

Kids With Courage Foundation OVERVIEW

Created out of concern that some of our nation's most extraordinary children and young people are under-served, the Kids With Courage Foundation works to provide practical and distinct support programs that have a direct and immediate influence in the lives of children and young people battling Type 1 diabetes. As a 501(c) (3) not for profit foundation, Kids With Courage recognizes, encourages and honors these brave children and young people who are life-long patients.

Mission: To embrace children and young people with Type 1 diabetes, providing support programs and educational scholarships.

Vision: A culture of engaged young people (*who just happen to have Type 1 diabetes*), with "can do" attitudes, committed to a lifetime of learning, achievement, leadership and service.



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OUR PROGRAMS

Kids With Courage programs are based on the premise that education is the foundation for achieving your full potential and getting the most out of your opportunity of life. Strengthening values, building character and solidifying habits through proper disease management will help you achieve your dreams and goals, despite the difficulty and challenges that battling Type 1 diabetes brings. In order to fulfill this mission, Kids With Courage offers the following programs and services that support these remarkable children and young people.

Crateful of Courage: Being diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes is devastating and can be overwhelming. For these children and their families, being courageous involves being fully aware and accepting of the threat of immediate medical emergencies and their long term health concerns. Empowering families, by encouraging education, awareness and advocacy is essential. Courageous behavior consists of taking responsibility and being pro-active. Benefits of being courageous include personal integrity and thriving in the midst of normality. A "Crateful of Courage" is provided to newly diagnosed children/families. Bright and cheerfully decorated crates are filled with comfort and support items along with educational and resource materials designed to encourage.

Team Courage: Children and young people with Type 1 diabetes are invited to join **TEAM: Courage**. Team Courage members are the extraordinary children and young people with Type 1 diabetes, who bravely take on the challenge of their life, each and every day. Those with Type 1 diabetes are the Most Valuable Players (MVP's). Our philosophy is to encourage our MVP's to become "champions" and get the most out of their opportunity of life. Being a champion is about doing your very best to achieve your goals, despite the difficulty and the challenges that Type 1 diabetes brings. (Coming in 2009)

Scholarship Program: The need for scholarships for children and young people with Type 1 diabetes is enormous. Imagine a lifetime of expensive daily medications and quality healthcare. Our scholarship program recognizes the personal triumphs of outstanding students who demonstrate active involvement in their community and/or sports, while engaged in a healthy self management of their Type 1 diabetes. To be eligible, you must be a member of Team Courage. Our Scholarship Program will begin as funds become available.

Hall of "Heroes": Everyone needs a hero! Especially children and young people who face and battle challenges each and every day brought on by the disease of Type 1 diabetes. We will invite and induct into our Hall of Heroes, distinguished American "Heroes" to our Foundation. These heroes will be today's role models from all walks of life, whose experiences exemplify that the opportunity for a successful life are available to any individual who is dedicated to the principles of integrity, hard work, perseverance and compassion for others. Their stories will serve as examples of a "can do" attitude and the importance of working toward a dream.

HOW WE'RE FUNDED

Kids With Courage continues to build the charitable capital that our kids need. Funds are raised through individual gifts, fundraising events, memorial and honorarium programs, and business/corporate gifts and sponsorships. Foundation grants are on the horizon. Kids With Courage also relies on in-kind contributions to lessen the cost of goods and services.

FOUNDED

Inspired by the bravery of her 7 year old daughter (McGwire) after diagnosis with Type 1 diabetes, Daphna Bottcher developed the idea for Kids With Courage in 2006. Knowing that hope alone was passively inadequate to manage the daily challenges and demands of this devastating disease, Daphna knew she wanted something more. While no organization filled that void, Daphna pursued the creation of an organization that proactively promotes courage as its cornerstone. This organization makes an immediate impact on children, young people and families that are challenged with this life-long disease. Believing that daily courage is an essential tool to battle and manage this disease, Kids With Courage was born.

OUR CHALLENGES

The Kids With Courage Foundation services are based upon the following challenges:

Type 1 diabetes (also known as *juvenile diabetes*) is a serious, insidious disease that is widely misunderstood by our society. A recent nationwide study revealed that 80% of the American public does not know that there is a distinct difference between two diseases with similar names – Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is a gene related disease in which a child or young person's own immune system attacks and destroys the insulin producing cells in the pancreas. Without intensive insulin therapy and carefully monitored medical attention, organs begin to fail, eventually causing blindness, kidney failure and death. **To stay alive**, people with Type 1 diabetes are required to take multiple daily injections or continually infuse insulin through a pump, and test to monitor their blood sugar numerous times a day, in order to attempt to keep it within safe levels. To give you some idea, in one year alone these children must endure around 5,000 shots and pokes in order to maintain and sustain life. Children and young people with this form of diabetes must be prepared at all times for serious reactions and complications, all of which can be life-limiting and life-threatening.

Insulin is not a cure for diabetes, it is merely **life support**. There is **no cure!** Science is progressing, and we have hope for a cure. Until then "courage" must fuel the futures of these children, otherwise their futures will falter, and they will become victims, rather than victors of their circumstances. Science and medicine has come a long way in the treatment of this dreadful disease, as just 20 years ago, if a child was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, their life expectancy was approximately 7 years.

There are approximately 13,000 newly diagnosed children each year in the United States. That's 35 children each day. There are over a million children and people living with Type 1 diabetes today. Being a child diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, not only changes the child's life *forever*, but changes the lives of the entire family, and creates enormous medical and psychological issues for all. Imagine being a life-long patient, and constantly dealing with life-limiting and life-threatening issues.

Imagine a lifetime of **quality medical care** and **expensive daily medication's**. These are burdens that these children and families must contend with, **not just temporarily, but for life.**

THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR PROGRAMS

Children and young people with Type 1 diabetes should not be denied what we desire for all young people. All children should have the chance to grow up as healthy, productive and caring people. Their special needs should be recognized and accommodated. Their uniqueness should be understood and nurtured.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

We do it for the children. We are proud to have a positive effect on the lives of the children and young people with Type 1 diabetes. Kids with Type 1 diabetes are remarkable. They require strength beyond what most of us can comprehend as they battle this horrific disease each day of their life. They need to know that people understand them, care about them, and accept them for who they are.

We do it for their parents. Parenting a child or young person with Type 1 diabetes can be overwhelming physically, mentally and emotionally and, involves special challenges. No parent wants his or her child to be ill with a disease that is incurable. Parents of children and young people with Type 1 diabetes need to have access to other parents, resources and the comfort of knowing there is someone who understands them and their children.

We do it for the community. Society is shaped by the contributions of many people who have overcome adversity in their lives. Adversity brings knowledge, and knowledge wisdom. If we want our young people to be prepared when society needs them, we need to be there for them when they need us. If we let them down, we would have an inhumane, irresponsible and ineffective society.