Avon’s partnership with the National Main Street Organization was designed to raise awareness of breast cancer through Pink Line Walks in communities throughout the country. McPherson residents participated in the Pink Line Walk and the Pink Pajama Party to inform women of preventative measures and hear stories from local women fighting the disease.

Since then, the initiative has evolved from a marketing effort to a grassroots effort in providing funds locally. In 2005, an endowment fund was established with the McPherson County Community Foundation to build a permanent resource for women and children. Grants are given to assist with medical expenses, pharmaceutical costs, transportation, nutritional expenses or household needs. Any McPherson County woman or child is eligible to receive a grant.

Numerous grants and combat bags have been given since WACCC was founded. Help us help McPherson County, contact us today for more information.

For more information on the grant program, call 620.245.9070 or email info@mcphersonfoundation.org

An application may also be downloaded from the website www.mcphersonfoundation.org.

Women and Children Combating Cancer

c/o McPherson County Community Foundation
206 S. Main
McPherson, KS 67460
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www.facebook.com/WACCC

An endowed fund to provide grants for individuals combating cancer or cancer related illnesses.
Cancer can strike anyone at any time in their life. The story of Kaiden is a testament to that fact.

After noticing several bruises up and down Kaiden’s legs, pale skin, and extreme tiredness, we took Kaiden to the doctor where they finally ran blood counts and found all his counts were extremely low. We were referred to a Pediatric Oncologist and sent to Wesley Medical Center in Wichita. After several more tests were ran the results were in. Kaiden was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) Memorial Day Weekend 2009. This first hospital stay would last 8 very long days. Those days included several tests, scans, a Hickman Catheter Line placed, shots, blood transfusions, steroids and much more. The 4 weeks following Kaiden’s release from the hospital involved weekly trips to his oncologist in Wichita where he received a dose of chemo both through the line in his chest and in his spinal fluid, along with continuing to be on the steroids. After those first 4 weeks, Kaiden was in remission!!! Although the cancer had stopped growing at this point, he would still have to go through a 2 1/2 year process of chemotherapy to cure his leukemia. The next year and half Kaiden spent having weekly chemotherapy treatments, both through his line, and by mouth. He also was hospitalized a handful of times, for having low blood counts, needing blood or platelet transfusions, or because his Hickman line in his chest was infected.

On November 1, 2010, we received a phone call from the oncologist to say that during Kaiden’s last routine spinal tap, they found leukemia cells in his spinal fluid again, treatment would have to start over. We were reassured by both his oncologist and the nurse that his cancer was still curable; we just had to take a different route to get the result we wanted. Kaiden had to immediately go to Wichita and have a new Hickman line placed. He also had to have another bone marrow aspiration done, to check to see if the leukemia was in his bone marrow. We were relieved to find out that his bone marrow is leukemia free. After 4 more weeks of weekly spinal taps for chemo, and IV chemo, and another 28 days of steroids Kaiden was back into remission. Kaiden then began another 2 year chemo plan. He was on very high dose chemo, that had some nasty side effects. He would lose his hair again. He became very sick multiple times was hospitalization a handful of times for low counts, infections and transfusions. Kaiden also had to go through 8 days of radiation to his head. He had finally gotten past all the nasty chemo and was on the maintenance part of his plan, when things took another turn.

Kaiden started getting headaches, was vomiting randomly and his legs were hurting him so bad he could barely walk at times. At first, we thought he had gotten a stomach bug, but when that didn’t seem to go away Dr. Rosen decided to do a spinal tap to check things. The next day, Nov. 29, 2012, we would find out that Kaiden had yet again relapsed. This time was even more difficult, as the next day Kaiden’s baby brother Bryson was scheduled to arrive via C-section. With Kaiden on round the clock medication to control his pain; we welcomed baby Bryson to our family. When Bryson was just 4 days old, we took Kaiden to Wesley to undergo a bone marrow aspiration and to receive chemo in his spine. The results would later show that his bone marrow was once again clear and the cancer was only in his spinal fluid again. We were able to get him back into remission thanks to 4 weeks of heavy chemo and steroids. We then found out that Kaiden would need a bone marrow transplant to cure his cancer as chemo was not working. The whole family under went testing to find Kaiden a match and we learned baby brother Bryson and little sister Ashlyn matched 100%!

February 18, 2013, Kaiden was admitted to Children’s Mercy in Kansas City to start his heavy chemo to wipe his body’s cells out. He also had 6 treatments, over 3 days, of total body radiation. These 10 days of preparing for the transplant were very intense, however Kaiden seemed to do extremely well. Then on February 28, 2013, Kaiden’s life changed forever! He was given a second birthday. His little sister Ashley donated her healthy bone marrow for Kaiden. The days after the transplant were very scary. Overall Kaiden’s hospital stay was 4 LONG weeks, but that was even shorter than anticipated. His body recovered surprisingly well. By day +42, we were even back home in McPherson! Kaiden then made it to day +100 and in transplant recovery that is a huge milestone. Kaiden continued to have a good summer and was staying right on track with transplant recovery. In August, he was able to return to school and sports. November 2013, Kaiden started having headaches again. We ended up in Kansas City to go through several tests and the outcome turned out that Kaiden had again relapsed. He started chemo again, he also had a port placed in his head so that his chemo could be given directly into his spinal fluid more easily. We were able to get him back into remission again. Currently, we are continuing to come up with a plan of action that is best for him. He will undergo radiation to his head again in the next month or so, and then hopefully we will get him into a clinical trial at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Until then, he continues to show great strength and bravery everyday!

Written by Jenny Schroeder. Jenny, Chris, Kaiden, Ashlyn and Bryson, McPherson residents. MCCF & WACCC provided the Schroeder’s with a grant and combat bag to help Kaiden with his treatments, over 3 days, of total body radiation. These 10 days of preparing for the transplant were very intense, however Kaiden seemed to do extremely well. Then on February 28, 2013, Kaiden’s life changed forever! He was given a second birthday. His little sister Ashley donated her healthy bone marrow for Kaiden. The days after the transplant were very scary. Overall Kaiden’s hospital stay was 4 LONG weeks, but that was even shorter than anticipated. His body recovered surprisingly well. By day +42, we were even back home in McPherson! Kaiden then made it to day +100 and in transplant recovery that is a huge milestone. Kaiden continued to have a good summer and was staying right on track with transplant recovery. In August, he was able to return to school and sports. November 2013, Kaiden started having headaches again. We ended up in Kansas City to go through several tests and the outcome turned out that Kaiden had again relapsed. He started chemo again, he also had a port placed in his head so that his chemo could be given directly into his spinal fluid more easily. We were able to get him back into remission again. Currently, we are continuing to come up with a plan of action that is best for him. He will undergo radiation to his head again in the next month or so, and then hopefully we will get him into a clinical trial at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Until then, he continues to show great strength and bravery everyday!

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Thank you to the Schroeder’s for sharing their story as they fight this battle. Please continue to pray for Kaiden and his family.