



St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital®

Finding cures. Saving children.

ALSAC • DANNY THOMAS, FOUNDER



ALSAC/ST. JUDE

19

ANNUAL REPORT

Artwork by
St. Jude patient

Victoria



Art plays a big role in the patient experience

Art therapy is often used to reduce stress or anxiety, explore complex feelings, manage side effects and improve quality of life for patients. Patient art is also used by ALSAC, the fundraising and awareness organization for St. Jude, to raise awareness and support.

Bring this artwork to life

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera or go to experience.stjude.org to download the **St. Jude Experience** app.

Select the **St. Jude Patient ART** experience, hold your phone up with the art in view and watch it come to life.



CONTENTS

**10****10 All For One**

The family that survives together, thrives together. For this mom and her babies, St. Jude means memories, love and life.

**26****26 One Big Family**

They met and bonded through treatment at St. Jude. When they lost their kids to cancer, these two families comforted and uplifted each other, and continue today.

**20**
A New
Cure**32**
This Shirt
Saves Lives**44**
Parent
Letter

04 Global Alliance
06 New and Notable

19 St. Jude Brand
23 Research Highlights

34 Legacy and Leadership
42 Financials

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. As a cutting-edge research institution, world-class children's hospital and America's largest healthcare charity, we are dedicated to one goal: Finding cures. Saving children.®

Even in these challenging times, there is still St. Jude – thanks to you. You can help ensure families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food. Visit stjude.org/donate



GLOBAL ALLIANCE

update

It is estimated that there are more than 400,000 new cases of childhood cancer around the world annually. More than 90 percent of those cases are located in low- to middle-income countries without adequate resources for diagnosis or treatment. In an effort to improve outcomes, St. Jude Global was launched to reduce disparities and improve access to, and quality of, care for children with cancer worldwide. In December 2018, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital welcomed more than 160 representatives from 52 countries to Memphis, Tennessee, to launch the St. Jude Global Alliance, which forms a structure to provide advanced care across seven regions of the world. By drawing on a half-century's worth of medical advances and expertise in care, St. Jude can turn the tide on childhood cancer and ensure where a child lives no longer dictates that child's health care outcome.



By sharing our knowledge freely and exchanging ideas openly, we're inspiring more collaboration between doctors and researchers worldwide, and, as a result, providing more lifesaving treatments for children everywhere.

With our global partners, bringing quality care and cures to children with cancer everywhere in the world is now possible. We realize this won't happen overnight; it's a long process that will require the best of us, but we embark on this challenge with this promise to all the children in the world with cancer: We have heard your call, we are here, and we are ready. We will not fail you.

— Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Galindo, Director, St. Jude Global
U.S. News & World Report, 2019



new & notable

St. Jude continues to push the limits of what a premier pediatric research hospital looks like. These efforts will continue until no child dies in the dawn of life. Scan the QR codes to view more of each story.



St. Jude Cloud Accelerates Scientific Discoveries

St. Jude Cloud, a partnership with DNAnexus and Microsoft, launched in 2018 as an online data-sharing and collaboration platform providing researchers around the globe access to the world's largest repository of pediatric genomics data. Since then, more than 14,500

genomes of pediatric patients and survivors have been released through St. Jude Cloud, and more than 90,000 worldwide users have accessed the information. With such sharing and collaboration, the fight against childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases is truly a global effort.



National Cancer Institute Bestows Highest Rating on St. Jude

For the second time in a row, the National Cancer Institute awarded St. Jude Children's Research Hospital the highest possible rank of "exceptional" and the best numerical score in the hospital's history during renewal of the hospital's \$30 million Comprehensive Cancer Center grant.

St. Jude is the first and only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center that is devoted solely to children. The designation and accompanying grant funds must be renewed every five years; St. Jude first earned an "exceptional" score in 2013.

St. Jude has had the designation as an NCI Cancer Center since 1977, and first achieved comprehensive cancer center status in 2008.

Artwork by St. Jude patient Jaden



Martine Roussel, Ph.D., of St. Jude Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

Martine Roussel, Ph.D., a member of the Department of Tumor Cell Biology and co-leader of the Cancer Biology Program at St. Jude, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Roussel was one of 100 new members and 25 foreign associates recognized by the renowned society of scholars for their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

Roussel joined St. Jude in 1983 as a research associate in the Department of Tumor Cell Biology. She is a full member and holds the Endowed Chair in Molecular Oncogenesis. Her appointment marks a historic moment for the National Academy of Sciences with a record number of women elected to the academy.







“

Aubrey is **BRAVE
AND BEAUTIFUL.**

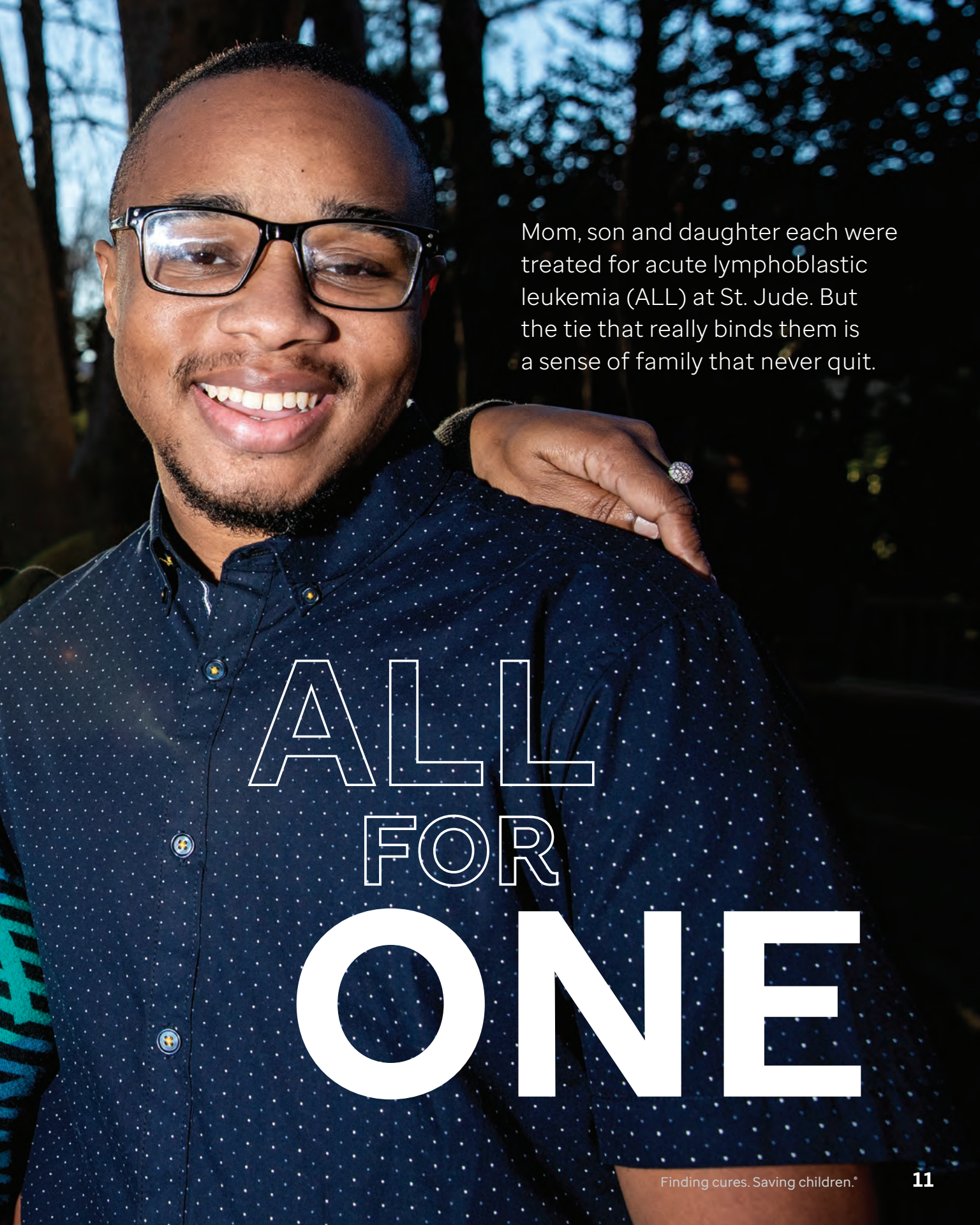
Seeing her on stage felt
like coming home, it
felt like **LIFE GETTING
BACK TO NORMAL.**

– Aubrey’s mom, Melinda

Aubrey was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a brain tumor, at 9 years old. At St. Jude she underwent surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy. Today, Aubrey is cancer-free and regularly visits St. Jude for checkups while once again enjoying the thing she loves most in the world – dancing. To read more about Aubrey’s story, scan the code or visit: stjude.org/aubrey







Mom, son and daughter each were treated for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) at St. Jude. But the tie that really binds them is a sense of family that never quit.

ALL FOR ONE



Javon can tell you about his years and years of treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). He can tell you about his two relapses – including one that was discovered on the very day he was scheduled to finish chemotherapy.

He can tell you about his bone marrow transplant, after which he slept for days, then woke up temporarily without his memory – asking his mom, as she hugged him, “Who are you?”

He can tell you about friends made and friends lost among his fellow patients, and the time he started hiding his medicine because he was “sad and depressed,” but also because “those were some big, ol’ pills.”

But perhaps the most telling moment of this 18-year-old college freshman and St. Jude cancer survivor’s tale comes when he says, “Two years ago, I literally learned how to ride a bike.”

People laugh when he tells them. They naturally wonder: How are you a teenager and just learned how to ride a bike? That’s when he tells them about his childhood, the one he really didn’t have. The one cancer stole. That’s when he tells them about his family, a source of love, strength and hope that carried him through – that carried them all through.

LITTLE SISTER

Jakayla, 13, can relate. She was a familiar sight in the halls of St. Jude as a patient sibling – Javon’s little sister – before she, too, was diagnosed with ALL.

She can also tell you what it’s like to relapse. She can tell you about her own bone marrow transplant. And she, like Javon, can tell you about the difficulty she had relating to school mates and others whose childhoods weren’t marred by a catastrophic disease.

“I couldn’t really tell people how I feel about having cancer,” she says. “It’s hard for people.”

This is a girl, after all, who attended her St. Jude kindergarten graduation via Skype from the bone marrow transplant floor. It helps, then, to have somebody close who really understands. Somebody who’s been there, like a big brother. Or a mother. Yes – her, too.

MOM AND HER BABIES

Some 25 years before Lisa was a mom with two children simultaneously undergoing chemotherapy for ALL, she was a St. Jude patient with the same disease. She relapsed, too. She made dear friends only to lose them. She remembers seeing other patients who had lost limbs and asking her own mom, “Am I going to get my leg cut off, or my arm?” She can tell you all that, and also how she coped post-cancer:

“I just put it in the closet and never thought about it.”

This strategy worked until it didn’t. Until, she says, “my baby” was diagnosed. That was Javon, in 2003, at age 2. Five years later, 2-year-old Jakayla was diagnosed.





“Imagine if nearly all of your childhood memories took place in a hospital.”

Imagine if your best friends all had cancer.”

Mother. Son. Daughter. In fact, the family's connection with ALL — and with St. Jude — is deeper still. Lisa had a relative who was successfully treated at St. Jude for ALL in the late 1990s, and another relative who was an ALL patient in the early 1960s who did not survive. The family's history spans nearly the hospital's history, from those early days when the survival rate for ALL was 4 percent. Today, it's 94 percent.

But the connection between the familial cases — if there's a connection — isn't yet known, the family says. “We've been doing genetic testing and everything,” Lisa says. “It's a link in there somewhere.” Javon calls it “the biggest puzzle.”

THE DAY MICHELLE OBAMA VISITED ST. JUDE

What are your most vivid childhood memories? Ballgames and dance recitals? School days and beach vacations? Secrets shared with best friends?

Imagine if nearly all of your childhood memories took place in a hospital. Imagine if your best friends all had cancer.

That's the case for Javon, whose treatment was the longest and most fraught of the family. He didn't attend a traditional school until sixth grade. Before that, he was educated at St. Jude, which has a K-12 school program.

“I made so many friends I lost count,” Javon says of his St. Jude childhood. “We'd pretty much talk about everything” — from their low ANC's (absolute neutrophil count, a reflection of the body's ability to fight infections) to their next chemo treatments to why they had to wear masks. “We'd pretty much talk about medical stuff at a very young age. But,



At one point, he stops himself,

“Wow ... Now that I think about it, I’ve been through a lot as a child.”

at the same time, we were goofing around. Have you seen *Power Rangers*? We had a lot of fun.”

Javon smiles — an unmistakable after-effect of all his years at St. Jude. It’s the same for the rest of the family. “We’ll laugh about it,” Lisa says. “We’ll basically talk about the good times we had.”

That’s by design at a hospital where treatment allows kids to be kids, where laughter is medicine, too. St. Jude is doctors, nurses and therapists, but some of them play guitar and sing. St. Jude is transplants, proton therapy and clinical trials, but also school, new friends and hanging out with celebrities.

“Oh, celebrities,” Lisa says — and there’s that family smile again. The best was when First Lady Michelle Obama visited St. Jude in 2014. “She gave me some candy and cookies,” says Jakayla.

“My favorite, hands down,” Javon says. “She was so welcoming and nice. Oh, she was the best.”

For mom, a celebrity meeting almost made up for her greatest missed opportunity. She slept through a visit by St. Jude founder Danny Thomas during her own patient days in the mid-1980s.

“The Benadryl had knocked me out,” she says. “My mom even said he stood over me. And I’m like, ‘Wow. And why didn’t you wake me up?’”

They have the other kind of stories, too, of course. A happy hospital is still a hospital. And, when asked if he ever worried he might not survive, Javon tells this story:

“That moment was when I had my transplant. It was like a horror story, slash, a good story. I’ll never forget this night. It was storming so bad that the

lights went out. Then all the transplant patients like me were moved to the hallway. They had to almost postpone my transplant, because the lights went out so bad.”

“After the lights came back on, I had to go to my transplant. They had to put the cells into my Hickman line. The lights almost went right back off. I was panicking. My heart rate was going high. Everybody thought I was going into shock, and I was panicking so bad.”

After the transplant, Javon says, he blacked out. In his admittedly exaggerated version of events, he was asleep for probably two weeks. “Completely normal sleep,” he says, “For two weeks.”

When he awoke, he didn’t recognize his mom, didn’t know where he was, and seemed to have forgotten he had cancer. He began to unhook and unscrew everything connected to him.

“I almost yanked on my Hickman line – almost,” he says of the tube through which patients receive chemotherapy and other drugs.

Javon says it was another week before “I caught up with my memory.”

There’s amazement in his voice as he speaks. He seems to marvel at his own stories, as if they must have happened to someone else entirely, or maybe to a character in a movie. At one point, he stops himself. “Wow. I’ve been through hell and back. Now that I think about it, I’ve been through a lot as a child.”

SURVIVING TOGETHER, THRIVING TOGETHER

Javon now is a college freshman. He plays trombone in the marching band. Life is “awesome.”

Jakayla is an eighth-grader. She’s soft-spoken, but maybe she’d just rather sing than talk. “I’m in the school choir,” she says.

Lisa is a proud mom, though she makes no claim on the music her kids are putting out into the world. “I don’t know where they get it from,” she says. “They didn’t get it from me.”



Javon, 11 years old and Jakayla, 6 years old in 2012

They did get her strength and perseverance, it seems, and a sense of family that does not quit. They’re tight. You can tell by the way they interact, and the way they talk about each other. Javon says Jakayla is “a fun spirit, and she’s like a little diva.”

Lisa says of her daughter: “She’s more open now than she was. She’s more energetic now. The choir thing, I never thought she’d be doing. She’s been in competition. We went to Florida, she sang in front of all those people. I never thought she would have done that. She’s started coming out more. She was very shy.”

Then there’s Javon’s bond with his mom. He calls her every day, though campus is just 20 miles from home. And so many of his stories involve her, like the one about relapsing just as chemotherapy was ending:

“Younger me thought I was going to go back to being a normal little boy,” Javon says. “I noticed my mom was crying, but I thought she was crying for joy. But she was trying to explain to me that I had relapsed.”

“Younger me was like, ‘I don’t care, Mama, I’m here with you.’ That’s what I remember saying – ‘I don’t care, Mama, I’m here with you.’”

They’re still here, all of them. Lisa. Javon. Jakayla. Mother. Son. Daughter. A St. Jude success story, times three.

For Tiara Herr,
legally deaf from
treatment for
neuroblastoma,
music is a ‘full-
body experience.’

This St. Jude
survivor sings,
plays piano,
performs in
musical theater
and teaches
voice lessons.

the songbird

She sits at the piano and strikes a key with her right hand. A note resounds through the room.

“This high F up here?” says Tiara Herr, legally deaf since childhood, an effect of her years-long treatment for neuroblastoma.

“That’s where I stop being able to hear. I just hear clacking.

“So when I listen to music, and there’s all this high stuff, I don’t experience that. But what I can experience is really cool. I’ll be playing, and I can lay my head on the piano and I can feel the vibrations coming through my bones.”

Now 27 years old, Tiara can’t hear high notes, fire alarms, phones ringing or birds singing, yet

she plays piano, writes and sings original songs. She performs in musical theater, most recently a revival of “South Pacific.” She even gives voice lessons. Drawing on a love of science sparked by St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, she now teaches singing as a “full-body experience.”

‘Lost in music’

The little girl in the frilly dress would run through the hospital hallways, singing at the top of her lungs.

“I would sing in every part of the hospital,” Tiara says, now sitting at the piano in her rustic Oregon home, some 20 years and 2,000 miles removed from St. Jude in Memphis. “They probably knew I was coming



To hear Tiara
and her music,
scan or visit
stjude.org/tiara

because they could hear this little kid singing these cute songs.”

Nothing could silence her. Not the tumors, which would eventually grow to be forty. Not the treatment, which included dozens of surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and a bone marrow transplant.

“I try to remember the little girl running through the hallways,” she says. “She didn’t seem like she had a care in the world, but in reality she was fighting for her life every second of every day.

“I need to do a lot of reflection to remember that that girl is still in me.”

Oh, she’s still there.

She’s at the piano now, not just playing but expressing. Not just hearing but experiencing. She’s talking about the science of her art, and how feeling the notes she plays “really tells me whether that music is going to be effective at conveying what I’m feeling in that moment.”

Her playing, like her singing, has power and force. She favors dissonant chords, which she jokes are “awesome and angsty.” It’s an apt soundtrack for someone who defied death more than once as a child, and who copes as an adult with chronic pain, anxiety and depression.

Music helps. It always has. Music is relief and release. Music is salve and salvation.

“Music is so expressive,” says Tiara. “By singing, I’m showing everybody that my deafness doesn’t hold me back. That all this trauma that I have from being a childhood cancer survivor doesn’t hold me back. Because I can get lost in music and forget that ever happened to me.”

“I try to play or sing as much music as I can, because that is the one thing that is guaranteed to lift me up.”

Because what the little girl knew in her heart, the woman feels in her bones: When you can’t hear a bird’s song, be your own songbird.



“By singing,
I’m showing
everybody
that my
deafness
doesn’t hold
me back.”

ST. JUDE BRAND AT A GLANCE

As of June 2019

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Health Nonprofit Brand of the Year

7 YEARS IN A ROW
(HARRIS POLL EQUITREND® STUDY)



St. Jude has the Highest
Favorability of All Major
Nonprofits

CLEARVANTAGE BRAND HEALTH STUDY

St. Jude has been named
one of *The Top 4 Places to
Work* by Millennials and
Gen Z for 8 years in a row

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS



Most Inspirational Brand

WORLD VALUE INDEX



Nearly 9 out of 10
Americans recognize
the St. Jude Brand

CLEARVANTAGE BRAND HEALTH STUDY



Most Loved Brand

7 YEARS IN A ROW

HARRIS POLL EQUITREND® STUDY



Omarion, born with a rare genetic disorder called X-linked Severe Combined Immunodeficiency, or bubble boy disease, explores playground equipment after his immune system was reconstituted through gene therapy developed at St. Jude.



A NEW CURE

FOR ‘BUBBLE BOY’

The announcement in April 2018 that gene therapy developed at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital cured infants born with so-called “bubble boy” disease generated coverage from the likes of *The Washington Post* and ABC News, not to mention international media outlets. At the same time, the news proved especially gratifying for longtime St. Jude supporters who, year after year, underwrite studies that rarely garner headlines.

“We’re delighted,” said Jan Young, executive director of The Assisi Foundation of Memphis. “We didn’t know it would come to this.”

Assisi was among the significant funding sources for the research initiative of Dr. Brian Sorrentino and his team, leading to the development of successful therapy for X-linked severe combined immunodeficiency, a genetic condition that leaves children unable to fight even the most common of infections or illnesses.

For the past several years, foundation leaders listened to proposals and then updates about the project from St. Jude researchers. Major support for the gene-therapy work also came from the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine, the National Institutes of Health and ALSAC, the fundraising and awareness organization for St. Jude. Money from many private donors also helped fund the studies.

Findings published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* detailed how kids treated at St. Jude and a San Francisco hospital received gene therapy for the often-fatal disorder that had left them with little or no immune protection. The disease, caused by a mutation in a gene critical to normal immune function, drew national attention in the 1970s with the plight of David Vetter, who grew up sheathed in a plastic bubble.

The gene therapy, produced in the Children's GMP, LLC, manufacturing facility on the St. Jude campus, involved use of a virus to transport and insert a correct copy of a gene into the genome of patients' blood stem cells. Following the treatment, the children began producing functioning immune cells for the first time, according to St. Jude, and most patients

were discharged from the hospital within one month.

To date, the best treatment for the disorder has been bone-marrow transplantation. But with most patients lacking a tissue matching sibling, their prospects for cure are greatly diminished.

For Assisi, the funding of the gene therapy research continued a legacy of support for St. Jude dating back to the establishment of the foundation a quarter-century ago from the sale of St. Francis Hospital. Every year, Assisi provides between \$750,000 and \$1 million for research projects at St. Jude, Young said. "Obviously, St. Jude does good work," she said. "We're honoring an ethical commitment started

by our board when we were still a hospital."

Most initiatives funded by the group get little or no publicity, and that's just fine," Young said. It's the "little victories" that provide a lasting contribution to science and dialogue among researchers that often are most critical.

"The little victories that don't make the *New England Journal of Medicine* or the *Washington Post* ... They're the building blocks," Young said.



Scan the code to read more about gene therapy and the cure for bubble boy disease.

Gael (with his mom), a patient who came to St. Jude from Peru, was one of the early cases of success for using gene therapy to treat SCID-X1.



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Scientists identify a protein complex that shapes the destiny of T cells

St. Jude researchers have discovered a protein complex that influences the fate of certain white blood cells called T cells. This protein complex acts as a bridge between external signals and internal processes to shape the future of these T cells, which are trained to find and eliminate specific viruses and other threats.

July 2018 | *Science Immunology*



Solution to medical mystery may help some children avoid bone marrow transplantation

Researchers at St. Jude and the University of California, San Francisco, have helped solve a 30-year-old medical mystery by identifying gene mutations that cause a rare bone marrow disorder associated with an increased risk for acute myeloid leukemia and myelodysplasia. In the process, they discovered that the disorder sometimes resolves itself without treatment.

July 2018 | *JCI Insight*



St. Jude researchers solve a central mystery of a baffling high-risk leukemia

St. Jude researchers have unraveled the origins and identified mutations associated with a perplexing form of acute leukemia – identifying mutations that define the two most common subtypes of MPAL, B/myeloid and T/myeloid – and reported evidence that some MPAL patients may benefit from existing targeted therapies. The landmark study lays the foundation for more effective treatment of patients with the high-risk cancer.

September 2018 | *Nature*



Discovery of a cancer promoter offers pathway to overcome drug resistance

Geneticists at St. Jude have discovered a previously unknown cell growth mechanism that makes a wide range of cancers resistant to rapamycin and related drugs. The finding offers the promise of new drug therapies that can overcome that resistance to treat cancers, including leukemia and tumors in the brain and other organs.

September 2018 | *Science Advances*



High-resolution genomic map gives scientists unprecedented view of brain development

St. Jude researchers have created a massive database of the changes in gene activity of individual cells in the cerebellum during embryonic development and immediately after birth, a finding that opens the door for a deeper understanding of the genetic processes that drive these cells' maturation.

September 2018 | *Current Biology*



Method identified to reduce risk of brain damage in leukemia survivors

Children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) are at an extremely high risk of sepsis compared to the general population. In the first-published study of its kind, St. Jude scientists have discovered a link between sepsis during cancer treatment and long-term neurocognitive dysfunction. The study revealed survivors with a history of sepsis performed worse than other participants on tests measuring multiple neurocognitive domains, including executive function and attention span.

September 2018 | *JAMA Pediatrics*



Researchers find a 'critical need' for whole genome sequencing of young cancer patients

St. Jude researchers have shown that incorporating whole-genome sequencing into clinical genomic testing led to identifying additional cancer-driving mutations in almost half of patients in a St. Jude study. These mutations could not be identified by sequencing just the protein-coding regions of the genome (exome) and gene expression (transcriptome).

October 2018 | *Nature Communications*



Genomic analysis offers roadmap for diagnosis and treatment of a high-risk leukemia

Acute erythroid leukemia (AEL) is a high-risk cancer with a dismal prognosis, uncertain genetic basis and controversy surrounding the diagnosis. St. Jude researchers have completed the largest, most comprehensive genomic analysis yet of AEL and identified six age-related subgroups with distinct mutations and patterns of gene expression as well as treatment outcomes.

March 2019 | *Nature Genetics*



International research collaboration solves mystery regarding how cell division gets dialed up

St. Jude scientists helped lead an international collaboration that revealed how fluctuations in a key protein play a central role in regulating cell division. The team of international researchers identified a process that functions like a rheostat to dial up cell division by dislodging a tumor suppressor protein that serves as an off switch. The mechanism offers insight into missteps that lead to the cell proliferation that is a hallmark of cancer.

April 2019 | *Nature Communications*



Research reveals how the most common ALS mutation dooms cells

St. Jude scientists have cracked the mystery surrounding the most common genetic cause of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS is a rapidly progressive neurological disease that kills nerve cells responsible for voluntary muscle control. The research suggests possible new approaches to diagnosis and treatment of the lethal disorder.

April 2019 | *Molecular Cell*



Goldilocks principle helps explain the origins of the most common children's cancer

Just as Goldilocks sought porridge that was “just right,” St. Jude scientists reported that targeting “just right” levels of a mutant protein may offer a novel therapeutic approach to some cases of childhood leukemia.

June 2019 | *Nature Communications*



Pathway discovered that prevents buildup of Alzheimer's protein

St. Jude scientists studying the immune response to brain tumors have identified a pathway that functions like a car wash to prevent the buildup of a toxic protein associated with Alzheimer's disease. Laboratory models of Alzheimer's offer a possible new approach to treatment of the chronic neurodegenerative disorder, which is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. The newly identified pathway also helps regulate inflammation, so the discovery could yield strategies for unleashing the immune response against malignant brain tumors.

June 2019 | *Cell*

Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to more than 80 percent since it opened more than 50 years ago. And we won't stop until no child dies from cancer.



DR. BRIAN SORRENTINO (1958-2018)

Diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma at an early age, Dr. Brian Sorrentino, director of the Division of Experimental Hematology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, was no stranger to adversity. The New York native pushed through numerous challenges to attend medical school, and his colleagues considered him to be as humble and kind as he was brilliant and persistent.

Joining St. Jude in 1994, his team led the charge on a clinical trial aimed at curing a rare immune disorder called SCID-X1, or bubble boy disease.

His personal experience inspired his work and he never forgot the children who would be the beneficiaries of his research. And though he'd long since given up the practice of medicine to focus solely on lab work, he began wearing teddy-bear themed neckties and seemed especially elated to get out of his lab and see the kids.

“I've never seen him as happy as with the patients,” said Ewelina Mamcarz, MD, a St. Jude bone-marrow specialist and lead author of the bubble boy study.

Sorrentino was revered for his work ethic and brilliance, and loved for his empathy and compassion.

Diagnosed with lung cancer, a long-term effect of treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma, Sorrentino died in November 2018, just months before his research was published in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*. But he knew the data and had read the transcript, and he was at peace knowing lives of children all over the world would be saved.

THE UNIFYING POWER OF THE ST. JUDE MISSION BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER TO SUPPORT, AND TO REMEMBER.

THEY FIRST MET in New York City, at a photo shoot for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital – two families on separate cancer journeys, but with so much common ground over which to bond. And bond they did, the families of Markell, a teen with bone cancer, and Arianna, a young girl with a brain tumor.

"Markell was playing with all the other kids when we walked into the studio," said Arianna's dad, Enrique, recalling a relationship that began in 2010. "The kids were all laughing, they were having a great time. I said, 'Now here's a kid who knows how to command attention.'"

Weeks later, when the families were back in Memphis, back at St. Jude, they ran into each other in the waiting room. Their journeys had intersected again and that initial connection had sparked something greater.

"And that was it," said Markell's mom, Monique. "Immediately, it was like we were all one big family."

They became inseparable – Markell's family (Monique and Markell, and Markell's siblings when they were visiting) and Arianna's family (Enrique and his wife, Leticia, and Arianna and her little sister).

Arianna's family opened their home to Markell's for Thanksgiving. Markell loved Leticia's cornbread so much that whenever he came over, she made it. Every time he felt sick, she made it.





N

BIG FAMILY

F

Even toward the end of his life, Leticia's cornbread was something he craved.

The families' relationship was on display in a 2014 video about Markell: There he is on screen, looking cool in shades, lighting up rooms with his smile, and announcing his beloved New Orleans Saints' first-round pick in the 2013 NFL Draft.

And there's Enrique: Telling a story from that first meeting in New York. He says, "I remember Monique told me, 'We ran into Tracy Morgan.'" Later, when Enrique asked Markell about meeting the actor and comedian, Markell corrected him, "No, Tracy Morgan met me."

Enrique laughs, "So that's like the first memory I have of Markell. He's just always been a celebrity in himself, you know?"

As Markell's treatment became more difficult, as his cancer returned again and again, he and Enrique grew closer. They went to Memphis Grizzlies games together. They talked through the night. Markell told Enrique, "I love you like a dad."

The day before Markell's leg was to be amputated, he called Enrique with a request: Come play basketball with me.

"That's always stuck with me so much," Enrique says in the 2014 video. "To know that I came to essentially play his last basketball game with his two legs, as a kid. I think the sun went down before he got tired. It was a good day."



Enrique and Leticia understand the struggle so well. They lived it with Arianna. For a year-and-a-half, she was cancer free. Then the cancer came back. She died just before her eighth birthday.

Monique and Markell were there for Enrique and Leticia, embracing them through a world of firsts without Arianna — first birthdays, first holidays — after she died in 2014. And in turn, Arianna's family was there for Monique when Markell died in 2016.

"Being a bereaved mother is not easy," Leticia said. "There were times Monique wanted to give up, but she hasn't. She wants to make Markell proud. The pain we feel is so intense and constant, and sometimes it's hard to continue fighting. But she does every day, with such grace and beauty."

The bond forged between the families at St. Jude would stay



Top: "I miss his personality the most. He lit up a room." Markell and his mom, Monique, were there for their friends, Enrique and Leticia, through a world of firsts without their daughter, Arianna, who died in 2014.

Bottom: Arianna with her dad, Enrique. The families' relationship began in 2010, and the parents have remained close, leaning on each other for support through the loss of their children.

Next page: Enrique remembers his friend Markell as a superstar. "He's just always been a celebrity in himself, you know?"

“It’s not family, but they just get you,” said Leticia, describing how relationships between St. Jude families can run so deep.



strong and even grow. The two families – in step, as always – participated together in the 10K at the 2019 St. Jude Memphis Marathon® Weekend. The course took them through the campus of St. Jude, where their children were treated – Markell for osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer; Arianna for a rare brain cancer called ATRT – and a deep friendship was born.

“It’s not family, but they just get you,” said Leticia. “And it doesn’t have to be the same culture or color. Nothing has to be the same, but the fact that our hearts hurt the same, and we’re trying to find healing the best way that we can. And we have been able to do it together.”



Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food – because all a family should worry about is helping their child live.



#8ActsOfKindness

In honor of their daughter, who passed away just before her eighth birthday, Leticia and Enrique Ramirez vowed to do eight random acts of kindness. And they invited everyone within their circle, via social media, to do so as well.

Participation has grown exponentially over the years, and the acts of kindness have involved picking up a restaurant tab for a perfect stranger, dropping off school supplies for special teachers and volunteering for the day at a soup kitchen. Things that depended on human contact.

This year, with the coronavirus threat, they wondered if it was safe to ask others to participate. Leticia knew it would have to be different, that people would need to be creative.

“To me, it’s going to be more impactful because it’s going to be from their own backyard,” she said. “Think about the little old lady down the street who might need her yard weeded, you know? You don’t even have to talk to her or approach her. You can just go one afternoon and Weed Eat the front yard.”

In the end, Arianna the empath, the old soul, guided their decision. She was always proactive with her kindness. And so were others. The response this year was overwhelming and “solidified the fact that this is what we’re supposed to be doing,” said Leticia. “And it solidified that people are remembering Arianna every day, not just on her birthday.”

That part of you that does good, that helps out, that demonstrates your care for others through acts, big and small? That’s Arianna. That’s who she was, and that’s how we remember her.

MEETING SUPPORTERS WHERE THEY ARE

The video gaming community has accepted St. Jude as its charity of choice, raising funds and awareness online, anytime, in support of our mission.

INCREASINGLY, ALSAC IS implementing digital platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Tik-Tok and St. Jude Inspire to extend its virtual reach around the world.

Partnerships, as well, have gone beyond point-of-sale touchpoints and in-person events such as marathons and St. Jude Walk/Runs to virtually connect with our global supporters. The video gaming community, through St. Jude PLAY LIVE, has embraced our lifesaving mission, raising more than \$30 million since its inception in 2014.

In 2019, Julianne and Mike Capps were honored for their support by ALSAC with the St. Jude Cardinal Stritch Donor of the Year Award. The Capps made a substantial donation and, as a founder of Epic Games, creator of the *Fortnite* video game, Mike has been instrumental in making gaming, artificial intelligence and virtual reality connections for our innovation teams at ALSAC.

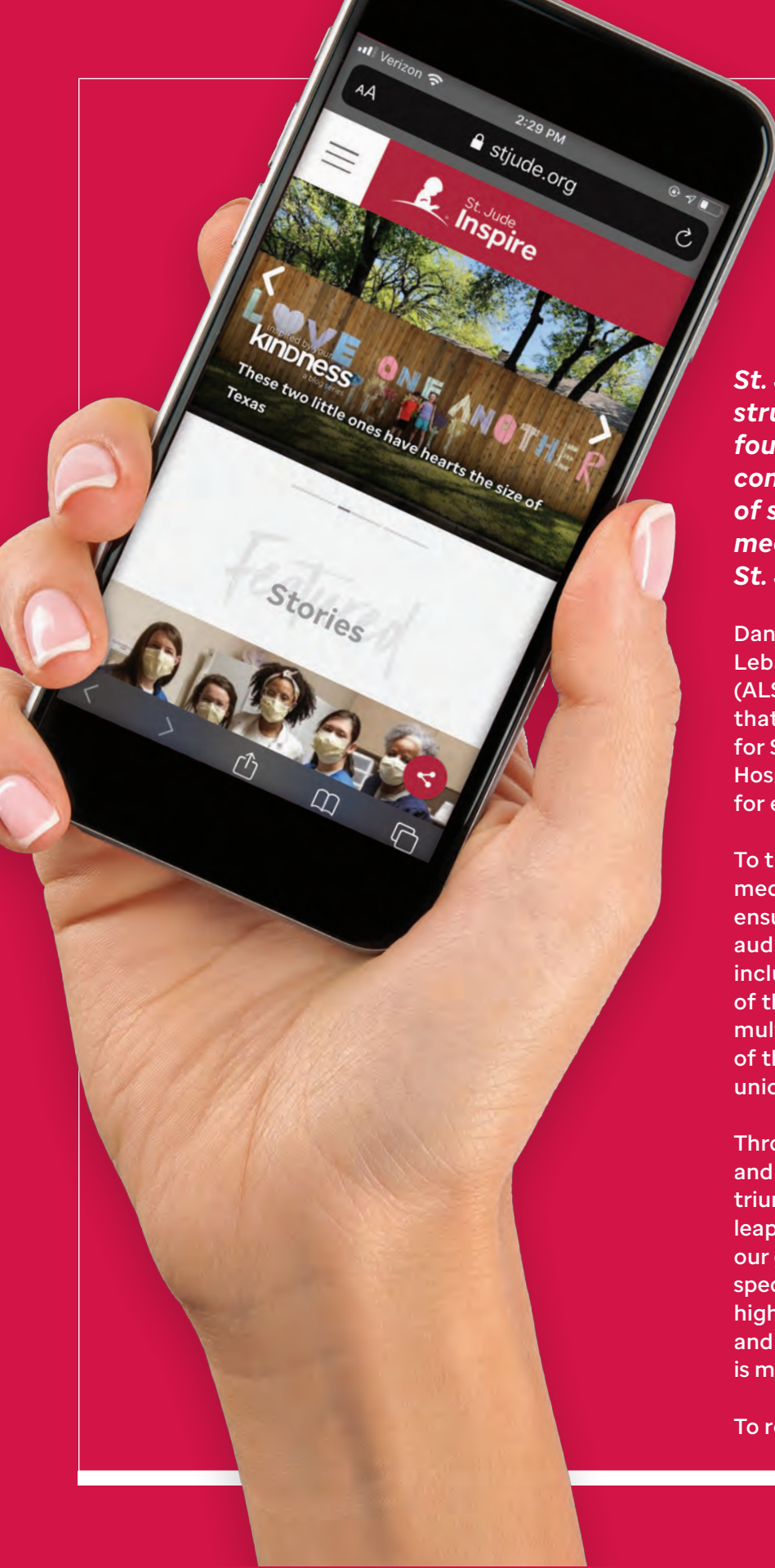
Few have achieved success through livestreaming video games on the scale of Ben Lupo, known as “DrLupo.” In 2018, DrLupo raised more than \$1.3 million for charity partners, including more than \$600,000 for St. Jude, during his 24-hour livestream on the Twitch gaming channel. A year later, he rallied more than 16,000 donations from 13,000 donors to raise more than \$2.3 million in only his second-annual livestream. In 2019, he was honored by ALSAC as the St. Jude Content Creator of the Year.

In addition to the funds and awareness raised, DrLupo and his wife, Samantha, have given of their time to visit St. Jude and participate in gaming activities. Together, the couple has united a worldwide gaming community around our singular cause of fighting childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases.



number of online donations

6.9 million



St. Jude began as a story of struggle and success told by founder Danny Thomas. ALSAC continues that rich tradition of storytelling through social media and its newest platform: St. Jude Inspire.

Danny Thomas founded American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC) in 1957 as the organization that would raise funds and awareness for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It is ALSAC's sole reason for existing.

To this end, ALSAC has launched a media publishing platform to help ensure a new, diverse and younger audience joins the ever-growing and inclusive St. Jude family. At the heart of this initiative is *St. Jude Inspire*, a multimedia website featuring stories of the people who make St. Jude so unique and inspiring.

Through compelling narratives, videos and photography, the challenges and triumphs of our patients and families leap from the screen. Features on our generous donors, volunteers and special visitors from all walks of life highlight how the groundbreaking and compassionate work of St. Jude is made possible.

To read more visit stjude.org/inspire



► **Darius Rucker**

"When I talk about St. Jude, the two things I stress that are just amazing to me, is first how a parent never gets a bill (from St. Jude)...The other thing I tell people is, every time St. Jude comes up with something that works, they don't hoard it. They tell the world, this is what we're doing, this is working. I get chills just talking about it. I think that's amazing."



When Partners in Hope sign on to support the lifesaving mission of St. Jude monthly, they not only get the satisfaction of knowing they're helping St. Jude lead the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases, they get this great shirt as well. St. Jude is blessed to have some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry proudly support – and show off – their commitment to our kids.



St. Jude has more than 11 million active donors

Clockwise from top: singer and actress Sofia Reyes, country singer Jimmie Allen and St. Jude patient Eli, musical duo Maddie & Tae, St. Jude patient Mia, musician Luke Bryan and St. Jude patient Jasmine



legacy & leadership

Ashley was just 2 years old when she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). At St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Ashley underwent two-and-a-half years of chemotherapy. She now visits St. Jude for regular checkups. She's a happy girl who loves to dance, color and play with her siblings.

ALSAC/St. Jude Boards of Directors and Governors

The members of the ALSAC/St. Jude Boards of Directors and Governors are volunteers who serve without compensation. They come from across the country to support the lifesaving work of St. Jude, and many represent the second and third generations of their families to serve on the Boards. An honorary body of emeritus members recognizes the distinguished service on the Boards by those unable to continue to actively participate.

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*For the current list of officers and
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please visit stjude.org.*

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The Scientific Advisory Board is an autonomous panel of renowned physicians and scientists who help foster the medical and scientific development of St. Jude, providing guidance and insight on research direction, clinical activities and institutional policy.

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and Klarman Cell Observatory
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Children's Hospital and Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute
Ted Williams Chair, Pediatric Oncology,
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Fundraising and Awareness Guidance

The talented and dedicated volunteers who serve on the Professional Advisory Board and the ALSAC Leadership Board are leaders and experts in their fields. They meet regularly to provide guidance to ALSAC on strategic fundraising issues and ways to raise awareness for the St. Jude mission: Finding cures. Saving children.®

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fiscal year 2019 combined

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Years ended June 30 (in thousands)

2019 2018

Revenues

Total Support	\$1,716,247	\$1,491,611
Net Patient Service Revenue (Insurance Recoveries)	109,173	117,421
Research Grants	109,636	94,401
Net Investment Income	363,175	369,416
Other	26,490	20,626
Total Revenues	\$2,324,721	2,093,476

Expenses

Program Expenses		
Patient Care Services	490,686	457,826
Research	436,939	410,717
Education, Training and Community Support	171,734	153,764
Total Program Expenses	1,099,358	1,022,306
Fundraising	262,087	242,100
Administrative and General	205,787	178,603
Total Expenses	\$1,567,233	1,443,009

Loss on Disposal of Property and Equipment	(6,708)	(7,511)
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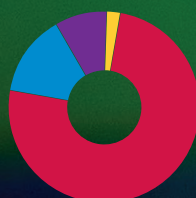
Change in Net Assets	756,817	642,956
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Beginning Net Assets	5,302,873	4,659,917
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Ending Net Assets	\$6,059,690	\$5,302,873
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Average Annual
Individual Giving
\$137.77



FUNDING SOURCES

80% ALSAC	8% Grants
10% Insurance	2% Other



St. Jude patient Demetris

Querido St. Jude,

Hay muchas cosas por las cuales darte gracias, empezando por el primer día que llegamos al hospital con Abraham, nuestro hijo de tres años, hasta el día que celebramos su último día de recibir quimioterapia y terminar su tratamiento. Cuando Abraham fue diagnosticado con meduloblastoma, empacamos todo lo que teníamos y dejamos Iowa para irnos a Memphis. Cada vez que pienso en esta experiencia increíble por la que Abraham pasó, me siento tan agradecida por su tratamiento, el cual incluyó quimioterapia y terapia de radiación.

Durante su tratamiento, vivimos en la casa Target. El poder tener nuestro propio departamento nos hizo sentir como en casa y nos dio la oportunidad de hacer amigos. Hay algo especial en el estar rodeado de otras familias pasando por la misma situación, gente que puede reírse y llorar contigo y quienes saben exactamente qué decir. Nos sentimos muy agradecidos de tener en St. Jude un segundo hogar.

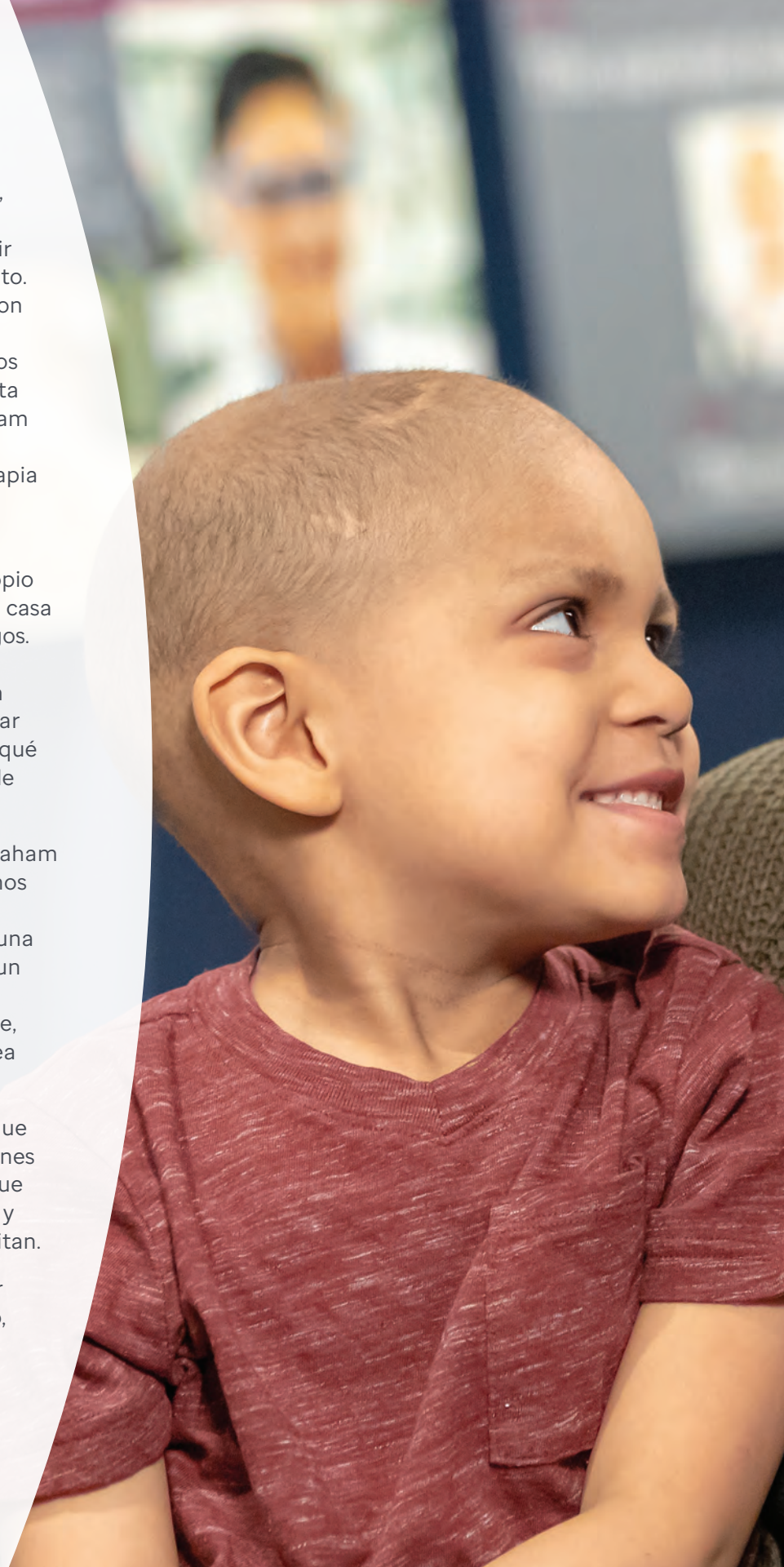
La calidad del cuidado que recibió Abraham fue increíble y algo por lo cual estaremos siempre agradecidos. Nunca pagamos por nada, y nunca, nunca recibiremos una factura de St. Jude. El estrés de tener un hijo con cáncer es indescriptible y que la carga de pagar por tratamiento, viaje, hospedaje, comida y equipo médico sea removida es increíble.

Gracias a St. Jude y a cada empleado que los hacen ser lo que son. Gracias a quienes donan a este lugar tan increíble para que St. Jude pueda proveer a los pacientes y sus familias exactamente lo que necesitan.

Hoy Abraham está a punto de terminar el preescolar, es un niño amable, activo, saludable y muy chistoso.

Gracias,

Abraham, Andrea, Abraham y Lorena





Dear St. Jude,

There are countless things I can thank you for, from the day we arrived on campus with my 3-year-old son Abraham until his “No More Chemo” party at the end of treatment. When Abraham was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, we picked up our lives in Iowa and moved to Memphis. I look back daily at how incredible Abraham’s experience was at St. Jude and am thankful for his treatment, which included chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

During treatment, we lived together at Target House. The feeling of having our own apartment made St. Jude feel like home and we made lifelong friends. There is something so special about being surrounded by other families who are also on this journey, people who can laugh and cry with you and know exactly what to say. We are thankful to have had a home away from home.

The quality of care Abraham received is almost unbelievable and something we are forever thankful for. We have never, and will never, receive a bill from St. Jude. The stress of your child having cancer is indescribable, and having the financial burden of treatment, travel, housing, food and medical supplies disappear is incredible. We could just focus on our son.

Thank you, St. Jude, and every employee that makes you what you are. Thank you to all the supporters and donors of this incredible facility for providing exactly what these kids and families need during this time.


Today Abraham is finishing kindergarten and is a kind, active, healthy, hilarious boy.

Thank you,

Abraham, Andrea, Abraham and Lorena



Woods loves putting together puzzles and playing with cards. He's a happy, go-with-the-flow kid. He's also undergoing chemotherapy and radiation therapy at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for brain cancer. St. Jude won't stop until no child dies from cancer. "St. Jude gives you hope," said his mom.



The mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Consistent with the vision of our founder, Danny Thomas, no child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family's ability to pay.

ALSAC – American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities – is the fundraising and awareness organization for St. Jude. ALSAC is dedicated solely to raising the funds and awareness necessary to operate and maintain St. Jude, now and in the future.



To view the 2019 St. Jude Annual Report online, visit stjude.org/financials
To read more inspiring St. Jude stories, visit stjude.org/inspire

Cover: St. Jude patient Abraham, brain cancer, and his mom

This page: St. Jude patient Michael, soft tissue cancer, and his mom