

THE 2023 MILLION MILE Impact Report





How far will you go for kids with cancer?





Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) emerged from the front yard lemonade stand of 4-year-old Alexandra "Alex" Scott, who was fighting cancer and wanted to raise money to find cures for all children with cancer. Her spirit and determination inspired others to support her cause, and when she passed away at the age of 8, she had raised \$1 million. Since then, the Foundation bearing her name has evolved into a national fundraising movement and is the largest independent childhood cancer charity in the United States.



A Million Mile kick-off event in New York City, 2013

Dear Million Milers,

For more than a decade, supporters like you first came together to log miles and move mountains for kids with cancer. What started as a challenge between friends to see who could log the most miles became an opportunity to raise awareness and inspire others to make donations for childhood cancer. Fast forward 11 years, and The Million Mile has shown us just how far people will go for kids with cancer, raising more than \$2.4 million for childhood cancer research this year alone – that’s a grand total of more than \$15 million over the years.

A lot of people ask, “How can going a million miles cure childhood cancer?” It’s not the miles curing cancer, but the awareness built by every mile you log that leads others to care about this cause and pitch in their dollars. The Million Mile is driven by thousands of people like you logging their miles each day and gathering donations. When it all comes together, it adds up to a massive difference for these kids.

The power of your participation during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month helps fund new therapy options for kids with cancer, makes treatment more accessible through the Travel For Care program, supports innovative research opportunities through our Childhood Cancer Data Lab, and works toward collaboratively curing the incurable through the Crazy 8 Initiative.

You inspire us to keep going and keep making amazing things possible for kids with cancer like moving a million miles and raising millions of dollars in just one month. Thank you for going the distance for kids with cancer once again.

Gratefully,

Liz & Jay Scott
Alex’s Parents/Co-Executive Directors
of Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation



Why We Go One Million Miles



Your Miles = Awareness

Every mile you log brings more awareness to the thousands of kids fighting childhood cancer.

That Awareness = Dollars for Research



Your miles fuel donations from others and add up to fill critical funding gaps to help these kids.



Research = More Treatments and Cures for Kids

Donations to The Million Mile over the years have fueled discoveries that have turned into safer, more effective treatment options. We know that with each million we go, one day, all kids will have access to cures.



With Your Help

The results are in — The 2023 Million Mile was a success!



21,249

participants



1,150,020

miles moved



\$2,458,282

raised for critical
childhood cancer research





Where The Money Goes

Every dollar you raise during The Million Mile allows researchers like Dr. Jesse Berry to continue working toward the next big breakthrough.

Dr. Berry spends a lot of time in surgery and thinking about surgery. She works with children who have retinoblastoma, a cancer of the eye. You cannot biopsy the eye, and without the valuable information a biopsy provides, ocular oncologists are operating in the dark.

“As a surgeon, it is frustrating that I cannot know which eye will do well and which will not,” said Dr. Berry.

Now, Dr. Berry is aiming to channel that frustration into a solution. With her Reach Grant from ALSF, Dr. Berry is studying how a biopsy of the aqueous humor – the clear solution that surrounds the eye – could lead to improved diagnostics, more robust tumor profiling, better treatments, and more cures for kids.

This award is designed to bring new treatments to kids by helping researchers turn discoveries into new therapies and then ultimately bring them to the clinic.

Dr. Berry’s project *Identification of Aberrantly Methylated Differentially Expressed Genes to Distinguish High- vs. Low-Risk Retinoblastoma* also aims to identify the genetic drivers of retinoblastoma that could be targeted with precision medicine. Her lab’s work will add to the childhood cancer knowledge base – which benefits all scientists that are searching for cures for kids with cancer.

“My hope is that, with our research, we will have a key to how liquid biopsies can benefit all types of childhood cancer research,” said Berry.

In addition to funding Dr. Berry, ALSF awarded four additional Reach Grants as well as 13 Young Investigator Grants to early career researchers.

Young Investigator Grants are designed to fill the critical need for startup funds for less-experienced researchers to pursue promising research ideas. These grants cultivate and support the next generation of researchers to help solve childhood cancer.

ALSF research grants have the power to do this: support discoveries at all stages so that we are constantly building a pipeline of potential new cures.

Team Spotlight



Pugs on the Move

Leonor loves pugs. They are her absolute favorite type of dog because under their adorable “smooshed” faces they often struggle with medical issues, and still, they manage to be happy. That’s why Leonor’s Million Mile team decided to go by the name, Pugs on The Move 2023.

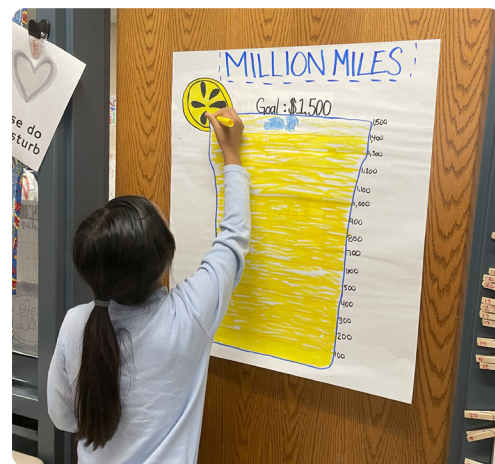
In the fall of 2020, Leonor fell during recess and injured her lower leg. Although her pediatrician found nothing awry at first, she referred them to an orthopedic practice. Through X-rays, an MRI, and a biopsy, they discovered a tumor and Leonor was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma.

Between surgery, chemotherapy, and a global pandemic, the road to becoming cancer-free was a difficult one, but one of Leonor’s greatest fears was that her friends would all forget about her. Thankfully, they proved her wrong. Their community and school rallied together to support Leonor and her family as much as possible, whether she was in the classroom or away during treatment.

Leonor’s teacher organized a project-based learning unit for their class to make the most of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month through The Million Mile. From learning about what ALSF does for kids with cancer to holding a walk-a-thon and logging miles, team Pugs on The Move 2023 was ready to go the distance for kids with cancer.

The students practiced their math skills creating timelines and price points for their event, wrote letters to persuade a DJ to volunteer with the school, and took on jobs during the walk-a-thon to ensure that everything ran smoothly. They even held their own lemonade stand to raise additional funds and sold friendship bracelets to students and teachers.

By the end of September, Pugs on The Move 2023 moved 450 miles and raised \$4,558! Today, Leonor is two years cancer-free, but lasting side effects and the fear of relapse continue to impact her daily life. Still, their family is grateful to have opportunities to raise awareness and funds to help families like theirs, and with the support of their community, Leonor’s family feels empowered to remain on the move toward a brighter future for all kids with cancer.





Sarosiek Lab



The Sarosiek Laboratory at Harvard Public Health has one goal: improve the lives of children diagnosed with blood cancers or solid tumors by developing safer and more effective treatments. During the month of September their commitment to this goal goes beyond the lab, as they raise money for researchers like them to continue doing their critical work by participating in The Million Mile.

For nearly 10 years, Kristopher Sarosiek, PhD, and his team have been going the distance for kids with cancer. **This year, their lab exceeded their goals by raising \$121,477 and moving 110,849 miles.** With the help of more than 600 friends in their “Alex’s Million Miles Challenge Club” on the Strava app, Dr. Sarosiek and his lab rally serious cyclists as well as ironman and ironwomen athletes to log miles alongside friends and members of the lab.

The Sarosiek Lab collects donations by reaching out to friends, family members, and anyone who understands the urgent need to improve the lives of children with cancer. They even held a half-marathon event, spanning from kids to adults running 1.5-mile loops with lots of lemonade and snacks to keep them energized.

Their greatest motivation of all was the work they do every day. Dr. Sarosiek and his lab’s main focus is improving the lives of kids with cancer by modulating cell death pathways with a unique approach. They simultaneously study cancer cells and healthy tissues to develop treatment strategies that can enhance the sensitivity of tumors to existing and new therapies while also reducing the sensitivity of healthy cells. Although chemotherapy and radiation therapy can be effective in many cases, these therapies aim at being less toxic to cure kids without causing lifelong side effects.

Since 2016, The Sarosiek Lab has raised more than \$538,600 for pediatric cancer research. Whether they are in the lab or hitting the pavement, the team at Sarosiek Lab are determined to help kids with cancer and their families to live better lives.

Hopkins March Against Brain and Eye Tumors – The Teddy Bear Relay

Libby was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) in October of 2018, but with the help of her family – and two teddy bears – Libby was never alone during her treatment. Her bears, Mr. Teds and Ms. Snow, saw her through surgery and chemotherapy until 2019. Sadly, Libby passed away at the age of 14.

Now, her parents and her teddy bears have found a way to carry on her legacy with The Million Mile. Each year, their family holds a relay race to get people moving. The idea: have people carry a bear with a mile tracker around a circuit in 15-minute slots, passing the bears in the opposite direction as they go.

Turns out that Mr. Teds and Ms. Snow can be quite competitive – each moving 35-40 miles every year! Libby’s family’s fundraising efforts didn’t stop there. After 2019, they started their own foundation called Lace ‘Em Up for Libby which holds the Teddy Bear Relay and donates the proceeds to ALSF. Their focus is to donate to the research team at Johns Hopkins who have some of Libby’s cancer cells.

Because Libby had an abnormal path of DIPG that metastasized throughout her body, the cells are now at many research facilities around the world to help researchers try to find cures for kids like Libby.



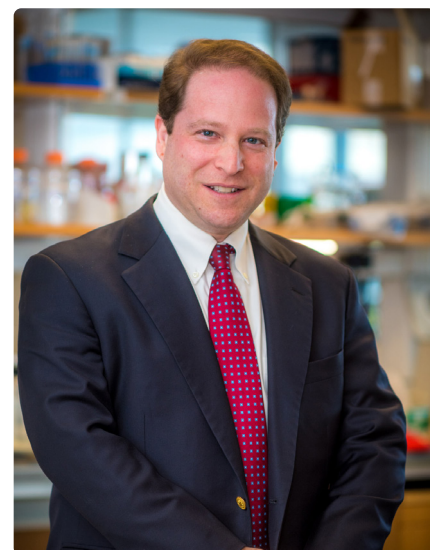
Walensky Lab

Dr. Loren Walensky received his first Innovation Grant from ALSF in 2013. His team focused on reactivating apoptosis in refractory pediatric cancer by molecular inhibition of MCL-1 at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts.

The following year, Dr. Walensky decided to take his efforts out of the lab to make an even greater impact on kids with cancer by joining The Million Mile. During the day, a multidisciplinary group of young scientists training in his lab focused on dissecting and targeting certain pathways that cause treatment resistance in pediatric cancer. After work, they’d lace up their sneakers and take even more steps towards a cure.

Ever since, The Walensky Lab has committed themselves to amplifying their impact during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month by funding crucial research – just like the work they do every day of the year. In 2023, their team decided to go farther for kids with cancer than ever before, raising \$222,704 for childhood cancer research and moving 399 miles in one single month.

Over the past 10 years, their team has worked hard to move a grand total of more than 4,000 miles and raise \$396,990. No matter where they are, Walensky Lab is determined to do one thing: make strides for kids with cancer!





Damico Family

Lisa Damico and ALSF go way back. Lisa first met Jay Scott, Alex’s dad, in 2001 when they worked for the same company. Since then, she and her family felt inspired to show their support for childhood cancer families – but it wasn’t until 10 years later that they really hit their stride with The Million Mile.

Since they were all living in different places, Lisa and her sisters were eager to work together despite their distance. Their team grew as the years went on, with friends and family joining in to have some fun while they fundraised.

Every few years, Lisa’s workplace will sponsor a team, and she’ll rally her family together under the corporate banner to optimize her impact with the help of her generous employer. Whether she’s holding lemonade stands at work or helping her nieces and nephews host their own, Lisa and the Damicos are committed to fighting childhood cancer one cup and one step at a time.

What began as a bit of fun between Lisa, her sisters, and their mom has become the union of four generations of family members moving together throughout the month of September. Even the babies put on their teeny tiny shoes to log miles! Lisa is glad that The Million Mile has taught the kids in her family that they have the power to make a difference.

This year, the Damicos raised \$482 for childhood cancer research!





@AlexsLemonade

Sharing Strides on Social Media

All September long ALSF supporters took to social media to share their strides with friends, family and followers. Here are a few proud participants who shared their shining moments.



Rik Zortman is the human etch-a-sketch and always impresses with his unique running routes.



Allie is a childhood cancer survivor who is fundraising and logging miles for all the kids still fighting.



Noelle ran the ALSF virtual half-marathon in the rain to honor all the kids who weather their own storms throughout treatment.



Amy and her family were taking strides for their team, 2023 Lubbock Pediatric Cancer Association: Cell Busters.



Maddie's Million Miles 2023 on their 190-mile journey from Binghamton, NY to the 1000 Island Bridge.



Sammi completed a 5K for Believe Team 2023 in memory of her older sister, Alex.



Over the Years

For 11 years, The Million Mile has been inspiring thousands of people to take strides towards a brighter future for all kids with cancer. Year after year, the Million Milers push themselves to the limit to prove that, together, we can make a lasting impact.



Since 2013,
The Million Mile has raised
more than \$15 million.

Together, we've moved
nearly 8 million miles.



Top Fundraising Teams in 2023

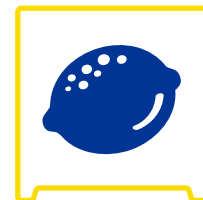
More than 1,700 teams participated in The Million Mile this year, but these teams went above and beyond to top the leaderboards by raising the most funds to make the greatest impact.

1. Walensky Running Buffers 2023
2. Nathan's Cancer Slayers 2023
3. #LoveforLucyAlways 2023
4. Sarosiek Lab Million Mile Challenge 2023
5. Hopkins Helping our Heroes 2023
6. Warriors for a Cure 2023
7. Theo Strong 2023
8. Kansas Catholic Schools Lemon Out Event 2023
9. Baltimore Brain Tumor Bashers 2023
10. Summer Strong MM 2023
11. Team Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome, WAGR Syndrome and SGBS Syndrome 2023
12. Lemon Divas & Dudes 2023
13. Sage Million Milers 2023
14. 2023 A Million for Alex and Carly!
15. Small but Mighty - Olivia's Team 2023
16. Hopkins March Against Brain And Eye Tumors
17. Maddie's Million Miles 2023
18. Stepping out for a Cure in Georgetown-2023
19. Abigail's Athletes 2023
20. Northwestern Mutual - NC 2023 Impact Day
21. Volvo Cars for Alex - Beasts of the Northeast
22. Team Madelynn 2023
23. Henry Strong
24. Avis Budget Group Philadelphia/Pittsburgh Local Market 2023
25. Superheroes Among Us (Awareness=Funding=Cures)

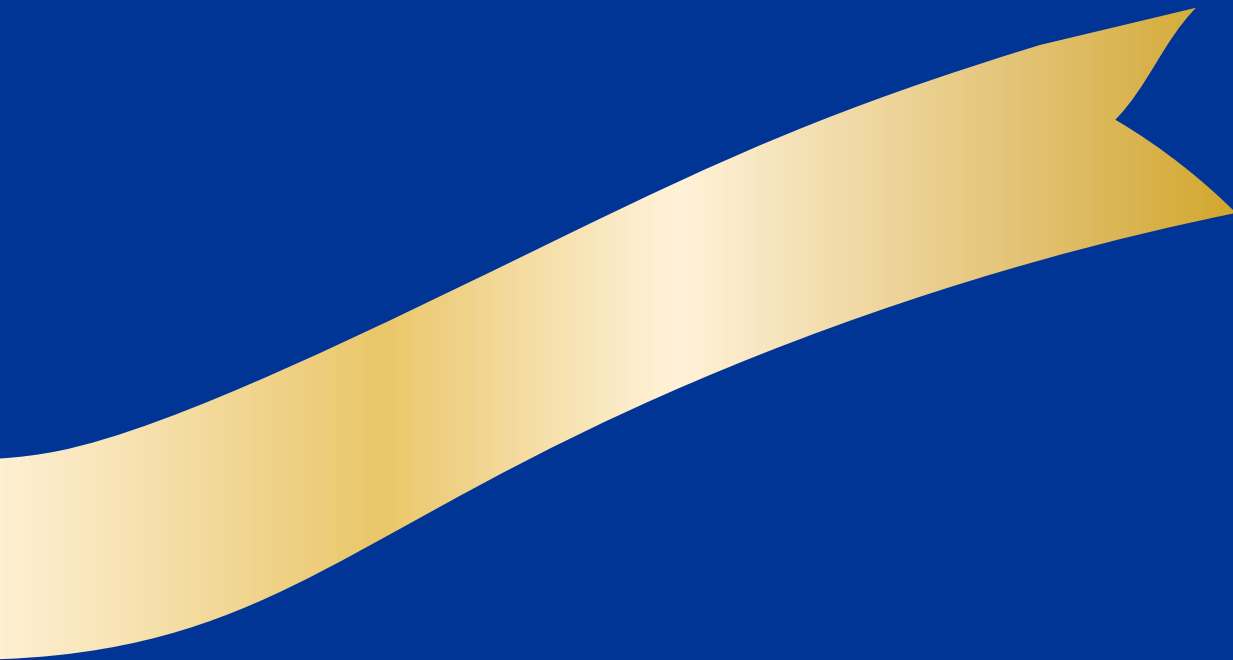




Thank You!



THE MILLION MILE



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