

# Annual Report 2019-2020

N W C G



Nick Wilson  
Charitable Group

Helping Families Today

## Family Profile

MEET LAUREN -  
Strong and resilient!

read story on  
page 10

# Message from the President

## optimism

op·ti·mism

*hopefulness and confidence about the future or the successful outcome of something.*

2020 has challenged all of us to be optimistic when so many issues have conspired against it. Here at NWCG we have endured a challenging year, but nothing compared to what our families face navigating the tumultuous waters of childhood cancer and bone marrow transplantation.

The families whom NWCG supports are going through the challenge of their lives. Add COVID-19 onto that and you have significant additional stress onto an already untenable situation. And then the forest fires hit throughout the state and entire West Coast creating additional devastation for thousands.

Enter optimism. There are so many things we have to be grateful for. Sometimes it's difficult to see what those are, but challenges often create opportunities for growth. My response to that is that I've had enough growth opportunities, and being that I'm six feet tall, I've grown enough! Seriously though, difficult circumstances can force us to think outside the box and do things we didn't think were possible.

That's what we're starting to do here at NWCG, but we can't do it without all of you. How does the hard work of dealing with challenge and hardship transpire into opportunity and growth? Together. It won't be easy, but I'm here to tell you that "The only way is through" (Robert Frost): Together is always better. So let's do this, plow right through the middle and come out better on the other side. It's going to include varying degrees of vulnerability, bravery, courage, heartbreak and ultimately, connection. It's difficult but not insurmountable. We've got this, and as I like to say, "We can do hard things". And the best part is, we get to do all of this together.♥

With love and gratitude-



Jill Metz, President & Founder



# Advisory Board Member **Spotlight**

## **Amy Kenagy, MS, RN, CPNP**

*Pediatric Nurse Practitioner*

*Oregon Health & Science University/Doernbecher Children's Hospital*

*Portland, OR*

### **How did you learn about NWCG?**

I took care of Nick in the hospital when I was a nurse. He called me “okey-dokey Amy”.

### **How did you first get involved as a NWCG supporter?**

I really admired the entire family and very much enjoyed caring for them. And Nick was one of my most favorite patients (he was soooo stinkin' cute!).

### **How many years have you been on the NWCG board?**

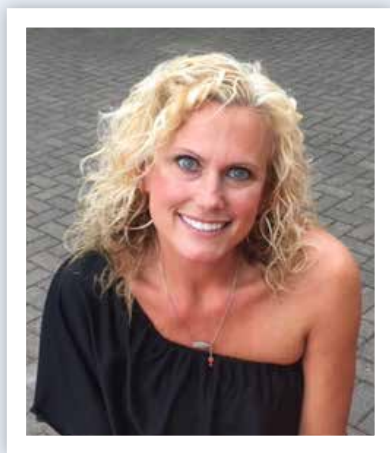
???????

### **What motivates you to serve on the NWCG board?**

Being an NP working on the inpatient pediatric oncology unit I get to share the joy, relief and gratitude the group brings to my patients and families. They do good work.

### **How do you think NWCG makes a difference in the lives of the families whom they serve?**

I absolutely know how much the NWCG helps patients and families. From gift cards to cash to donation boxes to paying for fertility preservation... the list goes on and on. It's hard to have a child with cancer and the NWCG helps make it a little bit better.



# Ways to Give



## Fred Meyer Community Rewards

You can help NWCG earn donations with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card! Sign up for the Community Rewards Program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to NWCG. Search for us by our name or by our non-profit number #85025. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping NWCG earn a donation! You must re-affirm NWCG as your choice each year!

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## Amazon Smile Rewards

When you shop, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Simply visit to **smile.amazon.com**, select a Nick Wilson Charitable Organization to receive donations from eligible purchases. Then, every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to NWCG.

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## Employer Matching Program

Many corporations match donations made by you to a wide range of non-profit organizations like NWCG. Visit **doublethedonation.com** to check if your employer has a matching program. If your company is not listed, you can find out from your human resources office if your employer offers it. If you are eligible for an employer matching gift, we hope that you will request an application from your human resources office! Matching gifts often double, and sometimes even triple, your donation to NWCG.

# Words of Gratitude

## From NWCG Families

“The Care Kit provided by NWCG was extremely helpful – parental sanity and hygiene are both critical to the health of the child and easy to miss in the thick of things. The quilt made our son’s room homey and brought a smile to his face.”

**“Thank you for the care and support during this difficult time in our lives. We are so thankful for the extra help.”**

“Things are very difficult with all of the stress that comes from having a child going through transplant and this grant helped so much to ease some of the financial stress. We are so very grateful!!!! Thank you for all the support you provide to transplant families.”

**“Our daughter was diagnosed and needed a bone marrow transplant. The shock and severity of her health issues were a lot to process. Your help in paying our mortgage was calming and much appreciated.”**

# Program Support & Impact

Meet just a few of the many children your generous support has helped....



"You're BRAVER than you believe, STRONGER than you seem, and SMARTER than you think."

— A.A. Milne

In addition to helping families with children undergoing bone marrow transplantation, NWCG is committed to continuing to help families with children undergoing the newly approved CAR-T cell transplantation



"Keep your face to the SUNSHINE and you cannot see a shadow."

— Helen Keller



Your donations enable us to keep fulfilling our mission – we couldn't do this without your support!



"EVERYTHING  
that is done in this  
world is done by  
HOPE."

– Martin Luther

NWCG is the only non-profit organization in Oregon that provides compassionate financial support exclusively to pediatric bone marrow transplantation patients in the Pacific Northwest.



Each year, NWCG helps support hope for the future for patients by providing financial assistance for fertility preservation procedures.



# How Your Donations Offer Hope

**\$50** - Helps to fill a family's gas tank so they can drive to and from the hospital for treatment or buys a week's worth of groceries for a patient's siblings.

**\$100** - Pays for one Care Kit – a customized tote bag full of goodies, gift cards and supplies to help the child and family pass the time during the long hospital stay for bone marrow transplantation.

**\$250** - Assists families with monthly phone or utility bills.

**\$500** - Covers the cost of lab procedures that may, for instance, help preserve a child's fertility.

**\$1,000** - Contributes to a family's rent, mortgage or hotel costs while a child is undergoing cancer treatment.

**\$5,000** - Helps multiple families navigating their child's cancer treatment and/or bone marrow transplant or cord blood transplant.

## A Little About Nick

At just 18 months old, Nick Wilson was diagnosed with leukemia. Nick endured two years of treatments - chemotherapy, radiation, bone marrow transplants, and many other procedures - while always seizing an opportunity to play, laugh and smile. Despite the tremendous effort by Nick and his doctors, he succumbed to the disease in 2001. After receiving incredible love and support during his treatment, Nick's family vowed to give back. In 2005, the Nick Wilson Charitable Group was created - keeping his spirit and compassion alive by helping other children and their families going through difficult times.



## Our Mission

To provide compassionate financial support to children, teens and their families undergoing cancer treatment and blood and marrow transplantation at Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, Oregon.



# 2019-2020 Program Impact

Total Family Support: \$53,683

## FAMILY GRANTS

Helping families to cover the many expenses they encounter while their child is undergoing cancer treatment and bone marrow transplantation is our primary goal. Support for mortgage, rent, hotel costs, car payments, utility bills, child care, and insurance premiums are just some of the ways we help families financially.

- ♥ 35 (up from 20 last year) received up to \$1500 each in Family Grant financial support and two families received up to \$750 each in Bereavement Grant Financial support to help with their child's funeral expenses.

**Financial support provided: \$44,358**

## LAB WORK

This program helps families pay for lab expenses that aren't covered by health insurance. The two procedures that are typically requested, and for which we provide support, are fertility preservation procedures and bone marrow typing.

- ♥ 13 patients were supported with up to \$500 each fertility preservation/lab costs

**Financial support provided: \$1,740**

## CARE KITS

Patients and their families receive a Care Kit upon their child's admission for bone or marrow transplantation. A Care Kit is a large tote bag containing comforting and useful items for the entire family with the goal of providing comfort and diversion during their long hospital stay. Each Care Kit includes a snuggly blanket, toys, gift cards, toiletries, games, snacks, music, books, art supplies, and resource materials.

- ♥ 31 Care Kits distributed (up from 23 last year)

**Financial support provided: \$3,100 plus \$2,325 in gift cards**

## CENTRAL LINE PROTECTIVE VESTS

These vests are worn by babies and toddlers to help protect their central line catheters (a port to deliver chemotherapy) to prevent them from being jostled and damaged.

- ♥ 8 Patients received vests

**Financial support provided: \$160**

## HELP TODAY GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Helping families buy a tank of gas or a bag of groceries on the day that they need through provision of gift cards is the purpose of this program. There is no waiting. Families get the help they need, today.

- ♥ 120 gift cards (\$25 each)

**Financial support provided: \$3,000**

# Family Profile



## Meet Lauren - Strong and resilient!

Two and a half years ago, Lauren woke up seeing a red spot in her field of vision in the center of her right eye. After being referred to the Casey Eye Institute, her doctors discovered the cause was a hemorrhage in her eye. Usually this is a result of an injury but Lauren had not sustained an injury severe enough to cause this. Blood work revealed severely low platelet counts which led to her being hospitalized at Doernbecher Children's Hospital for several days of diagnostic testing to rule out leukemia. Her test results came back as myelodysplastic syndrome or MDS which is caused by a chromosome deletion that can develop into leukemia if it is left untreated.

To treat her MDS, Lauren needed a bone marrow transplant. Before receiving her transplant, Lauren needed blood transfusions several times a week for six weeks. She then spent another six weeks staying at Doernbecher, to receive chemotherapy to knock out her immune system followed by a bone marrow transplant. She spent her summer feeling the effects of the chemotherapy and recuperating. Later that fall, NWCG was honored to have Lauren and her family join us for our Halloween Bowl for Hope event once she was feeling better.

Fast forward to today where Lauren is a freshman in high school. She is back to her favorite activities of playing the flute, baking, roller skating and spending time with her family and pets. She says she met some great friends that she never would have met had it not been for this experience. She still has some after effects like chemo brain as she calls it, but is hopeful she will recover completely.

NWCG helped Lauren and her family with a Care Kit and a Family Grant which helped to alleviate some of the financial worries and allowed her parents to focus on supporting her through her treatment. Lauren's parents let NWCG know, "We are eternally grateful for the support and insight from NWCG. NWCG knew just how we needed to be supported and made our stay at the hospital easier and more comfortable." NWCG is honored to have helped Lauren and her family. We are deeply grateful to our donors who make this possible.

## The Kaplan Family Gives Back

In August 2014, the Kaplan family met Jill at Doernbecher Children's Hospital several months after their son Zev was diagnosed with JMML. JMML is a rare and aggressive form of blood cancer that can only be treated with a bone marrow transplant. Their connection to Jill, a fellow BMT parent, was immediate. Daniel and Alla truly appreciated the Care Kit as well as the Family Grant they received from NWCG which helped with several of the family's bills.

Once Zev was able to return home, his parents kept in touch with Jill and promised themselves to find a way to help NWCG. In keeping with their promise, they attended several of the annual fundraising events, with Daniel speaking at the 2015 event and again in 2019.

In the spring of 2020, while families were staying home due to Covid, Daniel made Zev and his brother Ben play swords out of plastic pipe, insulation and duct tape. The swords were a big hit with the boys' friends who thought they were a great way to whale on their dads and Daniel was asked to make more. Around this same time, it was clear that NWCG was not going to host their annual event, so instead of charging for the materials for the swords,



Daniel decided donate the proceeds to NWCG. "The hobby now had a purpose," according to him, and he continued by saying, "NWCG provides real, serious help to families in their most unsettled. We look forward to our continued involvement with this wonderful organization."

NWCG is humbled when families that we, and you our donors, have supported give back to help other families undergoing similar treatments for their children. Thank you to Daniel, Alla, Zev and Ben!

# Supporters

Donations from Sept. 1, 2019 – Aug. 31, 2020

Janet Aldana  
Berverly Ala  
Kori Allen  
Anonymous  
Marcia and Tom Baertlein  
Tina Bareno-Indalecio  
Timothea Barnatan  
Judy and Dennis Barr  
Larry and Janet Baum  
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Brian and Sally Bovero  
Kelsey Bourdeau  
Mike and Lynne Brady  
Dana Braner, MD  
and Mary DeFrank  
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Jeffrey Gale and Sandra Joos  
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Heidi Hess  
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Isla Wilson  
Jean and Robert Wilson  
Rush Wilson  
Larry Wolff  
Ken Yarnell  
Asia Young  
Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects  
LLP

## **Many thanks for the donations in honor and memory of loved ones**

### **In Memory of Magnus Fields**

Ken Ware Chevrolet, Inc.

### **In honor of Dr. Richard Sutherland**

Donald and Roslyn Sutherland

### **In memory of Mike Hawkins**

Anne Brooke Hawkins

### **In honor of the Metz/Wilson Family**

Judy and Dennis Barr  
Bill and Kathi Snouffer  
Bernie & Shirley Croucher

### **In memory of Nick Wilson**

Judy and Dennis Barr  
Don and Joann Metz  
Cathy Tangen  
Bernie & Shirley Croucher  
The Metz/Wilson Family

### **In memory of Sarah Mace**

Carie and Alan Mace

### **In honor of the Kathrein Family**

Nina Randall

## Hope Wins Campaign

This has been a challenging fundraising year for the Nick Wilson Charitable Group, as it has been for many non-profit organizations around the country. With the unfortunate cancellation of our TopGolf event in the spring and our Bowl for Hope event this fall, we were tasked to find a new, creative way to raise money for our programs.

Our Hope Wins virtual campaign using GivingGrid became that opportunity. In September, National Childhood Cancer Awareness month, we opened up the campaign where donors chose a donation amount on the “giving grid” and uploaded a photo, quote or message that was then placed in their donation box. Our goal was to raise \$10,000, but the response was phenomenal, and by the end of the three-week campaign, we had raised \$17,715!

Our Hope Wins Campaign was a critical part of our plan to make up for our shortfall due to the cancellation of our two biggest in-person fundraisers of the year. The reality is that cancer does not stop during COVID-19, wildfire season or anything else for that matter. This year, the families we support are not only dealing with the emotional and economic strain of their child’s cancer treatments but also the myriad of other stressors the year has brought.

We are honored by the incredible generosity of this year’s donors, and ask that you consider making a final year-end gift, as our important work is never-ending. Our families truly appreciate the support that the Nick Wilson Charitable Group provides in their time of unanticipated need, especially during this tumultuous time.

Now more than ever families need our support. Your year-end gift is a meaningful way to show our families that you care about them during their difficult time. Thank you for your continued support!



Stay tuned for some great  
new virtual events  
coming in 2021

**One of our favorite parts of this campaign was watching the grid fill up and seeing everyone’s wonderful photos and comments!**

“My favorite charity. Thanks for making a difference.”

“Nick lives on in all of you! Great work!”

“Thanks for all the wonderful work you do.”

# Financials

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION August 31, 2019

### ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	91,765
Other - gift cards		-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>91,765</b>

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities	\$	-
Total Liabilities		-
Equity		
Net Assets in Excess of Liabilities	\$	91,765
<b>NET ASSETS &amp; LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>91,765</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019

### REVENUES

Direct Public Support	\$	38,625
Grants		18,000
Special Events Fundraising (net of costs)		6,200
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>62,825</b>

### EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$	56,605
Administration and Operation		24,758
Fundraising Expenses		2,345
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>83,708</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$	(20,883)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year		\$112,648
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>91,765</b>

# Thank you!

## **Board of Directors:**

Jill Metz, Ph.D., *President*  
Addison Wilson, M.D., *Vice President*  
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Pediatric Nurse Practitioner  
Oregon Health & Science University/Doernbecher Children's Hospital  
Portland, OR

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Nick Wilson  
Charitable Group

Helping Families Today

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P.O. Box 80852  
Portland, OR 97280

**Donate Today!**  
[nickwilsoncg.org](http://nickwilsoncg.org)



The Nick Wilson Charitable Group is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is primarily volunteer operated. We receive no federal or state funding and rely on community support and individual contributions. Tax ID #93-1325720.