

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 18-0948

Recognizing September 2018 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, a diagnosis of cancer at any age is disruptive to the lives of patients and their families; worldwide, it is estimated that approximately 300,000 children under the age of 19 years are diagnosed with cancer each year and approximately 80,000 will die from their illness; in the United States alone cancer kills more children under the age of 14 than any other disease; and

WHEREAS, statistically, there are 15,780 children between birth and 19 years of age diagnosed with cancer in America each year; and one in every 285 American children develop cancer before the age of 20; and

WHEREAS, there has been key breakthroughs in cases of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia and pediatric cancer care, there remain many types of childhood cancer with little hope for cure; the majority of children continue to receive chemotherapy drugs and treatment developed from the 1950s to the 1970s and specifically only three new drugs have been approved by the Federal Drug Administration in the last two decades to specifically treat childhood cancer; treatment is intense and generally includes surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy; and

WHEREAS, although there have been tens of millions of funding being allocated towards clinical trial research, there has been very little improvement in the overall survival rate of childhood cancer in the last decade; there are currently more than 380,000 childhood cancer survivors in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that funding and research be continued so that children with cancer could benefit from additional cancer therapies and drugs that lead to a greater number of cures; and

WHEREAS, founded nearly twenty-five years ago by Steven Firestein, a member of the philanthropic Max Factor cosmetics family, the American Cancer Fund for Children, Inc. and Kids Cancer Connection, Inc. are dedicated to helping these children and their families; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection provide a variety of vital patient psychosocial services to children undergoing cancer treatment at Children's Hospital Colorado, Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children in Denver, as well as participating hospitals throughout the country, thereby enhancing the quality of life for these children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Team Nathaniel continues its mission of raising funds for families with children who have been diagnosed with cancer by providing them funding assistance for access to potentially life-saving treatments, procedures or medications.

WHEREAS, Team Nathaniel promotes awareness about childhood cancer and the funding inequities for childhood cancer research. Team Nathaniel has been instrumental in proposing not only the first Denver City Council Proclamation, but also the first Proclamation sponsored by Governor John Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado recognizing September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Team Nathaniel honors the memory of Nathaniel Contreras, who lost his life to cancer at the age of 9 in 2015, by collecting and providing free Legos to pediatric cancer patients every year. Building Lego's was a favorite pastime of Nathaniel's, as it helped him think about something other than cancer during his treatments and hospital visits.

WHEREAS, this month, we pay tribute to the families, friends, health care professionals and communities who lend their strength to children fighting childhood cancer and may their courage and experience move others to help pave the way for new cures and a brighter future for our children.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and encourages the City and County of Denver residents to affirm their commitment to fighting childhood cancer by donating time or funding into appropriate programs and activities to support the cause.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to Crisandra Green and Jamie Bloyd, American Childhood Cancer Organization; Hope 4 Heroes; Steven Firestein of Kids Cancer Connection; and the Contreras Family on behalf of Team Nathaniel.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 27, 2018

PRESIDENT