



RUTLEDGE
CANCER FOUNDATION

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



A new decade

ON THE HORIZON

OUR MISSION



works to **ease the impact**
of cancer on the lives of teens and
young adults, **raise survival rates,**
and **find a cure** *for sarcomas and*
other solid tumor cancers.





EASE THE IMPACT

In 2022, we funded \$305,083 which served over **1,748** patients and families through our patient programs that address unmet emotional and physical needs.



RAISE THE RATE

In 2022, we raised **\$840,650** to ease cancer's impact, increase awareness and early detection, and to further research for less toxic, personalized cancer therapies.



FIND A CURE

In 2022, we funded **\$104,000** in research aimed at finding a cure for solid tumor cancers.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



2022 was a year of reflection and progress for Rutledge Cancer Foundation. Following a two year wait due to Covid,

we were finally able to host our Hearts of Gold Gala in September, celebrating eleven years of improving the lives of adolescent and young adult cancer patients and their families. It was a special time for our faithful supporters and tireless staff to come together and recognize all that we have been able to accomplish together, as well as reenergize for the work still to be done.

Our momentum from the first ten years continued into 2022, and we were able to grow the number of patients and family members served to 1,748. Over 600 volunteers helped us during the year by working on initiatives such as Carley's Closet, which provides comfort and care items to those undergoing treatment. We were also able to fund supervised exercise programs at UNT Health Science Center and expand our support of onco-fertility preservation to Cook Children's and M.D. Anderson, while continuing our work with the fertility program at Moncrief Cancer Institute. These programs directly ease the impact of cancer treatment on patients and their families. Last year alone, for example, 55 patients, who otherwise would not have been able

to afford it, were able to preserve their fertility as a direct result of your help. It is exciting to see and hear stories of hope being restored when, at times, it can feel taken away.

For RCF, the ultimate hope is finding a cure, and we remain relentless in our pursuit of less toxic, targeted therapies that can benefit from our involvement. We continue to support and are encouraged by the progress on the nanoparticle delivery system, which would allow patients to receive the much-needed chemotherapy treatments with less exposure to vital organs. Additionally, we were able to review a number of immune-based research trials and look forward to providing our assistance in their progress. We are grateful to all of you who have now helped us fund over \$1.5 million in research and clinical trials. With progress being made in our research, we are hopeful for what lies ahead on the horizon.

Thank you for continuing this journey with us and for caring about these young men and women who fight not just to be alive, but to live.

Until we find a cure,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Kight'.

Kyle Kight



DID YOU KNOW?

- Rutledge Cancer Foundation serves adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer patients from age 11 to 39.
- Cancer is the leading disease-related cause of death in young adults age 15-39, increasing over 50% in the last 40 years.
- Approximately 89,500 AYAs in the United States are diagnosed with cancer each year.
- AYAs are eight times more likely to be diagnosed with cancer than children under 15.
- Solid tumor cancer survival rates for AYAs have not changed in over 40 years.
- Less than 2% of AYAs with cancer participate in clinical trials.
- AYAs are the most under-insured or uninsured group in the United States.

EASE THE IMPACT

In 2022, RCF was able to serve over **1,748 patients** and family members with **\$305,083** spent on innovative programs, patient events, supportive care, and outreach.



884

patients received
New Diagnosis Bags



55

patients were blessed
through the Onco-Fertility
Preservation Program



380

patients received
Christmas
Stockings



patients participated in
FitSteps for Life



patients received travel scholarships
for First Descents Adventures



AYA Cancer Patients hosted
at RCF Patient Outings



678

volunteers served young
cancer patients through RCF



728

people attended RCF AYA
Awareness events



RCF PATIENT PROGRAMS:



CARLEY'S CLOSET

Started in 2011, Carley's Closet serves the unique needs of adolescent and young adult cancer patients at both children's and adult medical centers, supplying resources and comfort items to help keep patients active and positive throughout their treatment. RCF also provides Christmas stockings to patients with age-appropriate gifts and comfort items to help them get through the holiday season.



ONCO-FERTILITY PRESERVATION

Loss of fertility is a significant side-effect of cancer treatment for patients diagnosed during their reproductive years and a source of considerable emotional distress. In partnership with Moncrief Cancer Institute, Rutledge Cancer Foundation helped pioneer a community-wide Onco-Fertility Preservation Program. The program includes fertility preservation education, care coordination, and financial assistance for medically underserved teen and young adult cancer patients. RCF also supports fertility preservation programs at Cook Children's Medical Center, also in Fort Worth, and MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.



FITSTEPS FOR LIFE

Research has proven that cancer patients who exercise during and after treatment have better outcomes. In 2019, RCF brought FitSteps For Life to UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth. Clinical exercise specialists work directly with patients to provide an individualized exercise plan based on their diagnosis and physical capabilities. This program is offered free of charge to all cancer patients through funding from RCF.



TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FOR FIRST DESCENTS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

First Descents provides life-changing, outdoor adventures for young adults impacted by cancer and other serious health conditions. Many young adult patients apply and receive scholarships to the First Descents Program but cannot afford the travel cost to get there. In 2022, RCF opened a travel assistance fund to allow patients to participate.



PATIENT OUTINGS

Life during and after cancer is especially difficult for teens and young adults. Patients try to maintain a “normal” life but suffer from long-lasting and life-changing issues. These “stressors” often cause added isolation and depression, affecting overall health and patient outcomes. RCF’s patient outings are designed to bring young patients and their families together to help them forget about their cancer for a while and give them a sense of community with others who understand.

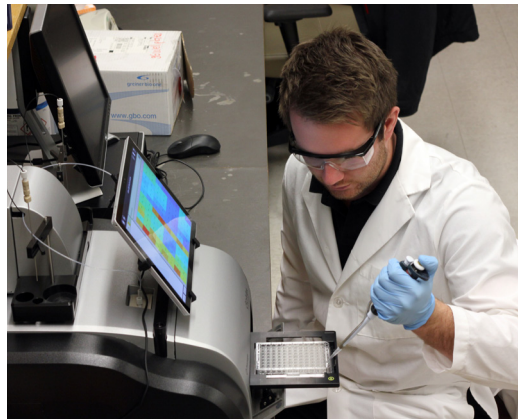
FIND A CURE



RCF SARCOMA AND SOLID TUMOR RESEARCH

Since 2011, Rutledge Cancer Foundation has donated over **\$1,503,197** for immune-based, targeted pediatric sarcoma research and clinical trials. We follow our research projects carefully, requiring bi-annual progress reports. RCF has supported 11 new therapies and 6 clinical trials. Our goal is to get less toxic, more curative therapies to patients as quickly as possible. Current projects include:

- Targeting IL1RAP Surface Protein for Immunotherapy in Ewing sarcoma (Dr. Poul Sorenson, BC Cancer Molecular Oncology Research, Provincial Health Services Authority, Vancouver, BC)
- Biocompatible Nanoparticle Delivery System for Pediatric Cancers using AD198, Myr5A (Qana Therapeutics, Austin, Texas / UT San Antonio, Greehey Children’s Cancer Research Institute / UNT Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas)
- Preclinical Biomarker Collaboration Study between UNTHSC and Texas Children’s Hospital / Baylor College of Medicine (UNTHSC, Fort Worth & Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas)
- Ewing Sarcoma Phase II Clinical Trial of Palbociclib & Ganitumab (Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts)
- Ewing Sarcoma (EWS) Neoantigen Therapy (Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio)



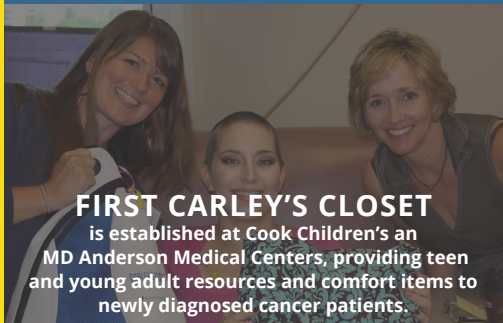


2010 ✨

CARLEY RUTLEDGE, age 15, is diagnosed with Stage IV Ewing sarcoma, after 11 months of misdiagnosed pain.

Family and Friends host first **GOLD RIBBON KICKBALL GAME**, raising \$23,000 for sarcoma research at Georgetown University and \$15,000 for a dedicated Teen Room at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth.

✨ **2011**



FIRST CARLEY'S CLOSET is established at Cook Children's an MD Anderson Medical Centers, providing teen and young adult resources and comfort items to newly diagnosed cancer patients.



✨ **2013**

RCF begins hosting **PATIENT OUTINGS**, allowing young patients to connect with others on their same cancer journey, creating important community and connection

2013 - 2016 ✨

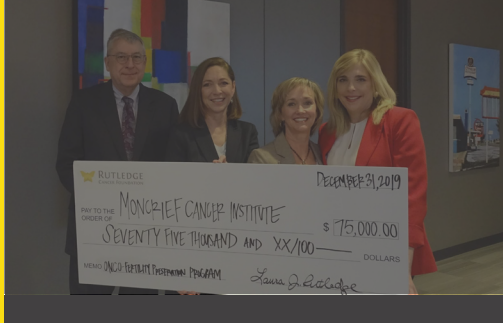
RCF helps push forward development of **EWING SARCOMA TARGETED DRUG VACCINE THERAPIES** at Mary Crowley Cancer Research Center

✨ **2014**

RCF helps establish the first **AYA PSYCHOLOGIST** at Cook Children's Medical Center

2013 - 2015 ✨

RCF begins work with **UNT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER**, studying a novel nanoparticle that could target cancer cells and deliver drug payloads with minimal toxicity



✨ **2016**

RCF and Moncrief Cancer Institute partner to provide the first community wide **ONCO-FERTILITY PRESERVATION PROGRAM** in the US, establishing a patient fertility program for all AYA cancer patients and a fund for underserved patients, later helping open additional programs at Cook Children's Medical Center and MD Anderson Cancer Center

2016 - 2019 ✨

RCF helps establish **SOLID TUMOR PROGRAM** at Cook Children's, making clinical trials for solid tumor cancers more accessible to young cancer patients

2017 ✨

RCF funds **CHILDREN'S CANCER THERAPY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE** in Beaverton, Oregon, to develop pediatric cell lines for ASPS, a rare pediatric sarcoma



✨ **2019**

RCF partners with R4 Foundation to establish and fund **FITSTEPS FOR LIFE** therapeutic cancer exercise program in Fort Worth at UNT Health Science Center

2019 - 2020 ✨

RCF creates a collaboration between Jason Yustein, MDPhD, Lab at Baylor College of Medicine and Greg Aune, MDPhD, Lab at UT San Antonio and a partnership with Qana Therapeutics in Austin, Texas, to continue research of novel nanoparticle delivery mechanism for Ewing sarcoma. New research team receives an NIH R21 Grant to continue development of Nanoparticle Drug Delivery in pediatric sarcomas.



RCF supports research of **DRS PETE ANDERSON AND TIMOTHY CHAN** at Cleveland Clinic to develop an mRNA Vaccine and CarT Therapy for Ewing sarcoma.

✨ **2021**



AFTER 8 YEARS of being cancer-free, Carley tragically relapses and battles for 14 months before succumbing to her cancer. Carley's passion to find a cure for pediatric sarcomas propels RCF's mission forward.

2023 ✨

RCF begins support of **DR. POUL SORENSEN** at BC Cancer Molecular Oncology Research, Provincial Health Services Authority, Vancouver, BC, Targeting IL1RAP surface protein with novel immunotherapy approaches for Ewing sarcoma.

2011 - 2022

RCF FUNDS OVER \$2,600,000 IN RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS for less toxic, more curative therapies for sarcomas and other solid tumor cancers and programs that ease the impact of AYA cancers.

A DECADE OF PROGRESS AND WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED SINCE 2011, RCF HAS:

EASED CANCER'S IMPACT by funding \$1,158,843 in Patient Programs and serving 14,442 young cancer patients

RAISED SURVIVAL RATES by hosting 12,992 guests at AYA Cancer Awareness Events

HELPED FIND A CURE by funding \$1,503,197 in research for less toxic, more curative cancer therapies



2022 CONTRIBUTIONS

Our deep gratitude goes to all who give in support of our mission.

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