

# Little Star Foundation “Your Example”

Spring/Summer 2026

Celebrating 41st Year Helping Children with Cancer, Families & Communities

Childhood is defined as “the state of being a child.”

If your early childhood was like mine, we had very different childhoods from William and Everly, pictured here. William, from Wisconsin, photo right and Everly, receiving her cancer treatment in Boston, photo left, both are living with optic gliomas, cancer impacting their sight and brain. Even if we come from polar opposite childhoods, we can all be on the same team, showing up and helping one another.

Two year old Everly was diagnosed with a fast growing tumor requiring a long protocol of cancer treatment. Everly’s Mom, asking for financial assistance, shares with Andrea when asked what prayer, saying or quote has helped them, “we can do hard things. It’s simple, but it has carried us through many overwhelming moments. We also remind ourselves that bravery doesn’t always look calm or quiet — sometimes it looks like tears, fear and still showing up anyway.”



I, Andrea Jaeger, (pictured left as a child), am grateful my early childhood was healthy and happy. Joy for each day with an inner light continues. Your showing up and helping children with cancer – Thank you! We make a great team!

**Donate Today!**

Donate today to make a difference and improve the lives of children with cancer.



William, pictured above, his family also put in a financial assistance application. Andrea asked William's Mom, “What words of Wisdom would you give to a parent and/or a brother or sister of a child with cancer?”

William’s Mom replied, “Follow your gut. Even if it means it leads down a road no one wants to travel.” William’s Mom noticed changes in her 1 year old son's health and behavior. She was determined to get answers from doctors and hospitals. She did get those answers. The heartbreaking news her son, William, had cancer, bilateral optic pathway glioma, affecting William's vision and brain.

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Everly's Mom continues sharing:

"The hardest part has been watching such a young child endure things no child should have to—frequent hospital visits, anesthesia, chemotherapy and disruptions to her sense of safety and routine, all while living with the uncertainty of what the future holds.

My daughter loved carefree play dates, long outings and being constantly on the go. She especially enjoyed attending playgroups and spending Sundays sleeping over at my parents' house with her cousin. Since starting treatment, her world has become much smaller and more carefully managed due to fatigue, immunosuppression and frequent appointments. She often asks to go outside and while she doesn't understand the limitations, the furthest we can safely go most days is to the mailbox and back. On days Everly does make it to playgroup, she often has to leave early because she is simply too tired. The loss of these simple routines and freedoms has been difficult, especially for a child who loves movement, people and being out in the world.

Everly does not understand the diagnosis itself but she very clearly feels the impact of treatment. She has developed strong associations with treatment days and routines. On Monday mornings, she often becomes upset as soon as I change her into new pajamas, recognizing that it means a hospital visit. She will try to put her bedtime pajamas back on in hopes of staying home. When she sees my mother in the morning, another sign of treatment days, she begins to cry and the distress escalates once we arrive at the hospital, apply numbing cream or approach the clinic."

William's Mom, similar to Everly's Mom and parents in nearly every state in the U.S. Little Star Foundation has helped children with cancer, also mentions the challenges of the unknowns. William's Mom explains, "the hardest part since his diagnosis is the unknown. Not knowing if he will ever keep his sight. Not knowing if he will start having seizures at any moment. Not knowing if his tumors will grow and cause permanent damage to where his body cannot function 100%. The worry of him injuring himself due to not being able to use stairs independently. And seeing him have vision issues.

My son's favorite thing to do before being diagnosed with cancer that he can no longer do is be a kid."

With your help, together, we can show up and help William, Everly, their families and so many others.

## Ways to receive Little Star Foundation News via email & Ways to Donate

Little Star Foundation can deliver updates and announcements directly to your email and/or text.

You can get news and announcements simply by providing your email address and/or phone number. Never is your contact information shared. Email me, Andrea Jaeger at [info@littlestar.org](mailto:info@littlestar.org) with your information and together we can save printing, mail costs and trees while you stay informed and enjoy the good works being done together.

Want to Donate?

\* You can donate securely online at [www.littlestar.org](http://www.littlestar.org)

\* You can mail a check to:  
Attn: Andrea Jaeger  
Little Star Foundation  
174 Watercolor Way  
Suite 103 #343  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

\* Additional contact for Andrea Jaeger at 800-543-6565 & [info@littlestar.org](mailto:info@littlestar.org)



[www.littlestar.org](http://www.littlestar.org)

Received February 19, 2026. This caring thank you letter was longer with more special sentiments. Due to space, edited to fit as much as possible.

“Hello, my name is David..... and I am a survivor of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma cancer who was fortunate enough to be able to attend Andrea’s Foundation Programs twice, in addition to being able to attend Andrea’s Ranch on the Road Program at the Acura classic tennis tournament in CA. I was around 10-11 years old when I first met Andrea and I am now 35. I wanted to provide an update on what I have done in my life in the spirit of what Andrea instilled in me.

After completing college, I knew I wanted to have a job involving helping cancer survivors. I earned my PhD in clinical psychology and now work as a neuropsychologist at the University of Washington Medical Center and at Fred Hutch Cancer Center in Seattle, WA. My primary role is evaluating thinking skills and cognitive assessments in adult cancer survivors during and after treatment and finding ways to maximize patient/survivor quality of life in the context of cognitive changes. I also have a wonderful family of 3 children and a loving wife who happens to be a nurse in oncology. I also have had cancer impact my family in other ways more recently, with both my father and grandfather recently passing away from cancer over the past year. It’s these more recent experiences of having children myself and losing my dad and grandpa to cancer that have made me reflect on how important the work you do and the lasting impact it has had on me. I hope that my role with patients now in my career has even a small amount of the same impact that Little Star and my medical team had on me.

My experiences with you (Andrea) and seeing others in the same place as me, is what has inspired me to work as hard as possible to pay it forward. If there is anything I can do to support Little Star now that I’m in this place in life, I’d appreciate any ideas or areas of need. I appreciate all you do, and thank you.

All my best,  
David

P.S. One of my favorite experiences in your program was fly fishing on Kevin Costner’s ranch and I am now also a very, very avid fly fisherman. Like then, it is a way for me be present and connect with my thoughts and thanks for providing that lasting memory in addition to countless others.”

In David’s recent February 2026 correspondence, he included this picture of him as a young boy during Andrea’s Ftdn Program Activities.



Immediately after David attended one of Andrea’s Ftdn Programs as a young boy, David’s Mom sent the below thank you letter. David included his Mom’s special thank you letter to Andrea, along with his picture, in his February 2026 thank you correspondence. These heartwarming and inspiring thank yous are for you too!!

**Dear Andrea,  
Thank you so much for everything you do for children!  
My son, David, attended your program in June and had  
the time of his life!**

**A very active child before his diagnosis, we have slipped  
into somewhat of a depression, which is to be expected.**

**With your help, David is regaining his independence and  
on to the next step of his healing process.**

**What a unique experience! Not only did David thoroughly  
enjoy all the enriching activities, but the relationships  
that were formed are phenomenal.**

**We have learned, through our illness, that things happen  
for a reason. I can not imagine our life without the people  
we have met at Children’s Hospital in San Diego and now  
your Foundation.**

**Instead of feeling we are facing a nightmare, the support  
and assistance we have received are a dream come true.**

**Thank you,  
Tracy**

I could fill hundreds of pages with each issue of “Your Example” News from Little Star Foundation appreciative program participants and families requesting support.

Same for thank you letters, emails, notes, calls, texts and cards, I could fill a library of those thank yous received that come in consistently and continually. I share what fits in these pages because you are part of how these families are receiving important financial assistance, fun filled therapeutic programs and specialized daily, emergency and long term care.

My parents did amazing raising me. I had an early childhood family life of fun, laughter, safety, goodwill, love, learning, light, animal and nature experiences, faith filled beauty, blessings and brightness. Those built a foundation within me so no matter what I encountered later in life, in what I perceived as an injustice/harm to another, I had tenacity, heart and spirit to bring a better result, teaming up with God to change an outcome already presented, to bring a new result of a silver lining. My parents, in spirit, continue to cheer on my legacy.

The teamwork and friendship you bring and that we have together doing goodwill is important and I am grateful for it daily. Why my 41 years of full time, year round children’s cancer programs have helped children with cancer, their families and communities is due equal parts God giving blessings and callings, true leadership and caring team at the helm, and your friendship and support improving the quality of life and providing daily, emergency and long term care to children with cancer. Every thank you is for you because we together are showing up and helping. Thank you!

Here is another recent thank you that fits in this issue.

*I also want to thank you for taking the time to connect with me personally. Getting to know you and seeing pictures of your sweet dog Charlie absolutely made Everly's day - she smiled so big when I showed her all the pictures. Your compassion, warmth, support during such a difficult season have made a lasting impact on our family. We will never forget your kindness, and we are so thankful to have crossed paths with you.*

*With heartfelt gratitude,*

Charlie says hello too.



As the parent to the left shares a recent thank you and as Charlie also left, bringing cheer to children with cancer, we all send a thank hug to you.

Together, we can and will continue showing up to help! Thank you!



Little Star Foundation

Even though every day is a day Little Star Foundation makes a positive difference in the lives of children with cancer across the country, with every program provided for free, there is a waiting list. Your help is important, needed and appreciated.

May your life be filled with peace, love, joy, good health and goodwill! Donate today at [www.littlestar.org](http://www.littlestar.org) or at Little Star Foundation’s headquarters address to improve and even help save the lives of children with cancer. With gratitude and blessings to you, your family and loved ones, and appreciative of our special friendship too!

Andrea Jaeger – President Little Star Foundation

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