



REFERRAL TOOLKIT



Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) understands that childhood cancer affects the whole family, not only the child who receives the diagnosis. There are many established areas of support for patients and their caregivers but it is often forgotten that siblings need support during and after this challenging time.

When a family is thrown into the emotional turmoil of managing a child's cancer treatment, our goal is to provide siblings with courage and hope for the future.

What is SuperSibs?

- ★ Comfort & Care mailings to siblings
- ★ Special mailings after a patient's status changes
- ★ Support and guidance for parents
- ★ Resources for extended family, friends, and school professionals
- ★ Access to other support programs and opportunities







Who is eligible for Comfort & Care mailings?

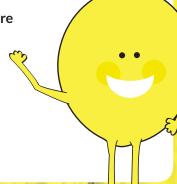
Any sibling between the ages 4-18, living in the U.S., with a brother or sister diagnosed with pediatric cancer.

Referring families to Comfort & Care is easy

All eligible families can be referred by visiting our website, **SuperSibs.org**. Applications for the Comfort & Care program can be submitted by the family or by their hospital representative.

Applicants will create an account on our secure online portal, where users can:

- ★ Submit the SuperSibs application
- **★** Track status of submitted applications
- ★ Communicate securely with ALSF staff
- **★** Update contact information



What to Expect - Comfort & Care Mailing Program

Over a two-year period, SuperSibs receive mailings that are age-appropriate and vetted by psychosocial support professionals. Each mailing is addressed directly to the SuperSib to recognize them as an individual.

Once enrolled, SuperSibs will receive a welcome kit that contains:

- ★ An age-appropriate book
- ★ Personalized SuperSibs certificate
- ★ Fun surprises like temporary tattoos and other novelties

Parents will receive an introductory email and toolkit outlining the program. The toolkit also offers tips for supporting siblings throughout this journey and suggestions to get the most out of SuperSibs. We recommend parents sit down with their SuperSibs when a mailing arrives and discuss the contents together.

Throughout the two year program, SuperSibs can expect:

- ★ Up to 8 mailings per year
 - Holiday and seasonal postcards with activities
 - Biannual workbooks with fun games and exercises to validate feelings, develop healthy coping skills, provide encouragement, and recognize each SuperSib's importance in their family
 - Birthday and milestone cards
 - Graduation plague and card at the completion of the program
- ★ Parent e-newsletters
- ★ Online worksheets and archive of past mailings at SuperSibs.org



Sibling Welcome Kit

"One day I received a letter in the mail with a necklace attached that said strength. The letter was from a SuperSib telling me that my experience was important too and that even though I was not sick, I also deserved to be taken care of." - Cara H., SuperSib



Birthday Card

We Need Your Help!

Our applications collect basic demographic information such as family contact information, patient name and diagnosis, hospital name and sibling(s) names and birthdates.

After submission, it is critical to keep account information accurate and up to date. We ask that you update the account with any changes such as mailing address and patient's status, so we can fully serve siblings and their families.

The Comfort & Care Program is a mailing program. We send USPS mail to SuperSibs, so correct and up-to-date information is essential for successful delivery. Please proofread applications for correct name spelling, accurate birthdates, email, and mailing address details.

Supporting Siblings Through Changes

When we are notified of changes in treatment status like completion of treatment, remission, relapse, or passed away, SuperSibs send special mailings to siblings. Please let us know of these changes in a timely manner so we can stay in touch with families.

We also have specialized bereavement mailings for SuperSibs to enhance coping and help commemorate their loved one. When we are notified of a patient's death, we will also send an accompanying parent package. All updates can be made by healthcare professionals or families. Please email SuperSibs@AlexsLemonade.org or call (866) 333-1213.

SuperSibs at School

ALSF has collaborated with school professionals, healthcare professionals, and families to develop the ALSF School Guide: Supporting Families and Classmates Affected by Childhood Cancer. This free guide, available as an eBook and in print, offers concise, practical tools on topics including:

- ★ Establishing effective communication between home, school, and healthcare professionals
- ★ Supporting siblings of childhood cancer patients
- ★ Easing transitions back to school
- ★ Navigating conversations with students in the classroom
- ★ Encouraging a positive atmosphere for the whole classroom
- ★ Helping classmates cope with grief and loss





SuperSibs Brendan and Tommy, with photo of Hero Declan

"When his brother, Declan, was in treatment, SuperSibs sent Brendan his own gifts that I believe will continue to mean more and more to him as he grows older and works through the grief of losing his big brother to cancer."

- Megan R., Parent of SuperSibs

"Something as simple as making the classroom more comfortable can make all the difference. One of my teachers did everything he could to surround me with positive energy and people. When you come in and feel totally separated from everyone and feel as if people do not understand you, it is nice to be physically close to someone who makes you feel loved."

- Cara, SuperSib (Sister, Caitlin, was diagnosed when Cara was in 8th grade)



SuperSib Gabriella with Hero Olivia



Additional ALSF Programs & Services

We invite you to communicate with SuperSibs as a partner in delivering psychosocial care. Beyond our sibling services, we have a team dedicated to serving the needs of families affected by childhood cancer. Contact us at any time to learn more about the ways in which we can work together.







ALSF's free **Treatment Journal** is an organizational solution for keeping treatment information in one place. Families can request their free copy through our secure portal, and healthcare professionals can request in bulk. Request copies in English and English/Spanish at AlexsLemonade.org/Childhood-Cancer-Treatment-Journal.



Our financial assistance program, **Travel For Care**, assists with the cost of getting patients to and from active oncology treatment. Applications must be submitted by healthcare professionals through our online portal. For more information and guidelines, visit AlexsLemonade.org/TravelForCare.



For families, the stories of other childhood cancer families can provide encouragement and inspiration. Our Childhood Cancer Stories page shares the incredible voices and experiences of Heroes and SuperSibs. Families can browse stories and submit their own by visiting AlexsLemonade.org/Stories.



Through the My Childhood Cancer: Survey Series, families can anonymously share their experiences and the impact of childhood cancer. Findings will be analyzed to identify commonalities and subsequent risk factors to families, as well as quantify unmet needs. This data will be used to develop programs to address identified areas. For more information, visit Alexslemonade.org/MyChildhoodCancer.

Email us anytime for promotional SuperSib flyers, postcards, and more for your department at SuperSibs@ AlexsLemonade.org!

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About SuperSibs Powered by ALSF

Melanie Goldish founded SuperSibs in 2002 after noticing firsthand the impact of childhood cancer on siblings and recognizing the importance of giving them support and compassion too. Later, in 2014, SuperSibs became a part of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF), a national nonprofit whose mission is to find cures for childhood cancer through funding innovative medical research and to support families throughout their journey.

About Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) emerged from the front yard lemonade stand of cancer patient Alexandra "Alex" Scott (1996-2004). In 2000, 4-year-old Alex announced that she wanted to hold a lemonade stand to raise money to help find a cure for all children with cancer. Since Alex held that first stand, the Foundation bearing her name has evolved into a national fundraising movement, complete with thousands of supporters across the country carrying on her legacy of hope. To date, ALSF, a registered 501(c)3 charity, has raised more than \$150 million toward fulfilling Alex's dream of finding a cure, funding nearly 1,000 pediatric cancer research projects nationally. In addition, ALSF provides support to families affected by childhood cancer through programs such as Travel for Care and SuperSibs. For more information on ALSF, visit AlexsLemonade.org.