Kids Shouldn’t Have Cancer Foundation in Memory of Jonny Wade | FAQ

Who is Jonny Wade?
Jonny Wade, a 7-year-old boy from Illinois, was diagnosed with pediatric brain cancer just days after Christmas of 2014. For a year, he and his family endured the pain and anguish of surgeries, radiation treatments and all the terrible side effects associated with cancer treatment. It was during his battle with cancer that Jonny told his parents of his selfless wish: “I don’t want any other kid to have cancer.” Despite all of the treatments and prayers, Jonny passed away on Christmas Eve 2015, leaving behind a heartbroken twin brother and grieving parents.

What is the Kids Shouldn’t Have Cancer Foundation?
The Kids Shouldn’t Have Cancer Foundation in Memory of Jonny Wade is a 501(c)(3) organization founded shortly after the 7-year-old died of pediatric cancer in 2015. Jonny’s selfless wish was for no other child to have cancer. In that spirit, the organization’s mission is to generate urgent action in the form of research and responsible legislation to end pediatric cancer.

What is the difference between the Kids Shouldn’t Have Cancer Foundation and Project Team Jonny?
Project Team Jonny was an initiative created by Jonny’s mother, Kimberly, to share updates on his condition after he was diagnosed with brain cancer. The Facebook page offered ways to reach out to Jonny and to show support when he was still with us, as well as raise awareness of pediatric cancer by showing the Wade family’s emotional journey. The Kids Shouldn’t Have Cancer Foundation was founded in Jonny’s memory shortly after his passing. The foundation’s mission is to raise money for pediatric cancer research, as well as raise awareness around the world.

Why a butterfly?
During Jonny’s treatment, his parents explained to him that he was going through a process like metamorphosis: Through enduring this pain and suffering, he would become a beautiful butterfly. Butterflies represent innocence, faith, rebirth and childhood, and they reflect the journey all kids experience while facing cancer – making them a perfect symbol for the Kids Shouldn’t Have Cancer Foundation. It’s also another way of honoring Jonny’s memory: In his last days, Kimberly often asked Jonny to send her butterflies from heaven.

Who is involved with the foundation?
Jonny’s parents, Kimberly and Jon Wade, created the foundation, and they work closely with board members who are passionate about its cause.
What is the foundation doing to accomplish its mission?
Our mission is to conquer pediatric cancer through research and political action, with an emphasis on responsible spending. We can accomplish this through the following initiatives:
• Funding pediatric cancer research for treatments and cures
• Improving access to and awareness of clinical trials for families facing pediatric cancer
• Raising public awareness of the issues surrounding pediatric cancer funding
• Influencing the organizations that allocate federal cancer research funding

What types of pediatric cancer does the foundation hope to impact?
We hope to raise awareness of all types of pediatric cancer.

How do you choose who receives funding?
We work with a panel of medical experts to evaluate which research studies and clinical trials will receive direct funds from the foundation. We require all panel members to inform the foundation of conflicts of interest and disclose relationships with pharmaceutical companies, teaching institutions or other programs that could bring bias into their decision-making.

Can I designate my donation?
Yes. Currently, you can choose for your funds to be designated for pediatric cancer research or pediatric cancer awareness. Once specific research studies are chosen, you may choose to direct your funds to the study of your choice.

I can't help financially, but I want to do something. How can I help?
As a volunteer-run foundation, we welcome all types of support. There are many ways to help – you can volunteer at an event, host an event of your own or write a letter to your congressman in support of legislative action.

How can I raise money for the Kids Shouldn’t Have Cancer Foundation?
There are many options to help the foundation, including hosting a fun run or similar event, selling foundation T-shirts, or creating a fundraiser of your own. If you’re interested in raising money, please give us a shout at contact@kshcf.org – we’ll be more than happy to help you get started.