



Our Mission: To support children with cancer and their families by providing emotional, educational, and financial support, while increasing awareness and funding research toward a cure.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10th Anniversary of Local Mom Advocating for Increased Research Funding for Childhood Cancer in Washington, DC

July 1, 2010 (Roseville, CA) – Local Mom, Robyn Raphael, of Roseville, CA, recently returned from a working trip to Washington, DC to meet with Members of Congress to fully fund the only childhood cancer bill which was signed by President George W. Bush in July of 2008.

The Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Bill, is a landmark legislation that authorizes \$30 million a year for five years to life-saving childhood cancer research.

“There has never been a more critical time in the childhood cancer research world,” says Raphael. Since 2003, Children’s Oncology Group doctors have faced a shortfall from the National Cancer Institute, totaling \$100 million dollars, that they were approved to receive. The impact of this deficit has cost children’s lives as life-saving clinical trials began closing in 2007.

Raphael has been a California advocate in the fight to appropriately fund pediatric cancer along with other childhood cancer parents since 2000. After losing her 5-year-old son Keaton to a rare form of cancer in 1998, Raphael has dedicated her life to finding a cure for this devastating disease and to helping other parents and children fighting cancer in Northern California. In her son’s honor, she founded the Roseville-based Keaton Raphael Memorial to support children with cancer and their families by providing emotional, educational, and financial support, while increasing awareness and funding research toward a cure. Funding research isn’t easy.

Last summer, both Houses of Congress unanimously passed the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which authorizes \$150 million over the next five years to further research that will save more children’s lives.

“But an ‘authorization’ is only a promise of funding,” notes Raphael. “I, and other volunteers like me, went to Washington to make sure that this Congress and this Administration keep the promise that they made to our children.”

More than 13,000 American children are diagnosed with cancer each year. That means that every school day, another 46 kids – about two classrooms full of children – will be diagnosed. Each year, in the greater Sacramento area, approximately 180 children will be diagnosed with some form of childhood cancer.

The Children’s Oncology Group includes more than 5,000 experts in childhood cancer research and treatment, who are located at more than 200 of the leading children’s hospitals, university hospitals and cancer centers in the U.S. and Canada, including 18 in California – more than any other state – including UC Davis Medical Center, Kaiser-Morse Avenue, Sutter Medical Center-Sacramento, Children’s Hospital Oakland, and Stanford University Medical Center. Having this world-class expertise in our backyard, allows children to be treated close to home. Together, these hospitals treat more than 90 percent of all children who are diagnosed with cancer.

While in Washington, Raphael met with representatives from Senator’s Feinstein and Boxer’s office as well as Representatives from Congressman Tom McClintock, Doris Matsui, Barbara Lee, Dennis Cardoza, Devin Nunes and Pete Stark’s office.

Although not a perfect system, Raphael says, “the ability to meet with our law makers and educate them about the childhood cancer crisis is the reason we have truly made progress. It has been the tears, pictures of our children and our stories that have opened the eyes of our elected officials. They need to understand that this is a real issue. They need to make the right choices and they need to know we will be watching.”

For more information about Keaton Raphael Memorial and how they help local children with cancer and families visit www.ChildCancer.org or call 916 784-6786, Info@ChildCancer.org