

Little Star Foundation “Your Example”

Spring/Summer 2025

Celebrating 40th Year Helping Children with Cancer, Families & Communities

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” ~Albert Einstein

Celebratory highlights on the inside pages. Getting right to what Little Star Foundation is known for: Free, nationwide, award winning programs providing a better quality of life and daily, emergency and long term care for children with cancer, their families, caregivers and communities.

Allyson who is pictured below. Allyson's mom, “A quote I have said often since Allyson's diagnosis is 'small victories'. It reminds us to stay present and to focus on the here and now. My teenage daughter's cancer treatment plan is 2 and a half years and that can seem like a very long time, which can easily become overwhelming. So if we choose to celebrate 'small victories', we can find the beauty in the simplicity of the day...taking time to realize there is always something to be grateful for.”



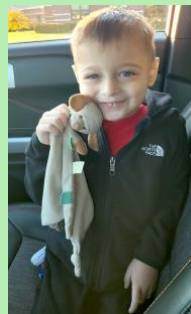
Donate Today!

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

Year round, hospitals and moms and dads of children with cancer contact Little Star Foundation, myself, Andrea Jaeger, and Program Coordinator, Adriana Solarova for help. Your donations and prayers are important. Introducing a few families of many this year we have financially supported. They share Words of Wisdom for other families to help with similar heartbreak.



Jacelyn, mom of Domenic, a 6 year old boy with cancer. When asked by Andrea, "What Words of Wisdom would you give to a parent going through what you are?" Jacelyn shared, "It's a marathon, not a sprint. Take a minute to breathe." Domenic, pictured above left before cancer. Pictured on right after chemo.



From Kristen sharing her best, mom of 5 year old Michael, pictured left with his dog Ruffie, the day before he was diagnosed with cancer. Kristen's answer to help other families: “Once the adrenaline wears off you will go through an exhausting phase...but in time you start to see the light. I promise you that. Life will just be different than what you expected it to be.”

Donate to Little Star at www.littlestar.org

Andrea: “If your financial support application is approved what would you use Little Star Foundation financial gift assistance for?”

Allyson's Mom: “If we were blessed with any financial assistance I would use it to go towards our household bills....mortgage, utilities, etc. As Allyson continued to experience complications from chemotherapy, I had to take a leave of absence from work. I have been on an unpaid leave. With inflation rates, the loss of my income and medical expenses, we are struggling. The hospital informed us that the road would be long and that it would get worse before it got better. Allyson had 7 blood transfusions and 5 bags of platelets to stabilize her over the beginning weekend, with the goal of doing surgery to place her port and begin chemotherapy immediately. They did the surgery, but they were unable to extubate her because of fluid overload. She spent one night on the ventilator in the ICU. To date, we have had 19 hospital admissions due to planned treatments and also unplanned side effects from the chemotherapy and frequent lumbar punctures. The most difficult part since Allyson's diagnosis has been seeing Allyson struggle with the side effects of these harsh chemotherapy regimens. Having her go from a star teenage athlete to seeing her have no control at times, being so weak that she can't walk and not being able to have any intake by mouth for 10 days as she recovered from an infection that was caused by chemotherapy. It's terribly difficult watching my daughter as she experiences these side effects and there is nothing I can do to help her feel better...”

Domenic's Mom: “My 6 year old son had 12 teeth destroyed from chemo. Spinal taps, lab work, chemo, the lists have been endless. We have hefty bills since I have had to stop working to care for Domenic. Our monthly premium for the insurance is \$1,000 and on top of that is the mortgage, taxes, car payments, household bills, FOOD (ridiculous right now), gas and more. We appreciate the support since I stopped working to care for Domenic.”

Michael's Mom: “My son just started preschool when he started having a hard time eating and pain in his belly. After Michael was diagnosed with cancer, I stopped working to care for him. My son has been on a ventilator for 3 weeks in the last month alone. We would be very grateful for financial assistance which we would use for food, gas and utility bills.”

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 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 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

* 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



www.littlestar.org

Each family in this issue and hundreds of other families Little Star Foundation has already helped this year have incredible stories of bravery and need. I could fill a library full of books from their own words of their day to day life. Since little kids and people of all ages read these issues, I want to be sure to include uplifting and positive news too. I am always honored to hear about a family's journey, each word, which includes experiences often too difficult and heart wrenching for others to read about. Feel free to contact me to learn more regarding living with and/or caring about children with cancer and their families.

Little Star Light Podcast is educational, interesting, informative and entertaining. Andrea Jaeger hosts each episode with noteworthy and successful individuals. Guests have included Dr. David Agus, Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor, Christine Brennan, Cindy Crawford, David Foster, Tony Hawk, pictured above Dallas Jenkins, Judy Jordan, Nancy Lieberman, Patrick McEnroe, Paul Rezendes, Michael Singer, Alice Walker, Lynda Webster and many other legends. Additional guest hosts are Little Star Foundation Alumni, Ambassador and childhood cancer survivor, Karen Vazquez, seen above; and Program Coordinator Adriana Solarova. Little Star Light is never made with your donation dollars. At Little Star Foundation we are as busy as ever helping children with cancer and disadvantaged children. We have a big fundraising campaign ongoing to clear the waiting list of children with cancer to benefit from Little Star Foundation's award winning programs. Help if you can - your support is important, welcome and appreciated. Enjoy Little Star Light. It's free, a gift for you. Watch us on YouTube, listen where Podcasts are found.

Episode Announcements, past and present are available at www.littlestar.org. Watch on youtube @littlestarlightpodcast and www.littlestarlightpodcast.com.

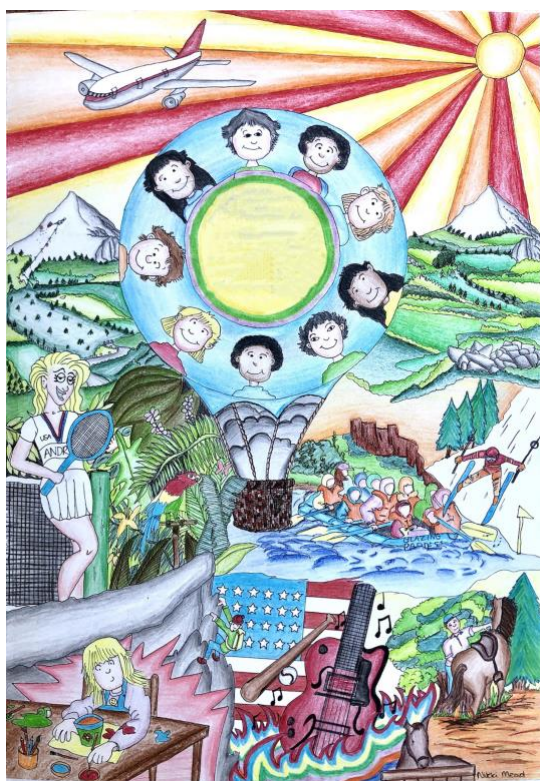
Here is the direct link to view Little Star Foundation's Wall Calendar filled with inspiring and cherished moments for you to be part of and enjoy:

<http://agendabook.littlestar.org/books/ajbb>

Pictured left a page from the inspiring and educational 2025 Little Star Foundation Wall Calendar.

When Nikki was a young girl, she participated in her first of many of my, Andrea Jaeger's, Programs helping children with cancer. Nikki was diagnosed with brain cancer as a child. After Nikki's first life transforming program, she wanted to share a special thank you. A few months after Nikki returned home from her first program, still a teenager with brain cancer, Nikki made this beautiful heartfelt artwork, pictured left, as a thank you to me and everyone in her Program making a difference in the lives of children with cancer. Nikki, decades later, still with brain tumors, continues to enjoy Little Star Foundation programs and still is creating thank you art for us.

To celebrate our 40th year this 2025 year, Nikki will be presenting a new 2025 "Thank You!" art piece, again created by her heart and incredible talents. Next issue Nikki's new artwork will be revealed.



You probably can recall times when you had to persevere, progress and move forward. Rather than listing Little Star Foundation highlights over 40 years, here is another family that we recently helped and with your support, we can continue helping. Whether you have a healthy family member or not, remember to hug and love your loved ones while you all can. I am proud to introduce Kauahe and his mom.

"My son, Kauahe, his name means, 'Progress and Move Forward', one night he complained of pain in his right shoulder blade area and shortness of breath. Symptoms were sudden and getting worse. He's a HS quarterback and initially, his athletic trainer told him it was probably muscle spasms. He got seen at the ER and to our surprise, from various tests and scans over 3 liters of fluid and an extremely large mass on his chest were found. It was devastating hearing this news out of nowhere. Prior to this, my son was perfectly healthy and strong. Our world just shattered into a million pieces! Initially, we spent over 2 months in the hospital. Kauahe had to have all his procedures and surgeries done awake as it wasn't safe for him to be sedated with the mass on his chest, fluid in his lungs and his airways compressed. He's gotten allergic to a couple of chemotherapy medications leaving him no choice but to get alternative medications/shots. Intense treatments sometimes every day, procedures, emergencies and stays in the hospital, even weeks at a time, have been extremely hard with also 3 younger children. My husband and I had no choice but to stop working as it's just been extremely difficult and we feel our son's health is extremely important. The hardest part since diagnosis has been intense weekly chemotherapy treatments. As well as procedures at the hospital, blood transfusions and dealing with many side effects that chemotherapy brings.

It's extremely hard seeing your child fight through the pain! We've been keeping our faith and praying daily for strength, comfort and healing for all of us during this difficult time. If given financial assistance, we would definitely use it to catch up on our utility bills, pay for his many medical bills and also for groceries and gas. Kauahe always shares the scripture John 13:7 and he also says and shares that he's 1% better every day! He tries to keep a positive mindset and is just so resilient with everything that he's going through! Thank you so much for your kind words, love and help during such a difficult time! Kauahe's Mom"
Kauahe pictured right just prior to his cancer diagnosis.



Thought it fitting between Adriana on the left at a program with her talented Artwork, "Leave Sparkle Wherever You Go" and the picture of Kauahe, his name meaning Progress and Move Forward, that I would share this update. I continually look for ways to enhance my role at Little Star Foundation to help children with cancer, families, communities, etc., which I look forward to doing for decades to come. I love learning, showing gratitude to God and being of service. With my over 125,000 hours of already service, decades ago received a Degree in Theology and Ministry Training, etc., I also recently became Licensed and Ordained as a Chaplain. Excited to add that benefit for families and...



May your life be filled with peace, love, joy, good health and goodwill! Donate today at 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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