

## Thinking of the future

Lions have the distinction of serving where there is a need and filling the gaps in worthy causes everywhere.

Since children's cancer is under funded in areas like research, treatment protocols, or after-effects, let's show our pride!

**We Serve!**



## HOW TO HELP

There are general ways for individuals and organizations to think about giving time or money, sometimes known as talent and treasure:

### DO SOMETHING TO HELP A PERSON OR CAREGIVERS

(Photo portrait, decorate a room, sponsor camping, provide sibling transportation, for example)

### TIME OR MONEY SUPPORT FOR HELPER ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

(Camp Rising Sun, Sunshine Kids, Connecticut Care Giver Alliance, for example)

### RAISE FUNDS FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH OR RESEARCHERS

(Alex's Lemonade Stand, St. Baldricks Fund, Childhood Cancer Research Fund, for example)

MD 23 LIONS DEN

Contact Lion Meredith Spector  
District 23B  
innspect2@gmail.com  
203-297-4490

## CHILDHOOD CANCER BASICS for Lions and Leos





Zach Sobiech died of osteosarcoma after his song "Clouds" became a legacy of hope for childhood cancer.

## STATISTICS

Each year in the United States, approximately 14 thousand children and adolescents younger than 20 years of age are diagnosed with cancer. Cancer is the most common cause of disease related death in the US for adolescents, approximately 2500 a year.

## INCIDENCE

Rates are higher at age 0-4 years and 15-19 years than at ages 5-9 and 10-14 years; therefore, differences in the age structure of the population by town would affect cancer rates. Ethnicity and socio-economic group also have a contribution to incidence, as well as other factors.

## GENDER REPRESENTATION

Males more than females are affected. In CT in 2000-2005 males accounted for 138 cases of leukemia, while females had 105.

## Major Childhood Cancer Types

### LEUKEMIA

Leukemia is cancer of the blood. It is the most prevalent form, accounting for approximately one third of childhood cancers. A prevalent form is called Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, or ALL.

### LYMPHOMA

Lymphoma is cancer of the immune system and lymph nodes.

### SOLID TUMORS

Solid Tumors include cancer of the bone, organs, or tissues. Retinoblastoma is one of these types and occurs in the retina of a child's eye and most often affects kids who are under 6 years old. Osteosarcoma, or bone cancer, is more prevalent in teens.

## Overall Trends

While the incidence rates for some forms of childhood cancer have increased since the mid-1970s, death rates have declined dramatically for most childhood cancers and survival rates have improved markedly since the 1970's.

The principal reason for the gain in lifespan for total childhood cancer is due to the improvement in the survival of leukemia, especially acute lymphocytic leukemia, which includes about a third of the pediatric cases. This is due primarily to improvements resulting from more efficacious chemotherapy agents.

**Giving time or money is usually the answer to 'How can I help?'**

With help from Lions and Leos, we can improve life quality, treatment options, and expectations for a cure for childhood cancer and after effects .

