CoachArt creates a transformative arts and athletics community for families impacted by childhood chronic illness. 32% of CoachArt students are impacted by childhood cancer.

This eBook contains support resources for families impacted by childhood cancer. Contributors: CoachArt, The UpBeat, Powered by CoachArt
Free Arts & Athletics for Kids Impacted by Childhood Cancer

CoachArt is a nonprofit organization that provides FREE private one-on-one lessons in arts and athletics, as well as organized group activities to any child between the ages of 5-18 that has been diagnosed at any point in their lives with childhood cancer or another physical chronic condition. Patients, and their siblings, residing in the Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco Bay areas are invited to register for our programs.

Become a CoachArt Family

Since 2001, CoachArt has matched volunteer coaches with students for one-on-one or group lessons in arts and athletics. Our vision is that one day every family impacted by chronic illness will be connected to a community of support and an opportunity to learn and grow together.

If your child has been diagnosed with childhood cancer or another physical chronic condition, we invite you to become a CoachArt family.

Click to Fill Out a Student Eligibility Form!
In honor of childhood cancer Awareness Month, members of the CoachArt staff and community joined us in sharing personal stories to support Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and families impacted by childhood cancer.

ROXANNE’S STORY

“It’s easy to lose sight of the little things – the aspects of our lives we often take for granted, like love and good health. When your child is diagnosed with cancer, the wind is literally knocked out of your lungs and you fall to your knees praying for the chance to be grateful for those two little things. It was a tough journey, that’s for sure. But my daughter fought with every ounce of her six-year-old self. We are happy to report that 7 years later, she remains NED and we remain grateful for our family’s love and good health.”

– Roxanne, CoachArt Marketing Director

Get Stories of Support from the CoachArt Community

JASMIN’S STORY

“Noah is a 3-year-old Leukemia survivor. Being so young, he fought his battle very hard but definitely not alone. While living in Arizona made family coming together a bit difficult, distance was no measure for the love and support he received...Although it was difficult for our entire family this past year, his leukemia thankfully in remission. He would have fought much harder had he not had his amazingly, superhero medical team and family for being there with him every step of the way.”

– Jasmin, Program Assistant

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NOMI’S STORY

“I was first diagnosed with ALL Ph+ (acute lymphoblastic leukemia) in January of 2014 when I was ten years old. After about a year of extensive chemotherapies which brought hair loss, isolation, and numerous physical ailments, the doctors discovered I had been misdiagnosed and actually had CML (chronic myeloid leukemia). I needed a bone marrow transplant and luckily my sister was a perfect match to be my donor. Through my treatment, I wasn’t able to participate in the activities I loved so much. CoachArt was there to change that.”

– Nomi, CoachArt Student and Childhood Cancer Survivor

Get Stories of Support from the CoachArt Community

EMILY’S STORY

“Having the courage to go up the mountain and knowing that you’ll probably fall on your way down embodies so much of what CoachArt kids already know. It’s okay to struggle and it’s okay to feel uncertain – what matters is that our students continue to keep going and persevere beyond what seems possible.”

– Emily, CoachArt Senior Program Manager (San Diego)

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JOSEPH'S STORY

Meet Joseph! A childhood cancer survivor, Joseph was diagnosed with acute leukemia at seven years old. After a 5-year battle, Joseph beat cancer and he wanted to share his story with others. As a CoachArt student, Joseph has participated in many of our free arts and athletics activities over the years. Joseph was recognized at the 2017 CoachArt Gala of Champions, where he shared his story of being diagnosed with acute leukemia.

Watch Joseph's Story

AURA'S STORY

Meet Aura! Aura was born with a rare neurological disorder that caused brain cancer at a very young age. Aura and her mother, Asa, were one of the first families to enroll in CoachArt in the San Francisco Bay Area. The recipient of our 2018 CoachArt Children’s Benefit Shining Star Student Award, Aura has participated in over 50 CoachArt arts and athletics programs. She has made lasting friendships with other children struggling with chronic health conditions, and she is known in the CoachArt community as compassionate, courageous, and an encourager of others.

Watch Aura's Story
CoachArt Community Stories of Support: Childhood Cancer

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ALEYNA’S STORY

Meet Aleyna! A sassy 7th-grader who loves pizza, shopping, and all things soccer, Aleyna was diagnosed with a rare type of kidney cancer called Wilms Tumor at age 6. Aleyna needed surgery to remove one of her kidneys, plus she received six months of chemotherapy as part of her treatment plan. Aleyna has participated in several CoachArt programs such as art clubs, holiday events, golf lessons, voice lessons and soccer lessons. Aleyna is in her sixth year of remission and now plays various positions for Burbank United Club Soccer.

Read Aleyna’s Story

HANY’S STORY

Spectrum News 1 SoCal covered a story featuring one of the wonderful organizations serving families impacted by serious illnesses: Beauty Bus Foundation. Watch Beauty Bus Foundation providing makeovers for young cancer patients and caregivers at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, and watch the interview with Hany, a 16-year-old CoachArt student and 3x cancer survivor. Hany shares her story in the interview. She is an inspiration to our CoachArt community, and to kids everywhere!

Watch Hany’s Story on Spectrum 1 SoCal
UpBeat Podcast: Childhood Cancer Resources & Interviews

The UpBeat, Powered by CoachArt, is dedicated to the social and emotional wellbeing of families impacted by childhood chronic illness. In honor of childhood cancer Awareness Month, The UpBeat Podcast interviewed guests that have experienced its impact. Each episode contains additional resources for families impacted by childhood cancer.

EPISODE 3: COMMUNICATION TIPS FOR FAMILIES OF KIDS IMPACTED BY CHRONIC ILLNESS

Greg and Roxanne sit down with CoachArt parent and board member, Elena, to discuss her family’s experiences with childhood cancer. Their son Brad was diagnosed with a pediatric brain tumor at 14. Much of Elena’s guidance centers on communication, as sometimes it’s hard to take stock of all the avenues of communication that will experience stress as the family navigates their new path. Article features additional resources on communication when dealing with a childhood chronic illness.

Read the Article
Listen to the Episode

EPISODE 4: 3 AMAZING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOR KIDS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER

Roxanne switches seats from co-host to interviewee and shares her experience with pediatric cancer. Her daughter, Aleyna, was diagnosed with Wilms tumor at age 6. Roxanne provides tips and advice on how to help your child navigate the social pressures encountered by children with chronic illness and tells a touching story of how a little note to a classmate’s parents led to a big gesture from new friends. The article provides childhood cancer resources for our nonprofit organizations in California, and throughout the United States, that assist families dealing with pediatric cancer.

Read the Article
Listen to the Episode
UpBeat Podcast: Childhood Cancer Resources & Interviews

The UpBeat, Powered by CoachArt, is dedicated to the social and emotional wellbeing of families impacted by childhood chronic illness. In honor of childhood cancer Awareness Month, The UpBeat Podcast interviewed guests that have experienced its impact. Each episode contains additional resources for families impacted by childhood cancer.

**EPISODE 9: RESOURCES TO HELP DEAL WITH THE EMOTIONAL STRAIN OF YOUR CHILD’S DIAGNOSIS**

Co-hosts Greg and Roxanne sit down with a very special guest Marc (Roxanne’s husband), to discuss the process of learning to cope with his daughter’s cancer diagnosis. Marc opens up about what it was like to be there for their daughter Aleyna’s cancer diagnosis when she was 6 years old. He also shares stories of their ensuing cancer fight and gives tips on navigating the emotional strain of it all. Article includes resources for coping with a child’s diagnosis.

Read the Article  
Listen to the Episode

**EPISODE 10: HOW ART WORKS AS THERAPY FOR CHILDREN FIGHTING ILLNESSES**

Co-hosts Greg and Roxanne are joined by Nomi, a CoachArt student who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia in 2014. Now 16, Nomi beat cancer thanks to a bone marrow transplant from her sister. She’s here to discuss the emotional and physical journey of her illness and how art was an important part of that battle. Nomi shares some tips on how to find an artistic and creative outlet and how it can help anyone, especially those impacted by chronic illness. Article includes resources on the benefits of art for kids impacted by childhood cancer and other chronic health conditions.

Read the Article  
Listen to the Episode

Learn More at CoachArt.org
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EPISODE 11: A FAMILY’S JOURNEY WITH CHILDHOOD CANCER RECURRENCE

Co-hosts Greg and Roxanne are joined by Radwa and Tamer, whose son Zein was diagnosed with stage four Neuroblastoma at the age of 5. Over the next 7 years, Zein overcame cancer 4 different times. His parents share the inspiring story of their family’s long fight and explain their belief in the power of the mind — how staying positive has kept their family thriving in the face of difficult circumstances. Article contains resources for remaining positive in the face of childhood cancer.

Read the Article  
Listen to the Episode

EPISODE 12: RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES DEALING WITH THE EMOTIONAL IMPACTS OF A CHILDHOOD CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Co-hosts Greg and Roxanne are joined by Kumiko, a CoachArt parent whose son Kazuma was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2011. Kazuma and Kumiko both experienced a common side effect of childhood chronic illness that isn’t discussed enough — they both struggled with depression. Article contains resources for families that are dealing with the emotional impacts of a childhood cancer diagnosis.

Read the Article  
Listen to the Episode
Parent resources from The UpBeat Podcast, Powered by CoachArt. Educational scholarships can help ease the financial burden for families impacted by childhood cancer. Learn about 10 organizations that offer scholarships to cancer patients, survivors, and some, even to siblings.

Read the Full Article with Scholarship Resources

Scholarships.com
Cancer Survivors Fund
Cancer for College
Nicki Leach Foundation
National Collegiate Cancer Foundation
Friends of Scott Foundation
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
Patient Advocate Foundation
The National Children's Cancer Society
Ulman Foundation
10 Ways to "Be Bold & Go Gold" for Pediatric Cancer

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. An opportunity to share awareness and bring attention to childhood cancer as a national health priority. Help advocate for all kids with cancer by sharing awareness and support for families impacted by childhood cancer.

1. Understand what it means to “go gold.”
   The gold ribbon is an international symbol that represents childhood cancer awareness. The color gold is used to convey how precious children are and the resiliency of childhood cancer heroes. The gold childhood cancer ribbon stands for all types of pediatric cancers.

2. Use social media to spread awareness.
   There are a variety of Facebook frames and social media effects that you can add to profile photos and stories. To use CoachArt's custom frame in Facebook, simply click on your profile photo, click “add frame” and search for "CoachArt Gold."

3. Share your story.
   Share your childhood cancer story with CoachArt to be featured on The UpBeat, a new podcast series and website dedicated to the social and emotional wellbeing of families impacted by childhood chronic illness. For consideration, email: TheUpBeat@coachart.org

4. Take a photo in support of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.
   Add a gold ribbon or Facebook frame and use hashtag: #CoachArtGoesGold. We will comment and share every photo supporting Childhood Cancer Month that uses this hashtag.

5. Share our Childhood Cancer Awareness Month Infographic
   CoachArt illustrated an informative infographic that helps draw awareness to the cause. Share this image on your personal and business social media accounts.

CoachArt supports Childhood Cancer Awareness month. 32% of CoachArt students are impacted by childhood cancer.
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6. Be bold and wear gold.
You can find gold ribbon pins and t-shirts to show your support of childhood cancer awareness month. Oriental Trading Company has a variety of low-cost options, such as stickers and fun giveaways that are perfect for organized and team events.

7. Make a donation.
A great way to show your support is to make a donation in time or money. Here is a list of organizations that provide resources to families impacted by childhood cancer.
- Children’s Cancer Research Fund
- St. Jude’s Awareness Events
- Alex’s Lemonade Stand

8. Attend an event in your area.
Check with your local children’s hospital for childhood cancer awareness events, or consider hosting an event.
- Children’s Cancer Research Fund
- St. Jude’s Awareness Events
- Alex’s Lemonade Stand

Childhood cancer patients often require blood during chemotherapy, surgery or treatment for complications as these treatments can cause a risk for low red blood cell and platelet counts. Cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma also attack the bone marrow, which makes blood and platelet transfusions critical to fighting and surviving cancer. Learn more about donating.

10. Be an influencer.
The most important thing we can do is do everything we can to spread awareness. Chances are, you know a family impacted by childhood cancer. These diseases are real and they are affecting our children, neighbors and classmates. Create videos, blog posts and social media messages to draw attention to this cause. The louder we speak, the closer we get to finding a cure.

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Learn More at CoachArt.org
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Source: American Childhood Cancer Organization
https://www.acco.org/childhood-cancer-statistics/

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