

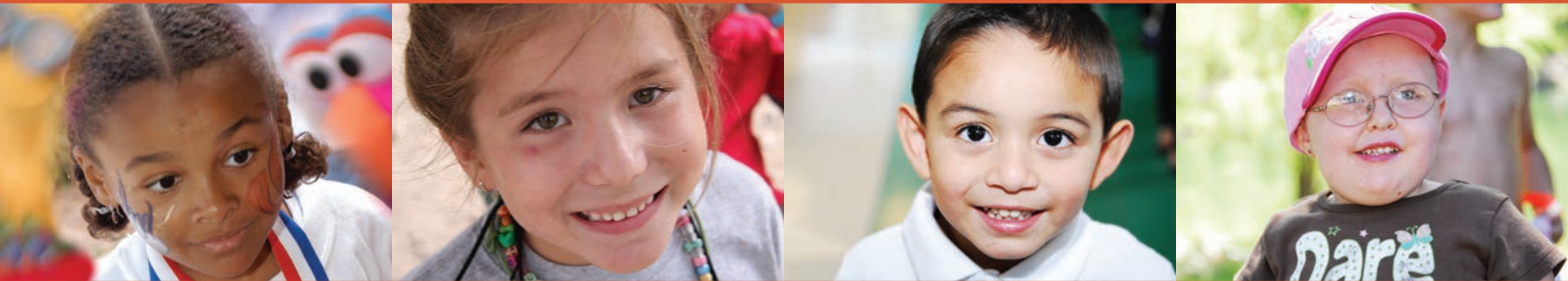


PROJECT A.R.K.

(Aids and Resources for Kids)



Established in 1993, the Mission of the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation (NCCF) is to provide social, emotional, educational, and psychological support services and programs to families of ALL children diagnosed with life threatening or critical illnesses such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, sickle cell, hemophilia, renal disorders, and immunologic diseases and provide healing arts and wellness programs to adults touched by cancer.



Project A.R.K. consists of licensed and non-licensed professionals who provide professional services to families of all children, infancy to 23 years of age, diagnosed with life threatening and chronic illnesses in Southern Nevada.

Referrals for services originate from local and out of state hospital personnel, out-patient medical clinics, social workers, and child-life specialists along with family and friends of a diagnosed child. Within 24 hours of receiving a referral, NCCF service professionals work in tandem to identify the psychological, financial and educational resources and needs for each family. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for children who fight a daily battle against life threatening and chronic illnesses.

All programs and services are provided at no cost to diagnosed children and their families living in Southern Nevada who are described in NCCF's Mission.

Professional Services

Social Workers

- First to meet with the family to assess the patient/family coping style and support systems available to help them through a devastating diagnosis
- Problem solvers for the non-medical issues related to childhood illnesses
- Skilled at crisis intervention, helping patients/families adapt to a medical diagnosis and assist with providing resources to meet basic needs
- Instrumental in helping families navigate the health care system
- Have legal and ethical responsibility to advocate for the appropriate care of children
- Collaborate with community organizations to obtain appropriate resources for patients/families
- Offer support for each referral received based on need

Licensed Clinical Social Workers (L.C.S.W.)

- Skilled in disability rights, cultural values, theories of child development, system theory, medical ethics, codes of conduct, child protection, and legal responsibilities
- Provide counseling and offer coping skills to children and their families after diagnosis and during treatment
- Assist patients and families with re-entry to school, ongoing counseling and navigating the complex issues of survivorship and late effects

Education Service Providers

- Provide direct instruction in a classroom setting
- Facilitate school meetings (504, IEP, and private conferences)
- Ensure appropriate accommodations to curriculum
- Provide specialized tutoring services to ill child and siblings
- Facilitate all education and school re-entry programs

Patient Services Coordinators

- Work with social workers to ensure follow-through on resources
- Coordinate meetings ensuring key players are present to create appropriate care plans and maintain continuity
- Participate in initiating resources, advocacy and support services
- Assist in facilitating education services for children
- Manage and schedule select foundation programs

As members of the interdisciplinary care team, our social workers and patient service coordinators help with integrating emotional and social needs of the patient/family with medical and nursing interventions. The care team continually provides support to families through progression of illness or the loss of a loved one.

PROJECT A.R.K. (Aids & Resources for Kids) – This division of NCCF houses the financial, educational, and emotional support services for critically ill children and their families. A.R.K. also represents the Foundation's logo, the Ark of Hope.



ENGELSTAD
FAMILY
Foundation
GIFTING
PROGRAM



ORION
CANCER FOUNDATION
A program of Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation



NEVADA CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Camp Cartwheel – This overnight and medically supervised summer camp has become one of the largest camps in the western United States and offers five days of outdoor activities at no cost to critically ill children and their siblings ages 5 to 17.

SEEK Teen Retreat - The teen retreat is an annual event which creates an environment for self-reflection, personal growth, team building, and enhances self-esteem for teen patients and their siblings.

Danny Gans Memorial Champions Run for Life – This annual event gives the community, friends and family the opportunity to individually honor and recognize courageous children who fight illnesses daily and those who have won their battle against disease.

Bravery Heart Profiles of Courage Beads – The program provides specially designed beads, representing a variety of procedures, to document a child's journey as they fight a daily battle against disease. What quickly becomes a heavily beaded necklace is worn as a "badge of courage".

Flashes of Hope – Professional photographers and make-up artists photograph critically ill children during their hospital stay and while in treatment. These photos chronicle the child's experience during their fight with beautifully framed photos presented to the family.

Brett Torino Foundation Education Services – Named after its donor, this program gives children the opportunity a program, that gives children the opportunity to continue their education while in treatment and recovery and includes direct, bedside, and classroom instruction by the NCCF full time teacher. In addition, the program named for its donor, offers educational assessment to identify areas of need and advocacy to provide support and facilitate school meetings.

- **Lean on Me: Kidz Supporting Kidz** – Shane and Valerie, our large puppets mastered by volunteers, visit area schools educating classmates and teachers regarding the challenges of a life threatening or chronic illness that their ill classmate faces each day.
- **Back to School In Style** – School supplies, new school clothes, and a special lunch highlight the first day back in the classroom after missing 30 days or more of school due to illness.
- **Tutoring** – Private and group tutoring is provided for all ill children and their siblings who need extra help with school work due to diagnosis and its ramifications.
- **Brett Torino Foundation Classroom**– NCCF created the first in-patient classroom in the state of Nevada. Facilitated and operated by NCCF, the in-patient classroom is located at Sunrise Children's Hospital Pediatric Oncology Unit and provides children, grades kindergarten through 12th, with direct instruction from an NCCF teacher in a classroom setting. NCCF also provides education services at other area hospitals.
- **C.A.P.S. Ceremony** – The Annual C.A.P.S. Ceremony celebrates students who have shown Courage, Achievement, Perseverance, and Success in education. This memorable event includes a presentation of honors and awards highlighting special achievements as well as a celebration with students, families, teachers, tutors and participants.

Jim Bell Transportation Program – NCCF provides support for patient transportation to and from doctor appointments, treatments, and hospital visits. These services are based upon need after review by a patient service professional.

Counseling – Counseling services are provided by licensed therapists to all children, siblings and family members. These services include individual, family and group interventions.

Bone Marrow Drive – NCCF coordinates and facilitates bone marrow drives at various local locations each year matching local donors with local children in need of bone marrow transplants.

Engelstad Family Foundation Gifting Program – Based upon review, emergency funding is provided to families, in financial crisis due to diagnosis, needing support for housing, utility payments, transportation, food, and basic living essentials.

SEEK Teen Group – Led by a licensed MSW, this group meeting facilitates social support, communication and other social skills and aims to reduce isolation for teens and siblings ages 13-18 that have been diagnosed with critical illness.

Sickle Cell and Patient/Sibling Workshops – Childhood illness impacts every family member therefore workshops are held each month and are overseen by a licensed professional. Each group consists of discussions and activities and provides emotional support and teaches expression in a positive manner.

Family Food Pantry – The shelves of this room are stocked with donated groceries and day to day basic living needs and toiletries for families in financial crisis who need immediate support. Families in need will be invited to shop "at no cost" take home non-perishable food items and more. NCCF accepts non-perishable donations year round.

Giving Space – The Giving Space is a favorite of every pediatric patient and their siblings. With each visit by a patient to NCCF, comes a visit to The Giving Space filled with school supplies, new toys, hats, blankets, books, arts & craft items, nail polish and make up for teens and more.

Holiday Adopt-A-Family – Each year, NCCF identifies families in need during the holiday season. NCCF provides a structured way for individuals, companies, and businesses to purchase and donate gifts to a family with an ill child. Donors may stay anonymous or be active in delivering gifts to families.

The Caring Place – NCCF's adult services program offering healing arts and wellness services to adults touched by cancer also provides special classes such as yoga, reflexology, and more for critically ill children and their caregivers.

Mom's Day Out & Dad's Day Off – Parents who need a little extra tender loving care are invited for an exclusive day out which includes pampering, meals, and plenty of surprises along the way including limousine transportation and gift bags for those who participate.

VISIT US AT WWW.NVCCF.ORG or call 702.735.8434 for more information.

Visit www.thecaringplacenv.org for programs and services for adults touched by cancer.

