

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions



Four Diamonds child Alana

Q: What is Four Diamonds?

A: Our mission is simple – to conquer childhood cancer. Four Diamonds covers the cost of treatment for all eligible patients not paid for by insurance, and supports more than 30 specialty care providers who exclusively serve the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of our children and families. Four Diamonds also funds a diverse platform of childhood cancer research, seeking improved treatments and cures to benefit kids around the world.

Q: How did Four Diamonds get its name?

A: Four Diamonds is named after a story written by Christopher Millard, shortly before he lost his battle with cancer at the age of 14. In the story, a knight must find the four diamonds of courage, wisdom, honesty and strength in order to be released from an evil sorceress. Christopher's family believed he thought these four diamonds were symbolic of the traits needed to overcome cancer. His parents, Charles and Irma Millard, established a gift fund in 1972 in memory of Christopher. The gift fund was later named Four Diamonds after Christopher's inspiring story.

Q: How many families has Four Diamonds helped?

A: Since 1972, Four Diamonds has helped 4,000 families by covering 100 percent of medical expenses related to cancer care for children treated at Penn State Children's Hospital. Four Diamonds also leads the discovery of better treatments and cures for all childhood cancers by funding more than 90 pediatric cancer research professionals.



Four Diamonds child Liam

Q: How does research at Penn State Children's Hospital extend beyond Pennsylvania?

A: All of the laboratories supported by Four Diamonds are making fundamental contributions to the ultimate goal of achieving a cure for all childhood cancers. With membership in leading national and international research consortiums, Penn State Children's Hospital offers hope through state-of-the-art clinical trials for pediatric cancer patients who have relapsed or whose cancer isn't responding well to treatment. We treat patients in Pennsylvania with some patients traveling from out of state for treatment.

Through these consortia, Four Diamonds researchers are instrumental in writing guidelines for early phase clinical trials that are shared nationwide.

Q: Where does Four Diamonds funding come from?

A: In 1977, Four Diamonds became the sole beneficiary of the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (THON™), the largest student-run philanthropy in the world. Since then, THON has raised \$168 million as Partners In The Fight™ to conquer childhood cancer. Inspired by THON, 265+ schools host Four Diamonds Mini-THONs®, which have collectively raised \$43 million FTK® – For The Kids™ – since 1993.

Other sources of financial support include community events, corporate donors, foundations and empowered individuals committed to our mission. Of every \$1 donated to Four Diamonds, 87 cents directly impact children fighting cancer today and helps improve the path for kids who will face cancer in the future.

Q: How does a family find out about Four Diamonds assistance?

A: Each patient is assigned to a Four Diamonds social worker who introduces the family to the programs and services provided by Four Diamonds.

