

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States and it is estimated it will be detected annually in approximately 16,000 of our nation's young people between birth and nineteen years of age, and globally, it is estimated to be 400,000 children and adolescents each year; and

WHEREAS, childhood cancer, also known as pediatric cancer, causes one in five of our nation's children to tragically lose their battle with the disease, and many infants, children and teenagers will suffer long-term effects of comprehensive treatments, including secondary cancers, and childhood cancer occurs randomly and affects every ethnic group, socioeconomic class, and geographic region; and

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is made up of a dozen types of cancer, with over 100 subtypes that include neuroblastoma, Wilms tumors, brain and nervous system tumors, retinoblastoma, bone cancers, and leukemia and these cancers are often very different than those that affect adults; and

WHEREAS, although the causes of pediatric cancers are largely unknown, major treatment advances in recent years have resulted in cures and long-term remissions, and it is estimated that the milestone five-year survival rate for children has improved to more than eighty-five percent; and

WHEREAS, children are our most precious resource and the Tampa, Florida area is fortunate to have many businesses, organizations and foundations within our community committed to raising awareness and funds to assist in the research and treatment for children afflicted with cancer; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Fund for Children, Inc., Blaze of Hope and Lions Clubs International missions include a steadfast dedication to helping children and their families and strive to enhance their quality of life, and they provide a variety of vital patient psychosocial services to children undergoing cancer treatment at hospitals around the country including locally at Tampa General Children's Hospital, St. Joseph's Children's Hospital of Tampa, John Hopkins All Children's in St. Petersburg, and Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida; and

WHEREAS, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month was established to celebrate advances in childhood cancer treatment and care, to honor the children we have lost to cancer, and to bring awareness and engage new advocates to join in the mission of achieving a day when every child with cancer can live a long and healthy life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2023, as

"CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in honoring and thanking all those involved in the organizations in our community and throughout the nation who are dedicated in their support of cancer patients and their families.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of September 2023.

Jane Castor
Mayor

