



NEVADA CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION (NVCCF)

Mission and History

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

In July 2017, NVCCF opened its new 16,000 square foot facility, The Britney Spears Campus, to accommodate the many services and programs for those who fight a daily battle against cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. The goal of NVCCF is to improve the quality of life for critically ill children in Southern Nevada and for adults touched by cancer.

Annually, NVCCF serves over 450 children and their families as well as over 950 adults touched by cancer living in Southern Nevada. Within 48 hours of receiving a referral, the NVCCF service professionals work in tandem to identify the financial, educational, and psychological needs for critically ill children and their families. These referrals originate from local and out of state hospital personnel, out-patient medical and oncology clinics.

The foundation was created in 1993 by Dr. Ronald Oseas, the first child oncologist in Las Vegas, who identified the need for psycho-social services for ALL critically ill children and their families. He along with other caregivers went to work to create emotional, social, educational, financial and psychological support services and programs.

In June 2008, NVCCF introduced the Education Services program and opened the first in-patient classroom in the state of Nevada located at Sunrise Children's Hospital. The program, funded by the Brett Torino Foundation, has grown to provide education services as well as tutoring to over 175 children each year and hosts education services at Summerlin Hospital as well. NVCCF staff members work closely with the local school district to ensure continued education required by law for children who battle a daily fight against disease.

In September 2011, NVCCF announced the addition of a local foundation into its programs which provides health, wellness, and emotional support for adults diagnosed and touched by cancer along with their school age children and caregivers. The Caring Place Program serves as a complement to medical treatment by providing Reiki, reflexology, yoga, stress management, massage, wellness activities, support groups, counseling and various other services for adults diagnosed with cancer. In 2016, NVCCF also announced the addition of The ORION Cancer Grant which provides financial support for basic living needs to adults in cancer treatment and in financial crisis due to cancer.

In June 2011, NVCCF became the official Nevada Chapter of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. NVCCF was the first to respond to the needs of sickle cell patients (90% African American and 10% Hispanic) and the only foundation providing all services for those diagnosed with immunologic diseases in the Las Vegas community. No services were offered to these populations prior the NVCCF's involvement.

In 2020, NVCCF became an approved site for social work clinical internships by the Nevada State Board of Social Work Examiners for social workers (post-masters) to attain their clinical license for direct individual and family counseling. Additionally, NVCCF is a selected facility for student interns completing their practicum for the University of Nevada Las Vegas Master of Social Work program.

Since 1996, NVCCF has hosted Camp Cartwheel a summer camp at Torino Ranch for 200 critically ill children, their siblings, and children whose parents are diagnosed with cancer. This overnight and medically supervised outdoor camp experience provides hope, courage, and an escape from the ramifications of fighting disease.

NVCCF offers over 45 programs and services AT NO COST for critically ill children, caregivers, and adults touched by cancer living in Southern Nevada. NVCCF is not affiliated with any national organizations and therefore relies on the Southern Nevada community for financial support of its programs and services.