

About St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

A Story of Hope

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital owes its existence to a promise made by a struggling entertainer—Danny Thomas. Turning to St. Jude Thaddeus, the patron saint of hopeless causes, Thomas vowed: "Show me my way in life, and I will build you a shrine." That simple promise and his later success as a television star led Thomas to found St. Jude, which opened in 1962. Today, St. Jude is the premier center in the United States for the research and treatment of pediatric cancer and other childhood catastrophic diseases. Working together under one roof, our physicians and scientists have pioneered treatments that have helped push the overall survival rate for childhood cancer from less than 20 percent in 1962 to more than 70 percent today. The survival rate for the most common form of childhood cancer, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, has risen from 4 percent in 1962 to 94 percent today. On average, 5,700 children are in active status at any given time, each enrolled in one of St. Jude's specially tailored treatment plans. Among the diseases treated at St. Jude are pediatric cancer, sickle cell disease, and HIV/AIDS.

The mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Consistent with the vision of our founder Danny Thomas, no child is denied treatment based on race, religion or a family's ability to pay.

ALSAC

American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC) was founded in 1957 for the sole purpose of raising funds for the continued support and maintenance of St. Jude. Thanks to the support of 1.1 million volunteers and more than 5 million donors around the country, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital can pursue Danny Thomas' dream that "no child should die in the dawn of life." Public contributions are the primary source of funds for the hospital. During the past three years almost 85.3 percent of every dollar received has gone to the current and future needs of hospital.

For more information about the hospital, please visit www.stjude.org.

About the Cancer Education Outreach Program

The St. Jude Cancer Education Outreach Program (“Cure4Kids for Kids”) aims to become the leading source of cancer education for students in the Kindergarten – Twelfth grades. Through the use of age-appropriate content, the program focuses on three main objectives: 1) educating students, parents, teachers, and communities about cancer and dispelling common misconceptions, 2) promoting healthy lifestyle choices in children that can help reduce the risk of developing cancer as an adult, and 3) increasing interest in science and health careers.

All educational materials are developed by a multidisciplinary team composed of St. Jude faculty and staff with the collaboration of national experts. The program contains three educational modules: Cells (presented as the basic unit of life), Cancer (presented as a disease of unhealthy cells), and Healthy Living (presented with practices for cancer risk reduction: tobacco control, safe sun exposure, proper nutrition, and appropriate physical activity). Each module consists of a children’s book, an expert presentation, and at least one hands-on activity. Currently, all materials are available in English and translation to other languages has begun.

The Cure4Kids for Kids website (www.Cure4Kids.org/Kids) makes the St. Jude Cancer Education for Children Program available to children across the country and the world. The website contains the cancer education material for elementary-aged students, teachers, and parents. Cartoon characters serve as tour guides throughout the narrated books, interactive games, glossary, and question and answer sections of the site. A designated area for teachers enables educators to download and print the program materials free of charge. A separate section is available for parents to reference material related to the topics presented in the children’s section so that they can have a source of information should their child have questions at home.

A formal evaluation of the program at the 4th grade level took place during the 2010-2011 school year in the Memphis region. Results of the research study can be found on www.Cure4Kids.org/Kids. Future plans include the expansion of content for elementary, middle, and high schools and additional development of the website. You can help improve the program by sending your students’ aggregate quiz results from your students to the Cure4Kids for Kids team. Teachers are encouraged to send their anonymous class results using the feedback form included in this kit or our online form at www.Cure4Kids.org/Teachers. For more information, contact the Cancer Education Outreach Coordinator at Kids@Cure4Kids.org.