



# CJ

Childhood cancer hero, Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, age 15

**When life gives you lemons, what do you do?**

“I make lemon cake and eat it.”



## Freshly Squeezed News



ALSF Founder Alex Scott

**Go Gold this September for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**

**Fall/Winter 2022**

# Sebastian

Childhood cancer hero, Neuroblastoma, age 3

**What makes you smile?**

“Sebastian loves to make people smile, that’s what makes him happy.”



# Fernanda

Childhood cancer hero, Wilms tumor, age 8

**If you had a time machine, where would you go?**

“I would return to my last vacation between my first cancer and my relapse: skiing in snow with my family for the first time in my life.”

# Olivia

Childhood cancer hero, Rhabdomyosarcoma, age 6

**What would you buy with a million dollars?**

“I would buy horses and ride them with my family in the forest and mountains. I would also go to the beach with my family.”

# How a Discovery Becomes a *Cure*

Childhood cancer research follows a long path from initial discovery to eventual approval for a new treatment. ALSF funds research at each stage of this process, from novel discoveries to clinical trials. **Every step of the way, donors like you accelerate progress for all kids with cancer.**

## Step 1: Building the Pediatric Cancer Pipeline

ALSF knows the importance of both funding projects and attracting the top talent to spearhead that work. The pediatric oncology student training program (POST) was designed to educate would-be researchers in undergraduate or medical school about childhood cancer. That pipeline extends to early career researchers too. The Young Investigator Grant lets scientists test a promising hypothesis through protected research time, providing a pivotal foothold for new researchers before they apply for future funding.

“The ALSF POST grant provided me with my first opportunity to engage in research devoted to improving childhood cancer outcomes while I was still a medical student...This experience confirmed my interest in the field of pediatric oncology as a future career.”

- Dr. Ding

**Dr. Leo Wang** was awarded a Young Investigator Grant in 2014 to study leukemia stem cells (LSCs). This essential building block of his early career provided the funding needed for him to develop a new technology that identifies ways to target and treat LSCs.



“Early career support for pediatric oncology physician-scientists is a critical lifeline during an incredibly vulnerable time in our careers...The support of ALSF has been and continues to be absolutely essential in making better therapies available faster for pediatric cancer patients.”

- Dr. Wang



**Dr. Yang Ding** first received a POST grant to study acute myeloid leukemia in a mentor's lab, and in 2020 she received a Young Investigator Award to conduct her own research into genes that may be susceptible to targeted treatments for kids with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

## Step 2: Basic Research

The building block for future discoveries, ALSF grants like the 'A' Award, R-Accelerated and Innovation are critical at this juncture. The 'A' Award is a mentored award that helps researchers build their career with a structured development program on their path to independent research into the mechanisms driving childhood cancers and new pathways to potential targeted treatments and cures. The Innovation Award lets both early career and established researchers apply, ensuring novel ideas that emerge during the research process aren't left behind.

Miss our exciting Crazy 8 Initiative announcement this summer?

Learn about two new cutting-edge projects at [Crazy8Projects.org!](https://Crazy8Projects.org)



## Step 3:

### Translating Research from the Lab to the Clinic

Once a promising potential therapy is identified, researchers need to go through rigorous testing to evaluate side effects, dosing and other considerations. This ensures the treatment is viable for eventual use in a clinical trial for kids. Funding through the ALSF Reach Grant supports this work, translating a discovery in the lab to a clinical trial at a hospital.



Dr. Brodeur

2019 Reach Grant recipient, **Dr. Garrett Brodeur** and Innovation Award recipient, **Dr. Michael Chorny**, were focused on trying to deliver treatment using nanomedicines to improve effectiveness and reduce toxicity for kids with neuroblastoma, and potentially other solid tumors. Their team used the funding to show they could deliver 50 times as much drug to the tumor, and “cure” tumors during testing that were resistant to the conventional treatment drug, irinotecan, and with less toxicity. This research is moving forward to a Phase I clinical trial.



“The last thing you ever want to worry about is money for gas, food and bills.”  
- Nikki, Preslie’s mom

**Preslie** may be little, but she is the bravest girl her family has ever known. At 2 years old, she developed a persistent limp and shortly after was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. She began a standard treatment protocol in Wisconsin, but this was a far drive for Preslie’s family – nearly five hours from their home in Michigan. **The gas card provided by ALSF’s Travel For Care program not only brought them relief, but the freedom to make the necessary trips for Preslie’s treatment.**

## Step 5: Drug Approval

After a Phase III trial concludes, the Federal Drug Administration evaluates the therapy for approval to use in kids. Once approved, children everywhere have access to a promising new treatment, all thanks to donors like you.

“We’re very grateful to ALSF for the funding that helps us be able to offer these kinds of studies to wonderful kids like Ben.”

- Dr. Stacey Berg, one of Ben’s doctors and Director of the Developmental Therapeutics Program at Texas Children’s Cancer Center

## Step 4: Clinical Trials

Before a new drug can be widely adopted, it must be tested in clinical trials to ensure it’s safe and effective. Phase I trials assess safety – looking at toxicity of drugs and maximum potential dosage. Phase II trials are larger and evaluate effectiveness while still closely monitoring safety. Lastly, Phase III trials enroll many more patients to understand how well a therapy works across a large group of kids.

ALSF is committed to expanding access to trials for families across the country. Through funding like our Center of Excellence, Phase I/II Infrastructure and Bio-therapeutic Impact Grants, your support helps hospitals open more clinical trials, meaning more possibilities for a cure for children whose cancers weren’t cured by conventional treatments.



**Ben** has fought a brain tumor for nine years. When frontline chemotherapy failed, Ben enrolled in a clinical trial at Texas Children’s Hospital, an ALSF Center of Excellence Institution. Ben is now on his third clinical trial there, a Phase II study using a drug that acts specifically against a molecular target in his tumor. The drug caused Ben’s tumor to shrink, stop growing, and has provided hope for a future without cancer.



### Team Brady Striking Out Cancer

After losing their son to osteosarcoma in 2019, Brady's family began holding an annual lemonade stand in his honor. Every year, they set out to give hope to other families for better treatments and cures through fundraising.



### Backyard Breaks Livestream Fundraiser

Backyard Breaks is a sports memorabilia livestream that accumulated a following selling sports cards online. This summer, they joined forces with ALSF. Within five hours, their livestream raised more than \$100,000 selling mystery card packs and branded t-shirts!



### Alejandra and Miranda's Lemonade Stand

Anyone, anywhere can raise money for kids with cancer. That's why Alejandra and Miranda held their lemonade stand in San Juan, Puerto Rico. From Paseo de la Princesa, Alejandra and Miranda raised almost \$2,000 for childhood cancer research!



For 18 years, Applebee's restaurants have been committed to Doin' Good in the Neighborhood and supporting ALSF - from selling paper lemons to hosting events in restaurants and celebrating National Lemonade Day. Since 2005, Applebee's has raised more than \$13.2 million to help fund life-changing research.



Power Home Remodeling Group returns with their annual Alex's Month fundraising event this September, while also going the distance for kids with cancer during The Million Mile! From hosting company kickball tournaments to engaging with local childhood cancer families, Power's loyal support has made a lasting impact.



Volvo Cars USA never fails to astound with their support of ALSF's mission. Volvo continues to donate annual portions from car sales, make matches that matter, and participate in The Million Mile each September with teams across the globe. The first sponsor of Alex's vision, we are so appreciative of all their devotion to helping kids with cancer.

### Are you a member of ALSF?

Join our monthly giving club to make a difference for kids with cancer all year long.



Abby



Join now at [AlexsLemonade.org/One-Cup-Newsletter](https://AlexsLemonade.org/One-Cup-Newsletter).



### Wide-grinned walker? Jolly jogger? Cheery cyclist? Happy hiker?

Whatever activity makes you smile, use those miles to help kids with cancer during The Million Mile. Join this Childhood Cancer Awareness Month challenge where you form a team to raise funds and log your daily miles. **It all adds up to research, support and a future free of childhood cancer.**



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