



Together We Can!



Volume 2, No. 3
December 2024

– Helping Families Fighting Childhood Cancer –

Welcome!

This is our seventh UP Lions Serve (UPLS) Childhood Cancer Newsletter for “Yooper” families, our supporters and partners, and anyone who has an interest in childhood cancer. We are so grateful for all of you. Thank you all for your time, your donations and the resources that you have shared. We hope this newsletter will continue to uplift, encourage and inform. *Together We Can* build a community of support for our families that are battling childhood cancer.

Mission

Our mission is to serve children and families from the Upper Peninsula who are battling childhood cancer. We believe that when a child is sick, the entire family is affected. Our support focuses on the individual along with the entire family.

The Childhood Cancer program provides grants to families to minimize the financial hardship that is directly attributable to their child’s diagnosis. This includes needs for travel, medical and household bills.

We rely solely on donations from private benefactors, sponsors, Lions Clubs and other community organizations, foundations and fundraisers. Every dollar earned goes directly to the families and to the programs that serve them.

HOWDY, PARTNA

Welcome, Camp Casey!

The UP Lions Childhood Cancer is proud to introduce a new partner (or should we say, "partna") in Camp Casey, a nonprofit that has been bringing free horseback riding and respite programs to children with cancer and their families for over 20 years (camp-casey.org)!

One of Camp Casey's signature programs, the Cowboy Camp Out, provides all-expense paid, weekend get-aways to children with cancer and their families where they can enjoy horseback riding, zip-lining, segway tours, live theater performances, boating, and more all while connecting to others going through similar circum-

stances at a luxury resort!

This year, the UP Lions Club is proud to collaborate with Camp Casey to send 8 UP families to Camp Casey's 2025 Cowboy Camp Out at the Highlands Resort in Harbor Springs taking place Friday, Aug 15-Sun, Aug 17, 2025.

Spots are limited so apply today to reserve your spot! Lodging, food, and activities are all sponsored by UP Lions Club – simply pack your bags and Camp Casey will make sure you have a weekend full of connection, recreation, and, of course, the healing power of horses!



Visit them online for more info and to apply: <https://camp-casey.org/programs/#cowboycampouts>
Camp Casey | 25882 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 207 | Farmington Hills, MI 48336
Check out the impact Camp Casey is making in our community at <https://youtu.be/69jMdXcuIyw?>

September was

Submitted by Tami Slagle, Advisor
Norway High School Leo Club

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

The Norway High School LEO Club took this opportunity to raise awareness for the UP Lions Serve District 10 Childhood Cancer.

Every year, many Upper Peninsula children are faced with the devastating diagnosis of cancer. The color "gold" is a symbol of this fight - representing resilience, courage, and hope. The LEO's took this opportunity to raise awareness by encouraging everyone to wear gold in support of these brave children in their fight.

The journey of childhood cancer is not one that a child or their

family should face alone. By raising funds and showing compassion, we can be a part of the solution. Every effort—no matter how big or small—brings us one step closer to a world where children no longer have to endure the pain of cancer.

The Norway High School LEO Club sponsored a "gold out" at a football game where the students wore gold and handed out necklaces to everyone that gave a donation to support the cause. They went throughout the fan section with canisters and set up a table to greet people as they attended. The cheerleaders also participated by making the "cancer sucks" sign out of cups on the fence for the spec-

tators to see.

Culver's of Iron Mountain also partnered in supporting the cause and donated ten percent of the proceedings one evening from their sales. The Norway LEO students greeted customers, assisted with running food orders, and clearing tables. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Culvers for hosting the fundraiser and making a positive impact on

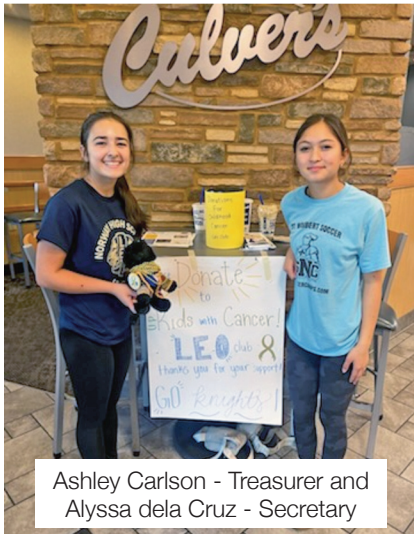
our community.

The Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions Club and the Norway High School LEO Club are honored to support our Upper Peninsula children and families.

Jordyn Moln, Anna Falk, Ashley Carlson



Mason Trudeau, Emma Dube-Vice President, Eli Dube



Ashley Carlson - Treasurer and Alyssa dela Cruz - Secretary



Jayda Hunter and Erin Masselink



Eli Dube, Emma Dube-Vice President, Jayda Hunter, Gabriel Boivin, and Tami Slagle, Advisor



Norway Cheerleaders



Myah Gilroy, Tori Trudeau, and Kara Stanchina



A MESSAGE FROM ONE PARENT TO ANOTHER

Hello! My name is Erica Smith and I am a fellow Yooper whose child has been battling cancer for nearly 2 years. I am partnering with U.P. Lions Serve Childhood Cancer to create a non-profit organization to support children and families affected by pediatric cancer in the Upper Peninsula. The purpose of this assessment is to identify the unique challenges and unmet needs of caregivers of pediatric cancer patients in rural communities. Your input will help inform the development of targeted interventions, support services, and resources for pediatric cancer patients in the future. Thank you for your insight. You are not alone in this fight against childhood cancer.

To complete survey, visit:

<https://forms.gle/ud5Tx6yJNmYQfSvo9>

What it Means to Ring the REMISSION BELL

Submitted by
Lion Chris Smith

Ring the remission bell is a tradition for children with cancer to mark the end of their treatment and the beginning of a new chapter in their lives!

- It's a sign of a time to celebrate the end of a difficult journey and focus on the future!
- It's a symbol of accomplishment!
- It's a source of hope and inspires hope in children towards the future!

The tradition was started at MD Anderson Hospital in 1996. Children's hospitals often have large gold bells for patients and their families to ring.

Remission means that a child's cancer symptoms have disappeared or lessened after treatment. However, remission can be partial or complete, and there's always a risk that the cancer will return. After remission, children have regular follow-up appointments and tests to monitor for any signs of the cancer returning.

This year, on October 13th, 2024, Senya Smith, an

11 year old girl from Marquette, who has battled cancer since diagnosed in October of 2021, was able to proudly ring the remission bell at the NMU and MSU basketball game in Marquette. Alongside her were four Northwood Airlifeline (NWALL) heroes, the pilots that transported Senya by flight to MOTT in Ann Arbor for the care that she needed!

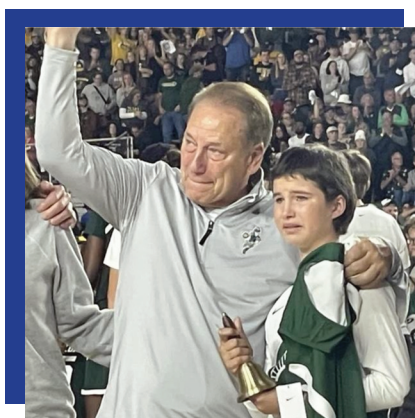
Pictured below are Senya and her family, Tom Izzo, and pilots from NWALL, Adam Lambert, Jessie Bell, Dennis Whitehead and Kevin Warm.

This was also an incredible opportunity for the community to learn about Northwoods Airlifeline and the work they provide and bring awareness for the need to help families in the Upper Peninsula that are battling childhood cancer!

This is what it means to Ring the Remission Bell!!! Congratulations

Senya and family!!!

*For more information about the D10 Childhood Cancer program, please visit uplionsserve.org/childhoodcancer



Book Corner

Water Bugs & Dragonflies *Explaining Death to Young Children*

Submitted by
Scott and Kathy Brown

23 pages | Audience: ages 3-8

The Looking Up series consists of thoughtful booklets ideal for times that call for contemplation or prayer, for times of difficulty or worry, for times of joy and happiness, and for special occasions and events. More in-depth than a greeting card,

these inspirational booklets help you find the right words...a caring thought... a comforting reflection. Whether used by a pastor or caregiver, or given from a friend to a friend, the Looking Up series communicates compassion in extraordinary ways.

Water Bugs &
Dragonflies
Explaining Death to Young Children



lookingUp
Revised

Learn more and stay up-to-date!

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**SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
UPLIONSERVE.ORG/CHILDHOODCANCER**



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SUPPORTING KIDS WITH CANCER

 @ UP FAMILIES FOR A CURE



WE'RE DIGITAL!

You can now see our newsletters
– including past issues – online at
uplionsserve.org/childhood-cancer/newsletter



Family and Caregiver Support Group & Meetings

We invite parents, caregivers, and family members to monthly support and informational meetings (via ZOOM) on the First Sundays of each Month. This group will give our beloved UP families who have a child or loved-one battling with pediatric cancers (along with other similar hematologic diseases) a SAFE PLACE to confide in one another, share their journeys and have a part in the development of a community of support for our UP families. We hope you can join us! For more information and to be placed on the email list for the zoom invites, please contact:
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or Erica Smith mqtrunner3@gmail.com

Special Thanks to

Lions Childhood Cancer Committee Members

Lion Christine Smith, Engadine-Naubinway Lions & Childhood Cancer Chairman
Lion Debra Petkus-Perry, St Ignace Lions
Lion Deb Kleinbrook, Engadine-Naubinway Lions
Lion Keith Smith, Engadine-Naubinway Lions
Lion Carol Henriksen, Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions
Lion Ron Henriksen, Vulcan-Norway-Loretto Lions
Lion Gretchen Preston, Marquette Lions
Lion Syd Faassen, Keweenaw Lions



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Childhood Cancer**
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