF)

Report F7



The OLPCF grew out of the STEPS walks, which were proposed in October 2015 at the RLLI 3 and first implemented in the Fall of 2017. While the walks were successful that first year, there was a problem in the area of fundraising – without a 501(c)3 tax exempt status, districts were limited as to who they could solicit donations from. (OH5 solved that problem by working through the Reynoldsburg Lions Charitable Fund, which is tax exempt.) Expanded service opportunities were also considered as a necessity. By the end of Fall 2018, after another successful walk, it was decided to create a tax exempt foundation that met the requirements that we had not considered before. A year later, in the Fall of 2019, the IRS recognized the Ohio Lions Pediatric Cancer Foundation as a 501(c)3 organization, and LCI adapted the logo.

The mission statement of the OLPCF is:

Mission Statement

To raise awareness of Pediatric Cancer as a devastating disease preventing our youth from leading full and productive lives; to assist in funding research to fight this disease, to provide a financial bridge between Lions and those organizations who serve the needs of pediatric cancer patients and their families, and to help families affected by pediatric cancer by meeting immediate qualifying needs.

While STEPS continues to exist, it has been redefined as not only walks, but any fundraiser that raises money for the cause of pediatric cancer. It has not been replaced by the OLPCF, but rather has been incorporated as a part of the bigger picture. STEPS remains a district event, and district STEPS committees have the ultimate word as to the disbursement of their events. Some district committees have made the decision to donate all their funds to the OLPCF. Others have a hybrid approach, donating some to OLPCF and the rest to various charities in their district. Finally, there are those such as OH5, whose committee elects to donate straight to Nationwide and Dayton Childrens Hospitals, which is a condition of the family whose son, Braxton Long, we use as our poster child and inspiration. Private and club donations to either the Super Braxton 5K and/or the Ohio Lions Pediatric Cancer Foundation are welcome.

Thanks to the generosity of private donations and STEPS walks from last year, **the OLPCF was able to provide its first grant, a \$25,000 matching grant**, to a program at Rainbow Babies in Cleveland, OH this past spring.

The OLPCF is starting a new incentive program this year. For a \$100 donation, a club can receive a banner patch signifying their support of the Foundation and the fight against pediatric cancer. For a \$500 donation, individuals or clubs can name a designee to receive a “Journey of Hope” Award. Two such donations have already been made in OH5, and their designees will be receiving the award at the district convention. More information will be distributed to the clubs, along with the designation paperwork, in the next couple of months. Any \$500+ donation made since the beginning of the OLPCF will result in the donor being retroactively provided the opportunity to name a designee. Any club

donating at least \$100 in the 2020-2021 Lions year will receive a banner patch. All donations can be sent to:

Ohio Lions Pediatric Cancer Foundation
c/o PDG John Davis, Treasurer
933 Thornapple Lane
Findlay, OH 45840

A brochure is available and has been attached with this report. Feel free to peruse, distribute, and if you have any questions about the OLPCF or what it can do for your club, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Finally – pediatric cancer is one of the five initiatives for LCI for the next 100 years for a reason. It is the #1 killer of children by disease in this country, and survivors face a life of complications caused not only by the cancer, but the treatments. There are over 100 forms of cancer under the umbrella of “pediatric cancer,” yet less than 4% of all money raised for cancer research goes to this cause.

We have two strong options for clubs to participate in: our SB5K and the OLPCF. While we are all too aware of the difficulties clubs are having this year due to COVID, we are asking for all clubs to consider adding one of these causes in their budgets.

Respectfully submitted,

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