

## THANK THANK YOU

As we reflect on the past year, we are thrilled to share with you the impact that your support has made possible. In the spirit of transparency and gratitude, we present our annual impact report, a testament to the collective efforts that drive positive change in the neuroblastoma community.

In 2023, we faced our fair share of challenges and yet, through collaboration and the generosity of individuals like you, Wade's Army continued to advance its mission. This report is a celebration of stories, milestones, and the power of compassion.

None of this would be possible without your belief in our mission and your commitment to making a difference. Whether you contributed time, resources, or advocacy, you played an integral role in the success of Wade's Army. Every achievement represents a step forward in creating a brighter future for the neuroblastoma community.

As we look ahead, our vision remains steadfast and we invite you to join us in the continued journey towards change. Together, we can chip away at the devastation of neuroblastoma and make a meaningful impact for the families and children we serve. Thank you for being an essential part of the Wade's Army family.

The DeBruin and Welbourn Families



### WHAT IS NEUROBLASTOMA?

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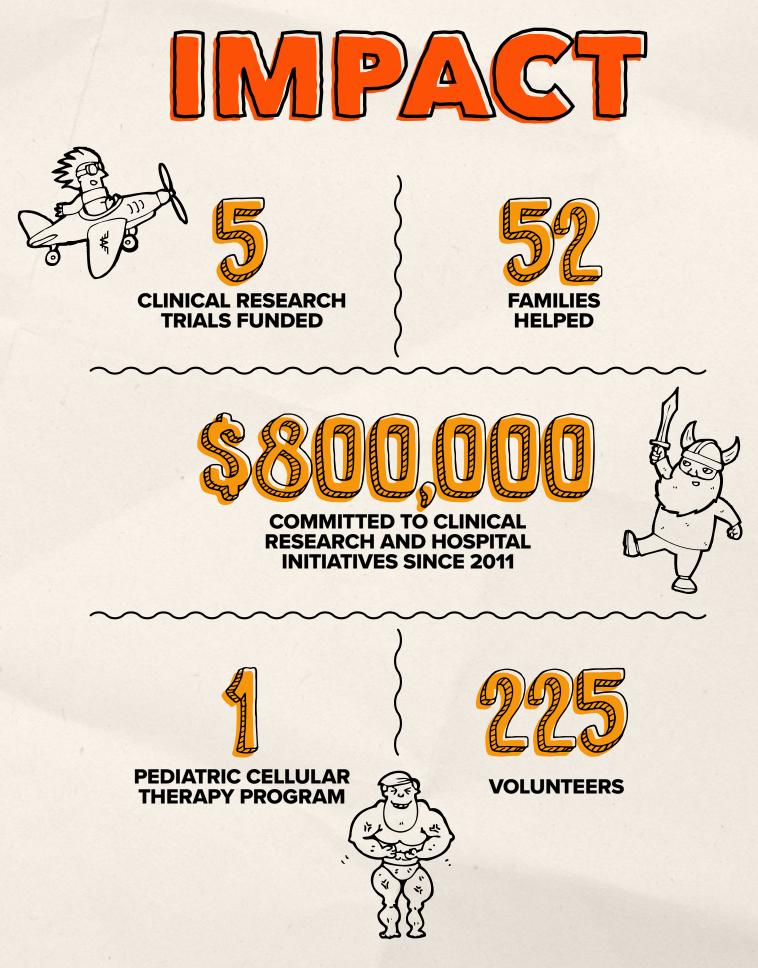
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Neuroblastoma is one of the most complex and devastating of all pediatric cancers. It is a tumor of the sympathetic nervous system that often quickly spreads throughout the entire body. Neuroblastoma is extremely rare, accounting for 4.1% of childhood cancer diagnoses in the U.S. Approximately 700 new cases a year are seen domestically. Less than 30% of children diagnosed with high-risk disease survive long term.

High-risk neuroblastoma is one of the most intensely treated of all cancers. Standard approaches require up to 18 months of multiple cycles of high-dose chemotherapy, surgery, double stem cell transplants, radiation, and immunotherapy. These small children lose their hair, their hearing, suffer infections, require numerous blood transfusions, antibiotics, intravenous nutrition, scans and biopsies, and spend most of their time hospitalized for the duration of their treatment.

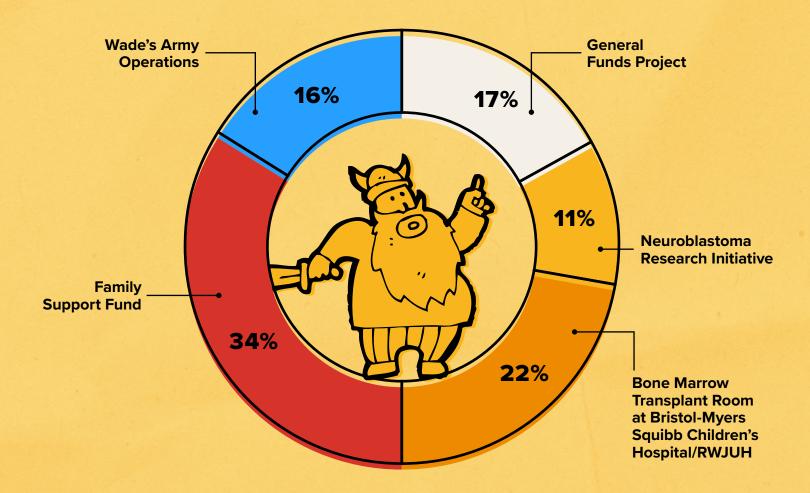
Those fortunate enough to survive face a lifetime of treatment-related physical and emotional challenges, including the likelihood of developing a secondary malignancy. Only one hurdle stands between the unacceptable status quo and better treatments and a cure for this awful disease support for research.

**SHOUT OUT TO** R-PHARM (C) US Thank you for the 12 years



# WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Wade's Army is small but mighty. The vast majority of funds raised support our programs and services. It's our goal to match donor gifts directly with their area of interest. Some donors prefer to support programs directly, while others know the power of investing in our infrastructure.



### **CURRENT PROJECTS**

#### PEDIATRIC BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT & CELLULAR THERAPY PROGRAM

Wade's Army has partnered with The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital to provide children receiving cellular therapy or stem cell transplantations treatment in the pediatric hematology/ oncology unit of The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital. The program will provide patients in New Jersey access to this type of procedure closer to home.

#### NEUROBLASTOMA FAMILY SUPPORT FUND

Provides direct financial support to families to cover treatment, loss of work, and other unexpected costs to allow families to focus their energies on supporting their child. The financial burden and impact of families has reached unprecedented levels and this fund helps families receive the financial resources they need immediately.

#### **PHASE 3 TITAN TRIAL**

This landmark Phase III clinical trial is designed to determine if the additional lorlatinib, a targeted ALK inhibitor, improves event-free survival (EFS) for children with high-risk neuroblastoma harboring ALK mutations. This clinical trial project represents the next iteration of the first use of a targeted therapy in frontline induction protocols for children with high-risk neuroblastoma.

#### WADE'S ARMY OPERATIONS

Wade's Army aims to give every dollar intended to help families or fund research to the given cause. To accomplish this goal, we must raise funds for Wade's uniforms, shipping, and operations.





### MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL: FIRST AND GOLD

Montgomery High School set an inspiring precedent by kicking off Childhood Cancer Awareness Month with a dedicated Childhood Awareness game. In collaboration with the Cougar Connect, high school students, and community volunteers, the event was a powerful display of unity and support for children battling cancer. The school's sports team took the field adorned in gold, symbolizing childhood cancer awareness, while the fans, showing their solidarity, donned purple attire which is the color of neuroblastoma. The collective effort was not only visible in the colors worn but also in the hearts of those who came together to make a difference. The game transcended its athletic nature, becoming a platform to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer research. The result was staggering, with the community contributing over \$2500 towards the cause. This poignant initiative not only showcased the compassion within the Montgomery High School community but also emphasized the profound impact that can be achieved when a community unites.



### THE RED GROSS WINTER WONDERLAND



The Red Cross Club at Monroe Township High School welcomed the holiday season with warmth, joy, and a spirit of giving at its inaugural Winter Wonderland. Families, students, staff, and community members came together to enjoy an array of activities including seasonal treats, themed games, and Santa. This festive event raised awareness for neuroblastoma and resulted in a generous donation from MTSD providing vital resources for research, support programs, and assistance to families affected by neuroblastoma. Thank you for ensuring the spirit of generosity and unity in support of Wade's Army.

#### WILLIAM STRAUSBAUGH AT THE GREATER WASHINGTON NEW YORK LIFE OFFICE

William Strausbaugh has seamlessly carried on his dedication to fighting childhood cancer by organizing a corporate walkathon at The Greater Washington New York Life office. Drawing upon his experience as a team player, he rallied his colleagues to join forces in the fight against Neuroblastoma. Through the walkathon, he not only raised a generous amount of money, but he has also fostered a sense of unity and purpose within the office, demonstrating how his passion for philanthropy could be integrated into his new professional environment. By leveraging his network and organizational skills, he exemplified the power of corporate engagement in making a tangible difference in the lives of children battling neuroblastoma, proving that the spirit of teamwork transcends the boundaries of sports and corporate life. Thank you William and New York Life for your support of Wade's Army.







### LIFT STRONG 2023 AT THE UNDERGROUND STRENGTH GYM

On December 16th, Zach Even-Esh hosted the 17th Lift Strong event at The Underground Strength Gym in Manasquan, NJ. For the past 3 years, this unique and powerful event has benefited Wade's Army and the childhood cancer community. This initiative, driven by a passion for making a meaningful impact, combines the physical prowess of deadlifting with a noble cause. Participants, fueled by the desire to contribute to childhood cancer research and support, tested their strength and resilience in the deadlift, turning each lift into a symbol of hope. The event promises not only a showcase of physical prowess, but also an embodiment of the collective strength that can be harnessed to combat childhood cancer. As the barbells rise, so does the potential to make a difference in the lives of those affected by this formidable disease.





Thank you to the Monroe Township School District for collecting toys and comfort items in support of the patients at The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. The collection of comfort items and toys make the season a little brighter, kinder, and more magical.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the gyms and individual fundraisers that wholeheartedly participated in Wade's Day on November 12th. You are the backbone of Wade's Army and your unwavering support and commitment to making a difference in the fight against neuroblastoma does not go unnoticed. By dedicating your time, resources, and energy, you have contributed significantly to raising awareness and funds for Wade's Army. The collective efforts of your communities have changed Wade's Anniversary into a day of communion emphasizing the power of good. It is your collective efforts that create a positive change. Thank you for standing with us in solidarity on this special day, we are truly grateful for your partnership in the ongoing battle against neuroblastoma.



#### WADE'S DAY 2023 TEAMS & INDIVIDUALS

Team Wadiepie Power Athlete **Team Jones** CFBB/Exit 9 Parabellum Martial Arts & Strength **Crossfit South Bend Restore** Thrive Team Huntsman 23 The Spaid Family **Generous Motors** Devin Kittle's Team **Crossfit Billings** Sunshine State Warriors **TakeOver Athletics Rocket City Space Force** HoMade by Laurie Heather & Scott DeBruin John & Kate Welbourn Bill's Hardware Sean Ploskina Team Kenan - Flagler **Business School/UNC:** Kate Welbourn **Tracey Balderson** 

Brian Sadowski

#### Justin Ziegler

Delta Zeta Chapter of KAT: Kate (Shallcross) Welbourn

Lindsay Bockoven

Bee Cave Riding Center

Lakeway Elite Fitness

Elizabeth "Betty" Petrozzini: In Loving Memory

**Tony Roberts** 

House Molitor

AESA Prep Academy: Jamey, Killy, & Cash Welbourn

CrossFit Southie Eva Sadowski Carl & Emily Case Ben Kucharik Bill Williams Victoria Dean

Matty Hollingdale

- , ,
- Kenneth Quail Kimberly Frey

Deborah Lazar

Conor Lynch

Walter Sullivan

Tony Seabase

Adam Lane



**Team Ziegler** - Battling Neuroblastoma by uniting the community.



Parabellum Martial Arts & Strength - First Strongman Competition in the books! Bringing awareness to the community and exemplifying what it means to be STRONGER TOGETHER.



**Team Jones** - Leading the Charge by example for the 12th year in a row, Team Jones exceeded all expectations in honor of their nephew Broden. We are thankful for your creative ways of raising awareness for childhood cancer.



**CFBB** - Championing Change with a huge turnout bringing the community together for the Wade's Day workout with heart, food, fun, and a silent auction.

# OUR HEROES Kongeneration of the second secon



In the face of adversity, our very own Kate Welbourn has demonstrated unwavering strength, resilience, and an indomitable spirit throughout her diagnosis and triumphant battle with breast cancer. Kate's journey has been a testament to the power of courage and positivity. Her decision to undergo a mastectomy and reconstructive surgery showcases not only her bravery, but also her commitment to regaining control over her life.

Kate has conquered every challenge with grace and a radiant optimism that inspires everyone around her. Kate's ability to find light, coupled with her unwavering determination, serves as a roadmap for others navigating challenges.

Let's celebrate Kate, her strength, resilience, and the positive energy she brings to our Wade's Army as she continues to inspire us all with her incredible story of healing and renewal. We love you Kate, and are blessed by your leadership.

# HERO UPDATE

Wade's Army is dedicated to meeting the needs of families where they are at during treatment. We help when families are getting started, we help when families relapse, we are there at the end of life. We stay the course.





















When I look at my two young sons, I want to believe that I can always keep them safe and healthy. Wade's story shows no child is too young or too loved to face neuroblastoma. It's on all of us to support critical research and fellow families going through the unthinkable.

JESSICA PEARCE ROTONDI, MOTHER AND AUTHOR OF WHAT WE INHERIT

We donate to Wade's Army not only because it supports children fighting neuroblastoma, but also because the founders are amazing neighbors, exemplifying the spirit of community and compassion. Their dedication inspires us all to contribute in our small way, knowing that this organization is a force for change and supports families in their time of need.

**RAMAN SANGHA** 

### FROM THE FRONTLINE

With our support, we honor Wadiepie DeBruin, his family, and all children battling neuroblastoma. We support the progress being made to assist families and patients battling this catastrophic, terrible disease. As human beings, we have a responsibility to eradicate neuroblastoma.

WILL BROWN, FORMIDABLE ASSET MANAGEMENT

Wade's Army doesn't limit itself to small scale goals. Rather, its drive is large and it doesn't shy from reaching for the stars in terms of solutions for the better of others. Big fundraising goals, clear roadmap towards success. A feel of community and family within this great mission, for all who get involved, at any level. Starting grass roots and growing and shooting for the stars. This is why I do and will continue to donate to Wade's Army.

**KAREN CAPUZZI** 





#### IN LOVING MEMORY OF WADE DEBRUIN



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