

KIWANIS CHILDREN'S CANCER PROGRAM

Frank Morehouse - Governor's Project 2010-2011

Many Kiwanis Governors' have a project for the District that club's are encouraged to participate. Clubs receive a banner patch and points toward being recognized as an outstanding club. To get local support the project should be tied back to the clubs community.

It is my desire to have a project supporting children's Brain Cancer Research. KDCCP has filled that need locally however it would be nice to take it a step further. My inspiration for a Children's Cancer Project is from an experience that I had working with a 10 year old Patient that had brain cancer.

I had the opportunity to work at a Medical Center following my education and experience as a Medical Technologist. Specializing in Special Studies "Medical Imaging" (Nuclear Medicine, Ultra Sound and later years was involved with the early CAT imaging). One of my departments was EEG (Electroencephalogram).

Early in my working career I had an experience that left me with the memory of a patient that had brain cancer. Penny was 10 years old girl and we became very good friends during her illness and short time before her death.

I met Penny in 1964 performing testing on her for a possible brain tumor. She had a seizure and the physician Doctor Campagna, M.D. Neurosurgeon called me to do some testing. He wanted to confirm that they should proceed with the more invasive testing. During the EEG the brain waves were altered, consistent with a lesion in the brain. The angiogram confirmed that there was a brain tumor and surgery was needed. The tumor was malignant and was a fast growing brain tumor. She was started on radiation therapy (Cobalt) and was hospitalized during these treatments. My office was located next to the Pediatric ward and Penny's room was just around the corner.

Penny would come into my office every afternoon to visit with me while I did my paperwork. We would discuss her losing her hair and actually joked about her looking like an old man. One day I returned to the office to see Penny with a new wig, and pretended not to know her. She like the fact that she was able to fool me and was delighted with the new wig. During that year Penny had several hospitalizations and would always look me up to discuss what was going on. On her last visit she was too ill to get out of bed so I would visit her each evening before leaving. One day she told me that she had figured out that she was going to die. I asked Penny "Who told you that you are going to die"? No one had told Penny but she figured it out, but she wanted me to keep her knowledge secret. Her parents had told me that they were not going to tell Penny she was not getting well. Penny did not wish to upset her folks. She talked about why the doctor could not cure her cancer. We discussed that life was precious and someday a cure would be found. Penny even got me to promise to come to her funeral and do all I could to help other children that were ill.

It is my desire to dedicate my Governor's Project to the memory of Penny. If sharing her story could help the project then I wish to do that. Medical Research is the hope for brain cancer cure and that is exciting to be a part of supporting this research.

Frank Morehouse
Governor 2010-2011
Pacific Northwest District of Kiwanis

Emphasis on "Children's Brain Cancer Research"