



Wisconsin Receives \$100,000 LCIF Childhood Cancer Matching Grant

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Children are a gift to the world, yet every two minutes a child is diagnosed with cancer and less than half of the world's children have access to effective care. Children who survive cancer are often left with debilitating effects that can impact their physical development and ability to learn. That's why Lions, Lioness and Leos are answering the call to expand access to life-saving treatment and support the children and families who need us most. We are working to give children with cancer a second chance at life.

The Childhood Cancer Initiative was named a Lions Clubs International (LCI) core project in July 2017, which opened the door for LCI's charitable arm, the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), to create a grant program to support the efforts of Lions across the world to combat childhood cancer.

At the time the Childhood Cancer

Initiative was announced, a brand new Lion, Dr. Sri Vasudevan, was looking for a project to devote his considerable energy and enthusiasm to. When he learned about the Childhood Cancer Initiative, he knew he had found the perfect project. Vasudevan, a retired doctor, has the contacts and medical knowledge to work with the treatment providers/researchers and has also authored grants throughout his career.

Vasudevan was named the MD27 Children's Cancer Chair and immediately went to work with the largest children's cancer treatment hospital in Wisconsin, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, along with the Medical College of Wisconsin and the MACC Fund to determine how the Wisconsin Lions could best support their efforts to eradicate childhood cancer.

Children's cancer is unique and is not the same disease as in adults, as they have different biology and are more aggressive. The survival rates for

childhood cancer has improved from 20% to 80% over the past 40 years. Yet many childhood cancers are not treatable with traditional treatment. Cellular therapies are personalized, cutting-edge cancer treatments where the patient's own blood is run through specialized equipment that sorts and genetically modifies T-cells to become cancer killing cells. The T-cells are then re injected/transplanted back into the patient where they attack the cancer cells, leaving normal cells alone.

A key piece of equipment in this process is the Flow Cytometer. This vital piece of equipment carries a \$200,000+ price tag and is exactly the type of project that LCIF is hoping to provide grants for. Knowing all of this, and with the approval of the 2017-18 Council of Governors, Vasudevan wrote a \$100,000 LCIF Matching Grant application that was approved by the LCIF Board of Directors in May.

Now it's up to the Lions of Wisconsin

to step up and raise the remaining \$100,000 to make this a reality. As many clubs are searching for a way to impact childhood cancer, the timing couldn't be better. It is, however, a time-sensitive request as the \$100,000 has to be raised by November 11th.

So please help and give what you and your club can. Your donations will save lives.

All donations should be sent to the Wisconsin Lions State Office. Checks should be made out to: Wisconsin Lions MD27 with 'Childhood Cancer Initiative' in the memo. Mail your donations to:

MD27 State Office
3834 County Road A
Rosholt, WI 54473

Any questions on the Grant, should be directed to MD27 Childhood Cancer Chair Lion Sri Vasudevan, at 414-232-7772 or drsrivasudevan@gmail.com. Vasudevan is also available on a limited basis for presentations. Contact him to make arrangements.