



## Childhood Cancer Fact Sheet

- Each year in the US over 12,500 children are diagnosed with cancer. **That works out to be two classrooms or two bus loads full of children diagnosed every day.**
- More children die each year from cancer than any other disease. **In fact a child dies every 2 ½ hours from cancer here in the USA.**
- Today there is approximately a 1 in 315 probability that a child will be diagnosed with cancer before age 20.
- Most people do not realize that children can be born with cancer.
- In the past three decades, there has been tremendous research progress on childhood cancer. It has gone from an average survival rate of barely 25% to an average of over 75%. **But that still means that one in every four children who are diagnosed will die.**
- The “survival rates” which are quoted are simply determined by taking the date of diagnosis and seeing if the child is still alive five years later. A “survival rate” is **NOT** a “cure” rate. Children can - and do - relapse, develop other kinds of cancer or develop potentially fatal complications during or after surviving for five years.
- Despite the dependence on collaboration between treatment centers nationally for childhood cancer there is no detailed national database or statistics available due to a lack of funding.
- Childhood cancer diagnosis and reoccurrence rates are increasing nationally. This increase cannot be accounted for by the increase in population.
- Treatments for many children with cancer last three-and-a-half years and sometimes over four years after diagnosis.
- With recent discoveries in cutting edge research the doctors now say they will find cures for childhood cancer within our lifetime – **IF** they get the needed funding for their research. As of now childhood cancer research is so badly under-funded that doctors describe themselves as **desperate** for funding.
- We believe that if something is wrong and you have the ability to put it right then you have the responsibility to put it right. If we work together to raise the money needed we have the ability to put this right.

**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead**