



AMERICAN  
**childhood**  
CANCER ORGANIZATION  
INFORMATION PACKET

2013-2014



## Who We Are

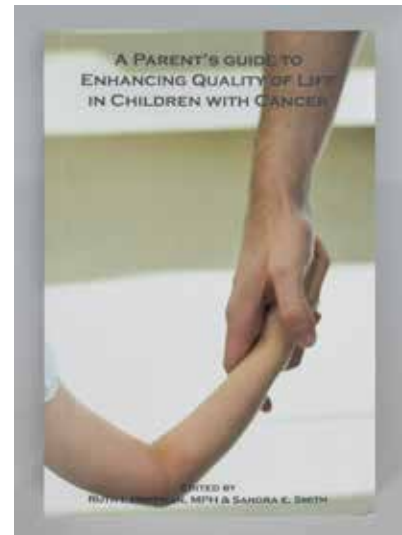
The American Childhood Cancer Organization (ACCO) is one of the nation's largest grassroots organizations at the forefront of the crucial battle against childhood cancer. We are dedicated to improving the lives of children living with cancer or its long-term impacts. We offer essential treatment information, support, and assistance to families engaged in this life-altering struggle. Together with our ever-expanding network of local divisions across the country, we offer programs and services designed to address the critical needs that families facing this dreaded diagnosis encounter every day.



## What We Do

### Keep Families Informed

Nothing is scarier than sitting in a doctor's office and being told that your child has cancer. You are suddenly inundated with medical terminology, with long, complex words you have never even dreamed existed, and yet based on those words, you are asked to make immediate, crucial decisions that will drastically impact your child's future. The ACCO strives to offer families informational resources about childhood cancer, treatment protocols, medications, and clinical trials—in simple, easy-to-comprehend terminology—in order to facilitate the critical decisions required to fight this terrible diagnosis.



### Help Children Understand

Cancer's smallest patients are often too young to understand what is happening to them: why they feel sick, why they must spend so much time in the hospital, why they must take so much medicine and undergo so many operations. Through our Medical Play Kit, Cozy, Comfort Kit, Journals, Illustrated books, and other resources developed and written just for children and their families, we offer these resources; free to help them understand what they are going through and to help make the struggle just a little bit easier.

## Support Families

The impact of having a child diagnosed with cancer is deeply felt by the entire family. The diagnosis of a child with cancer often comes at a time when the family is young and has a limited income. Often there are other small children to care for, and one parent has to stop working to care for their sick child. ACCO understands the impact childhood cancer has on the entire family, and we are dedicated to providing services and support, to help families understand that they are not alone. Through our national online support network we provide emotional support 24/7. With the help of our local divisions around the country, we provide on-the-ground services, like financial assistance. Research has shown that children treated for cancer from families with a low socioeconomic status (SES) have a poorer cancer survivor rate. **Financial assistance not only helps the family during this difficult time, it also improves the probability of a cure for the child.**



## Advocate for Childhood Cancer

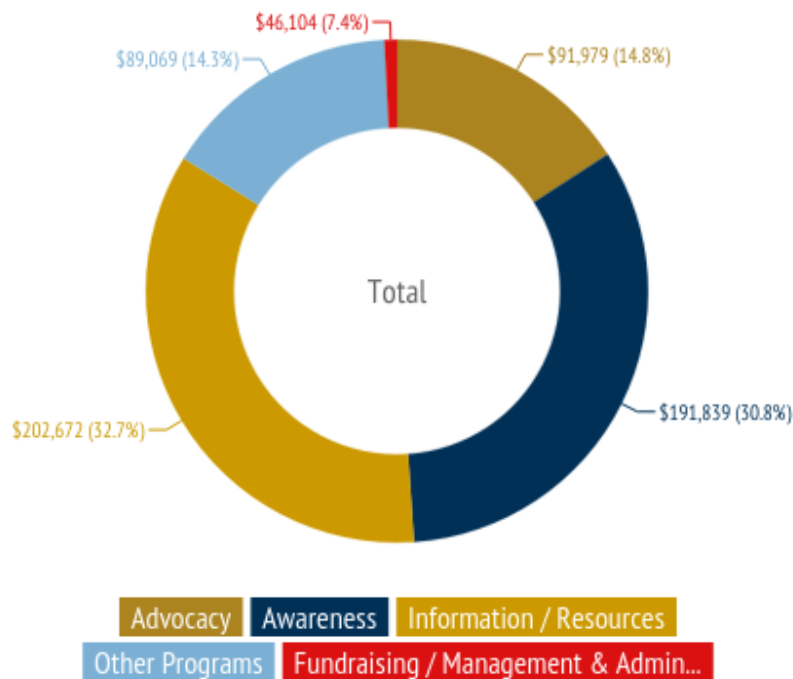
Unfortunately, the majority of cancer's smallest victims continue to be treated with medications that were developed in the 1960s and 1970s. Many of the drugs were developed and approved to fight adult cancers and used off-label to treat children with cancer. Even when the treatments work, they result in serious long-term health problems including secondary cancers that have a devastating impact on the future of these children. At the ACCO, we continue to build on our strong advocacy heritage. Since 1970 the ACCO has devoted our attention to advocate for increased government funding for research programs dedicated to eradicating all forms of childhood cancers, with treatments designed for the small, delicate bodies of our children.



...because kids can't fight cancer alone!®



# Where Does the Money Go?



## Advocacy

The ACCO is a member of Childhood Cancer International (CCI) and The Alliance for Childhood Cancer. Through our leadership on these two consortiums we advocate nationally and internationally for improved access to childhood cancer treatments, psychosocial support and pain and palliative care, as well as increased childhood cancer research funding, childhood cancer drug development and we work to advocate for getting childhood cancer initiatives on Capital Hill.

## Awareness

Our signature programs, PJammin for Kids with Cancer® and Go Gold for Kids with Cancer®, are held by individuals nationwide to promote awareness of the cause. Event hosts are provided with free event materials as well as posters illustrating the early warning symptoms for childhood cancer.

## Information / Resources

The ACCO is the nation's largest producer and distributor of informational resources to families who have a child diagnosed with cancer. These educational materials, which are provided without charge, include more than a dozen books that offer a wealth of information for the entire family. We also provide a Cozy Cat stuffed animal with patches that illustrate ports, IV and biopsy points, and the Comfort Kit, which includes items like a travel bag, soft fleece blanket and pillow case for hospital use. ACCO also developed a Medical Play Kit, which includes a variety of items such as a stethoscope and facemask, to help children understand procedures they are undergoing.

American Childhood Cancer Organization

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