

“Improving the lives of children and their families coping with childhood cancer or chronic blood disorders by providing emotional, educational, social and financial assistance; promoting and funding research toward a cure.”



Phillip's Gift

The CURE Childhood Cancer Association is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization and your contributions may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our tax exempt number is: 51-0215037.



CURE
childhood cancer
association

200 Westfall Rd., Rochester, NY 14620
Phone: 585.473.0180
Email: staff@curekidscancer.com

www.curekidscancer.com

Pediatric Palliative Care Program



CURE
childhood cancer
association



Phillip DiCecco didn't want to be recognized as 'the kid with cancer.' Instead, he will be remembered as the young man who inspired CURE Childhood Cancer Association's **Pediatric Palliative Care Program**.

Phillip was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia when he was 10 years old. For two years, Phillip fought valiantly and survived the devastating effects of a resistant disease, including organ rejection following a bone marrow transplant. He also fought the many ill-effects that cancer treatment can bring.

Years later he was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma (bone cancer). Again, he fought for two years until finally succumbing to this terrible disease. Knowing in advance that no further treatment options existed and the disease was unstoppable, Phillip and his family decided that he would leave the hospital and return home, where he would be more comfortable.

What followed was the realization that many of the palliative care services (services in the home that are provided to address comfort care, pain, and quality of life as opposed to treating the disease) that Phillip required were not covered by insurance. Phillip and his family were unable to receive the type of compassionate care that would have eased much of the discomfort and pain that both the family and Phillip experienced as well as provided brief respites to a battle-weary family.

This very important need still exists for many local families facing similar circumstances with their children: to be able to receive comprehensive pediatric palliative care services *at home*.

Phillip's Gift is the pediatric palliative program offered by CURE Childhood Cancer Association and serviced through CompassionNet, a part of the Lifetime Health Association. This program, unique to Rochester, offers assistance to the families of seriously ill children and concentrates on alleviating pain and suffering and keeping families who elect to undergo this treatment at home the ability to do so. This service goes to the very core of CURE's philosophy: no parent, child or family should have to go through this disease alone.

Through this program, health and related occupational professionals provide families and caregivers the resources to sustain effective coping skills and facilitate positive family dynamics.

Input from a team of physicians, pharmacists, nurses, chaplains, social workers, psychologists, childlife specialists, therapists and other allied health professionals is considered when formulating a plan of care to relieve a patient's suffering. The goal of this program is to improve the quality of life for both the child and the family and to develop a support system to help the child live as actively and comfortably as possible. In addition, the program creates a support system that will help to sustain and rehabilitate the child's family as well as provides long-term bereavement services for the family.

Families are selected to participate in this program after consultation with both the child's oncologist and the staff at CompassionNet. Once enrolled in this program, the family and patient receive palliative care services for as long as required – all at no cost to the family.

Phillip's Gift is funded solely by fundraising events and donations.