Grant Awards of $105,000

The Swifty Foundation will be named as sponsor in a soon to be released article in the prestigious science journal, *Nature*, for funding Dr. Michael Taylor’s research at the Hospital for Sick Children on the biology of metastatic tumors. He describes his findings as a Homer Simpson moment (Duh!). Scientists had not yet realized the radiation and chemo given to a child changes the biological makeup of recurring tumors and therefore treatment for recurring tumors, if it is to be effective, needs to be different from the treatment used for the primary tumor.

Our other grant award recipient, Kids v Cancer, was chosen the fourth most innovative non-profit in the country by *Fast Company* magazine. Through its sponsorship of the Creating Hope Act, it has helped to create a market-based incentive for pharmaceutical companies to produce pediatric cancer drugs.

Curefest

In September, seven Swifty board members traveled to our nation’s capital to participate in a weekend of advocacy with 78 other pediatric cancer organizations.

Annual Appeal

Our first Swifty Annual Appeal, centered on making Michael’s Birthday Wish come true and backed by a generous matching grant from a local foundation raised almost $400,000. For 2015, the Swifty Foundation raised a total of $443,293 for pediatric brain cancer research! We thank our 593 generous supporters who made it possible and whose names are listed on our 2015 Donor Honor Roll.
Get Benched

“Get Benched” is first and foremost an invitation for people to pray for kids with cancer, the families who care for them and for a cure. Its purpose is not to generate revenue or FB likes. It is about awareness and connection. Ideally, it becomes a campaign that extends beyond the Swifty community and engages other communities involved in pediatric cancer, and perhaps creates awareness and greater solidarity in the general population.

Whether we call it the power of prayer, the power of intention or the power of quantum entanglement, we know we are mysteriously connected and when we channel the power of that connection, good things happen.

Beginning in late spring, we will invite you to “Get Benched”. Take a little time out of your schedule, find a quiet bench and offer your prayer, direct your intention and become entangled with the children who are living with cancer today, with the families who care for them and with all of those who are working for a tomorrow when cancer no longer claims the lives of our children.

Networking and more networking

One of the most important things we do is build relationships for further learning and collaboration. Our board, advisors and key volunteers will be taking part in many conferences throughout the year including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Research Conference</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Childhood Cancer Action Days</td>
<td>Washington DC</td>
<td>May 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neuroblastoma Medullablasoma Translational Research Consortium</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, MI</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAC2 Research Summit</td>
<td>Long Island, NY</td>
<td>Oct 2016</td>
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Tissue Donation

Our white paper, Pediatric Brain Cancer Tissue Donation: To Ask or Not to Ask, published in collaboration with the Institute of Bioethics at St. Joseph University in Philadelphia will serve to give Swifty many of its marching orders for 2016. The paper highlights how the lack of diseased tissue for experimental use in the lab is a significant obstacle for pediatric cancer research. A main reason for this is the lack of awareness on the part of families and healthcare professionals of the opportunity to donate a child’s diseased tissue at the time of surgery or post-mortem. The paper offers practical solutions to the problem. Our board, advisors and key volunteers will be devoting significant time and effort to see how the Swifty Foundation can become a catalyst to help researchers secure more tissue. Initiatives may include a collaborative education/marketing campaign, as well as hiring a staff person to serve as an advocate and resource for tissue donation across the country.