Bear Necessities

Pediatric Cancer Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

SPREADING joy

JOY : a state of happiness or bliss
: to experience great pleasure or delight

THANK YOU FOR GIVING JOY!

Bear Necessities
Pediatric Cancer Foundation

BEAR NECESSITIES PEDIATRIC CANCER FOUNDATION

WELCOME

FROM THE CEO/FOUNDER

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, I hope you and your families are all well and safe during what is now referred to as our "new normal."

We at Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation have obviously been very affected by COVID-19 and the restrictions imposed upon all of us. We have worked extremely hard to switch gears and get away from events which we have been solely reliant on for 28 years. It's been tough, but it's actually been a wonderful learning process and something we are very proud of being able to navigate through.

Our fundraising may look different but our mission remains the same of bringing Joy to the children and families that we serve.

While our lives have been radically altered, our children and families are experiencing heightened fears and major financial difficulties. Bear Necessities has been able to continue to support these needs thanks to you, our donors who believe in Bear's vision to help kids like him.

Pediatric cancer has not stopped because of the pandemic and neither has Bear Necessities. We will continue to meet the needs this disease presents and thank you for joining us through your financial support. We continue to need you to see our families through their fight.

Warmest regards,

Kathleen

Kathleen Casey

RUBY
AMERICAN GIRL

Ruby is a 5-year-old girl in treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. When we talked to Ruby's mom about her Bear Hug, she said that Ruby would love to have a day at the American Girl Store. For her Bear Hug Ruby and her family had car service to the American Girl store and were able to share a great day together.

After her experience Ruby's mom, Mary, shared her gratitude with a nice message: "I just wanted to thank you so much for Ruby's Bear Hug experience on Saturday. We had such a great day. Ruby was in heaven! The car downtown was great and the American Girl Store was so much fun! We had never been there, but what a fun experience! Ruby picked out a doll, Willa, along with some accessories for her. She and Willa have been inseparable ever since. Again – from the bottom of our hearts – THANK YOU!!!

B.O.D. and Financials

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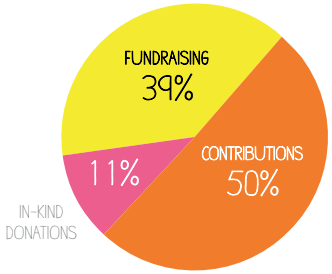
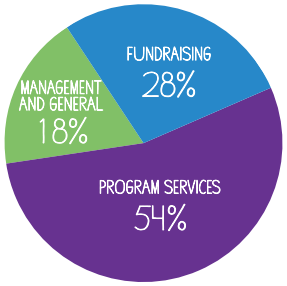
FINANCIALS

JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

INCOME	
Contributions	708,035
In-kind Contributions	153,873
Fundraising	540,259
Merchandise	753
Total Revenues	**$1,402,920**
Expenses	
Fundraising	463,712
Program Services	886,905
Management & General	298,131
Total Expenses	1,648,748
Other Income (Expense)	
Net Investment Returns	**$(12,588)**
Net Assets	
Beginning of Year	1,837,480
(Decrease) Increase in Net Assets	(258,416)
End of Year	**$1,579,064**



INCOME



EXPENSES

Contributions

JUNE 1, 2019 – JUNE 30 2020

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$25,000+

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MASON
FISHING

Mason is a 10-year-old boy in treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. For his Bear Hug, Mason knew right away that he wanted to go on a fishing trip. We arranged a private boating experience from Kenosha Harbor for Mason and his family and a stay at the Great Wolf Lodge. After their experience, we heard that Mason and his family had a great time, caught some BIG fish, and had a wonderful time as a family!

Young Professionals Board

2019–2020

In 2019–2020, the Young Professionals Board (YPB), included **50 incredibly talented and passionate individuals.**

Over the years, the YPB has raised nearly $209,668.00 to directly support the foundation's mission.

The YPB enthusiastically attended a Chicago Wolves game with kids who had been touched by Bear Necessities. A few representatives also helped work a table at Hockey Fights Cancer Night at a Chicago Blackhawks game.

The YPB hosted 2 happy hour style fundraising events throughout the year at some of Chicago's favorite bars. These events raised nearly $18,000 through ticket sales, sponsorships, bar specials, and Bear Hug auctions. While the focus of these events was raising funds for Bear Necessities, they were also used to spread the word to the young professional community about all the work the Foundation does for pediatric cancer research.

The major fundraising event of the year for the YPB was their annual signature event, Purple Affair for the Bear, held in January 2019 at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. This, other events and sponsorships raised more than $61,700 for Bear Necessities.

Despite some final plans being canceled due to COVID-19, the YPB had an incredibly successful year.

Special Events

A WALK FOR THE BEAR

Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation held the **6th annual A Walk for the Bear on October 20, 2019.** The Halloween themed three-mile family friendly walk took place along the Chicago lakefront at Lincoln Park. More than 700 participants, including children undergoing treatment and pediatric cancer survivors, joined in the fun. The top individual and team fundraisers received a special prize for their amazing efforts to help raise money for kids with cancer. After the walk, everyone enjoyed lunch, face painting, balloon toys, arts and crafts, and bouncy houses.

D.C, & Alayna Crenshaw

BEAR TIE BALL

The 27th Annual Bear Tie Ball "Boots & Bling" was held on Saturday, March 2, 2020 at The Geraghty, Chicago. The event, co-chaired by D.C. & Alayna Crenshaw, and supported by a fantastic Host Committee, had more than 500 attendees. The Foglia Family Foundation and the Panzino Family received the William J. Casey Hope Awards for their ongoing support of and contributions to Bear Necessities and children battling cancer.

LITTLE BLACK DRESS

On November 6, 2019, the Little Black Dress Luncheon was held at the Skokie Country Club in Glencoe, IL. The luncheon featured a silent auction, ornaments made by kids with cancer, lunch, and a program designed to raise awareness for the foundation and pediatric cancer. The MC for the luncheon was Whitney Reynolds of the Whitney Reynolds Show on PBS. The luncheon's Bear Hug Ambassador, Maddie C., shared her cancer story and her Bear Hug where she went to a Cubs game and was able to meet Anthony Rizzo.

GOLF FOR THE BEAR

Co-Chairs Brian Ferron and Greg Kosinski welcomed more than 100 golfers to Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Kildeer on **Monday, August 19, 2019 for Golf for the Bear.** Golfers started the day with a Bloody Mary Bar and continental breakfast. During the round of golf, there were numerous contest holes and lunch. After golf, the fun continued with a live and silent auction, cocktails, dinner, and the awarding of prizes.

MILTO
MERICAN MUSICAL

Memorials

JUNE 1, 2019 – JUNE 30 2020

RUE HAMILTON

Rue is a 16-year-old girl referred to Bear Necessities while battling Leukemia. When we talked to Rue about her Bear Hug, she asked for a Chicago weekend and tickets to Hamilton! We were able to work with CIBC Theatre for the tickets and The Langham for a personalized stay at their hotel.

After the experience Rue's mom sent us a nice thank you that read: "Once again thank you for our Bear Hug. The Langham went above and beyond with their generous hotel room donation. They had a huge plate of sweets and decorations awaiting our arrival. The suite was massive, 2 bathrooms even. They comped all meals. They parked our car valet and let us leave it safe while we went to the play. Hamilton was amazing. Rue was so thrilled to finally be able to see the play. Our seats were really great too. We just had the best time. Thanks again for making this happen. It's one of her favorite memories this past year."

Gabrielle Adamo
Taylor Boyle
Doris Brown
Michael Camis
Frances Canzoneri
Hannah Catus
Kathleen Derkacy
Martin & Gina Marie Freeland
Madison Heilskov
Jim & Eileen Hofstad
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Andrew & Laura O'Brien
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RAMONA
RINGO STARR

Ramona is an 8-year-old girl who was referred to Bear Necessities while battling a brain tumor. When we talked to Ramona about her Bear Hug, she asked to go to the Ringo Starr concert. With the help of a dedicated volunteer we were able to send the family to the concert as well as get them a meet and greet!

After the experience Ramona's mom sent us a nice thank you that read: "We're still recovering from the fun of the Ringo Starr & the All Starrs concert – we had so much fun! We truly can't thank you enough for giving Ramona such a special evening. She was so nervous about meeting Ringo – she said "I won't be able to say anything, I just know it!" We reminded her that Ringo is a father and grandfather, and his message is PEACE & LOVE! Ramona was super excited as we waited near the stage before the show. We were first in line when Ringo walked toward the meeting area. Ramona got several hugs and I got one too. We very briefly mentioned that Ramona had been in medical treatment – and Ringo said, "How long were you in hospital? I was in for 2 years – I win." and Ramona knew that story and smiled. It was a quick hello, as we assumed, but we have pictures to last a lifetime – totally getting those framed! As we walked away, Ramona said "My heart is doing cartwheels!"

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Wilderness Resort
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Writers Theatre
Zanies Comedy Club

MARY KATE
JOFFREY BALLET EXPERIENCE

Mary Kate is a 6-year-old girl in treatment for Wilms Tumor. When we asked her what she would like for her Bear Hug, her mom, Sarah, shared that Mary Kate is really into dancing – hip hop and ballet especially and shared that her favorite storybook featured the main character who watched a ballet performance backstage and then the ballet production. Her mom shared that Mary Kate would love an experience like this. Thanks to our great partnership with the Joffrey Ballet, we set up a one of a kind Bear Hug for Mary Kate where she first went to watch a rehearsal, meet the dancers, and months later watch the official performance. After their experience, Mary Kate's mom Sarah shared they had a wonderful time at the Joffrey Ballet!

GRAVE DIGGER
GRAVE DIGGER

DESEAN TRUCK

Desean is a 4-year-old boy in treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. From the moment we received Desean's Bear Hug referral from his Social Worker, we knew he was a BIG fan of trucks and was possibly interested in seeing Monster Jam. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions in Illinois, the Monster Jam shows were cancelled. However, this did not stop Desean from getting something Monster Jam related. For Desean's Bear Hug, we helped to get him his very own green Monster Jam Grave Digger Ride-on Truck.

When Desean's Monster Truck arrived, his mom sent us an email sharing, "Thank you guys so much; my son is so, so, so happy. He loves the new truck, and he never wants to get off of it. I appreciate what Bear Hugs have done for us. The truck came right on time before his birthday, and his birthday party theme is Monster Trucks. We will have a parade of cars, police, ambulance, and fire department for his birthday and Desean will be riding on his new Monster Truck with his brother and niece."

RESEARCH GRANTS

Bear Discoveries

$110,000

Simon Sanford, M.D.
The Rockerfeller University – New York, NY
"Effect of oncogenic kinase on liver cells in fibrolamellar"

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