



NEVER,

NEVER,



NEVER

GIVE  UP!



JUST GIVE.

September 2020

We hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and safe during these unprecedented times.

As you know, COVID-19 is creating even greater challenges for local families battling childhood cancer. So many we serve have been **severely affected** by the pandemic. Many have lost their jobs and are no longer able to buy food and clothing or pay their rent. Several have had a family member contract COVID-19, which is very **concerning and dangerous given that their child is immune compromised**.

In addition, TBCF is facing significant revenue losses at a time that our families need more help than ever. We had to cancel our Gold Ribbon Luncheon, our largest signature fundraising event. However, **we have been providing more services for our families**, including over \$7,000 in grocery gift cards, deliveries of meals and care packages, additional emotional support groups with licensed therapists, and virtual family-fun events to keep our kids engaged.

But you can help us get through this difficult time so that we can **continue to provide more services to our families who need our help so desperately**.

We feel honored to share the uplifting story of Axel as a way of spreading some positive light during these dark periods.

"On a Friday back in 2017, Axel had a headache, which got worse over the weekend. Fast forward just one day, the school sent him home and we took him to the hospital. He was diagnosed with a Germ Cell Tumor and endured months of chemotherapy, 3 brain surgeries and radiation, and spent a total of 9 months at Children's Hospital Los Angeles."

During his recovery, Axel constantly talked about how he wanted to help other kids going through their cancer journeys. He wrote the most inspiring letter that he wants to share with other children who are struggling with cancer, the postscript of which is as follows:

PS: Promise me that you will never give up. Everything I said is for you guys to remember that you can do it...I want all of you to know you can do this!

Axel is filming a video that we plan to share with the community in honor of National Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month...what an inspiration!

Axel's mom says this about TBCF: "...they helped us financially, they helped us pay the rent, bought us Christmas gifts. ... and the support groups have really helped. It has been very good for him to be able to go to those groups because he can speak freely and release things that he cannot talk to us about. He really likes to go and so do we."

Because of **you, our generous and treasured TBCF supporters**, Axel's family received **the resources necessary to pay two months' rent, purchase** Christmas presents, and **receive assistance** through our emotional support program. Axel is now thriving!

Your support has made it possible for us to provide additional financial assistance to **31 local families who have been severely affected by the pandemic**.

Your gift will help us help families like Axel's and those really struggling during this unpredictable time.

September is our Gold Ribbon Campaign, an awareness and fundraising endeavor held in honor of National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. **Will you please help these families so they never, never, never give up?**

With Our Deepest Appreciation,



Eryn Shugart, PhD
Interim Executive Director



J. Paul Gignac
Board Chair

PS: We served a record 801 individuals last year and are projecting to serve even more this year. **Thanks so much for your gift, which will allow us to do so.**

TeddyBearCancerFoundation.org (805) 962-7466



Axel