

## **Campbell Bulldog Fund for Childhood Cancer Awareness and Research**

The Campbell Bulldog Fund for Childhood Cancer Awareness and Research was established in memory of Campbell Grady Dale in 2016. On February 12, 2014, Campbell entered Children's of Mississippi at UMMC and was diagnosed with Stage IV Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare cancer of the soft tissue. He endured 54 weeks of rigorous and harmful chemotherapy and 24 straight days of abdominal radiation. At his final scans April 1, 2015, a new growth was located near the original tumor site. This new tumor was removed, and he began another protocol of harsh chemotherapy. At his 6 week scans, it was discovered his cancer had returned in the original spot in the abdomen, the spot that had just been removed in April, and 4 new places: 2 spots in his lungs, and 2 spots in his back. Through the helpful work of many doctors, Campbell was able to get into a trial at St. Jude immediately and started it at the end of July. On August 17, 2015, we were told the terrible news that his cancer had spread even more, and there was not much else that could be done to save his young life. We sorrowfully returned home to Jackson, and we call that day the day of the rainbows. We saw 4 on our flight home. We knew this was a sign from God that it was time to take our son home and let him live out his life to the fullest in the time he had left. In those 5 weeks, Campbell was a Bulldog for a day in Starkville (he loved MSU and they loved him right back), he was celebrated at his Make-a-Wish Reveal Party, and he got to spend a week at Disney World...a dream for him with no doctors, no nurses, and no shots. He left this world at the age of 5 on Friday, September 18, 2015, 11 days before his 6th birthday.

Every day, 43 children are diagnosed with cancer. Every 2 minutes, a parent hears their child has cancer. Childhood cancer is the #1 disease killer of children in the U.S. 12% of kids diagnosed with cancer do not survive. As a parent, the worst news you can ever receive is that your child has cancer. Or so we thought. When we were told there was nothing more that could be done to save his life, that became the worst news. It is our mission and now our passion to bring awareness to the fight our littlest heroes are fighting every day. No child should have to fight for their life because of a beast named cancer, and no child should lose their life to that same beast. The National Cancer Institute designates less than 4% of their budget to Pediatric Cancer Research. In the past 20 years, only 3 new drugs have been approved by the FDA to fight Pediatric Cancer...only 3! The 3<sup>rd</sup> drug was approved in 2015. Our kids deserve more than 4% and more than 3 drugs every 20 years. We hope to be a part of the movement to change those numbers.

September is recognized as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Gold is the color for Childhood Cancer. Many buildings, businesses, and sports teams "Go Gold" throughout the month. Our hope in establishing the Campbell Bulldog Fund for Childhood Cancer Awareness and Research at the Community Foundation for Mississippi is to raise awareness throughout Mississippi. As we bring awareness to the people of Mississippi about a subject that is hard to fathom, much less talk about, which is children fighting for their lives and some even losing their life, we are raising money to fund research for pediatric cancer that is being conducted at

Mississippi's only children's hospital. Working with the Children's Cancer Clinic at Children's of Mississippi, we share the stories of these brave children and ask schools and businesses to "Go Gold" to show their support for them. Because of the combined efforts of several metro-area elementary and high schools and Millsaps College, sponsor Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, and the generous people of Mississippi, we have raised over \$90,000 for the the Campbell Bulldog Fund at the Community Foundation for Mississippi. Since 2017, the Campbell Bulldog Fund has given \$80,000 to the Children's Cancer Clinic at Batson Children's Hospital for research for pediatric cancer and that number continues to grow each year.

Even though Campbell lost his battle, his memory will continue to live on through the Campbell Bulldog Fund. Thank you for helping us Go Gold in September and supporting our bravest superheroes.

To learn more about the Going Gold For MS Kids campaign, please visit [www.goinggoldformskids.com](http://www.goinggoldformskids.com)

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