



A year of
HOPE
2021 Annual Report



Braden's
HOPE
for Childhood Cancer
www.bradenshope.org

Our vision is to deliver hope to children and families fighting cancer.

Our mission is to raise awareness and funds for research studies of targeted therapies that shut down the activators of childhood cancers.



Braden's Story

Doctors diagnosed Braden Hofen with stage IV Neuroblastoma at just 3 years old.

Neuroblastoma is a solid mass tumor often found in the adrenal glands. Braden's tumor was so large it was pushing organs out of its way. Braden had extensive surgeries, round after round of high-dose chemotherapy, radiation, a bone marrow transplant and countless other treatments over the next 18 months. He knew the hospital as "home" and spent the majority of his days enduring harsh treatments designed to save his life. At 5 years old, Braden's Neuroblastoma relapsed. While other parents were preparing for the milestone of starting kindergarten, Braden and his family were told there was "no known cure" for relapsed Neuroblastoma. His survival odds fell to less than 10%.

Unbelievably, Braden's mom, Deliece, was diagnosed with stage II Breast Cancer shortly after Braden's relapse. Mother and son were now fighting cancer together and even had chemotherapy on the same day in two different Kansas City locations.

Because there was "no known cure" for Braden's cancer, Doctors ordered empirical treatments with unknown results. Despite the odds, Braden's doctors found no evidence of disease. Braden and Deliece were in remission until 2013. Braden was 8 years old and would face yet another deadly disease: a secondary form of Leukemia caused by the treatments designed to save his life from his Neuroblastoma. Doctors told the family they had never seen a child survive this form of Leukemia after relapsed Neuroblastoma. But, Braden embodies hope and he had proven them wrong before! Braden's only option for a cure was a bone marrow transplant. Braden's brother Zach, 10 years old at the time, was a perfect match. In true form, Braden survived and continues defying the odds today and remains in remission from both of his cancers.

We are Every Family. We are Braden's Hope.

Every day 46 children are diagnosed with cancer. Every day a family has to hear the words, 'No Known Cure.' We choose to focus on HOPE, to lead the charge in pediatric cancer research in the Midwest and find better treatment options for all children.



Our Research is Making a Difference

Impact Report



3 MILLION
Reasons to HOPE



Impacting up to
4,000
children each year



3 Groundbreaking
research projects



8 Participating
institutions



19 Major
findings

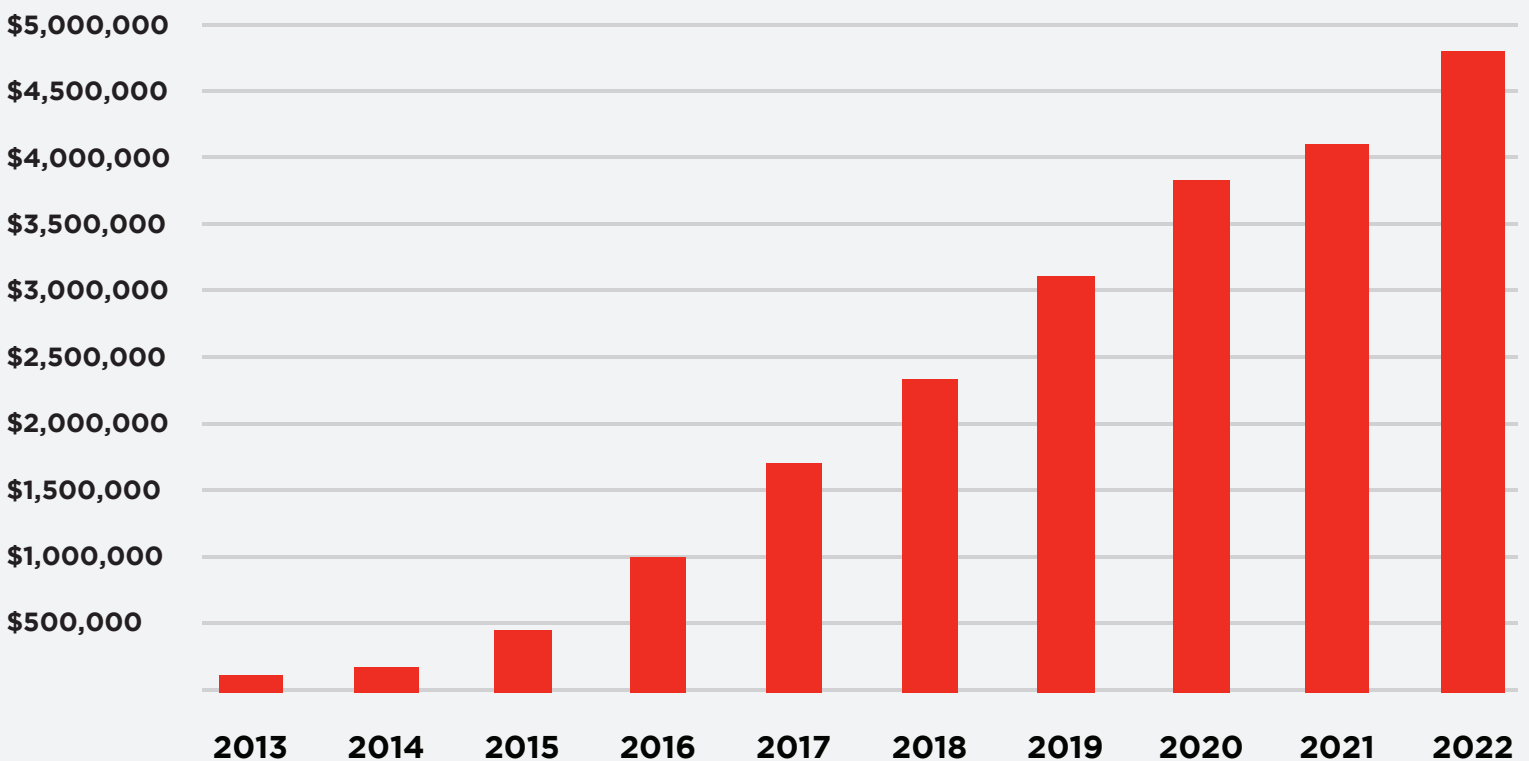


36 Scientists



57 Presentations
& publications

Cumulative Total Research Grants Funded



Impactful Research Continues



\$1M Research Award

Midhat Farooqi, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Molecular Oncology
Children's Mercy Genome Center

Targeting solid tumors with multi-antigen specific T cells by identifying the genetic and epigenetic determinants of therapeutic response

Dr. Farooqi's study supports an ongoing clinical trial at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. In this trial, pediatric patients with relapsed or treatment-resistant solid tumors, such as neuroblastoma and Wilms' tumors, are being treated with T cell infusions. This therapy is created by harvesting the patient's own T cells, which are then grown in the lab. These immune cells are then exposed to multiple markers found on the surface of solid tumors and injected back into the patient to kill cancer cells. Early clinical trial data have shown that this therapy is safe, works on a range of pediatric solid tumor types, and can help control disease. However, as with all targeted therapies, response is seen in some patients but not others.

Dr. Farooqi's team seeks to understand how a tumor's genetic makeup affects its response to T cell therapy. His team has begun sequencing pediatric solid tumors from Children's Mercy and is looking to add tumor samples from multiple hospital centers over the upcoming year. These sites include Children's National Medical Center, Children's Health in Dallas, Texas, and Cook Children's in Fort Worth, Texas. Excitingly, another site—the Instituto Nacional de Pediatría in Mexico City, Mexico—is working to join the study as well. Dr. Farooqi's team is also applying the latest sequencing technologies, long-read sequencing and HiC sequencing, to a subset of these tumors to help uncover novel genomic structural variants and genetic 'drivers' of pediatric cancer. Thanks to Braden's Hope for Childhood Cancer, this project will provide additional biological information to further improve genomic sequencing and T cell therapies for children with solid tumors.



\$1M Research Award

John M. Perry, Ph.D.
Research Faculty, Children's Mercy Research Institute
Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplantation

Overcoming therapeutic resistance by repurposing a classic chemotherapeutic drug as a targeted therapy to reactivate anti-cancer immunity

Our immune systems normally recognize potentially cancerous cells early enough to prevent tumor development. Cancer occurs only after it gains the ability to hide from the immune system. Cancer stem cells, which are resistant to most therapies and cause relapse, are especially good at evading and resisting the immune system. As a result, targeting cancer stem cells will be essential to providing life-long cures, especially for pediatric patients.

The research in Dr. Perry's lab found that a long-used chemotherapy drug could be used in a better, more targeted manner. While current use causes immune suppression, this new approach instead stimulates the immune system while inhibiting cancer stem cell's immune evasion. This work was published in the prestigious scientific journal *Nature Cell Biology* and highlighted by the press. Dr. Perry is now focusing on precisely what these anti-cancer immune responses are and how they might be better activated and sustained in a controlled manner. Recent efforts also suggest that cancer cells might even be turned into their own vaccine.

Impactful Research

Continues

While efforts at teaching an old drug a new trick have been very promising, Dr. Perry is also leading efforts to find a new drug with enhanced positive effects. Both positive and negative effects are being investigated using cutting-edge whole genome screens. These screens are based on the latest Nobel prize winning CRISPR gene editing techniques, which allow for manipulation of every gene in the genome. New candidate drugs will be compared to targeted vs. chemotherapy use of the old drug with the goal of understanding and then manipulating positive and negative effects. This will lead to optimizing the therapeutic response with new drugs or new combinations of drugs.

Dr. Perry has completed a bench-to-beside investigation, with his results being tested in clinical trials at the University of Kansas Medical Center and now at Children's Mercy. While a great deal remains to be discovered, Dr. Perry's team and collaborators are making significant progress, which is only possible thanks to support from Braden's Hope for Childhood Cancer. Ultimately, Dr. Perry's research is expected to eliminate cancer stem cells and provoke an immune response that will effectively vaccinate patients against relapse.



\$1M Reseach Award

Tomoo Iwakuma, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor & Director, Translational Laboratory Oncology Research Program,
Children's Mercy Research Institute

Co-leader, Cancer Biology Program, University of Kansas Cancer Center

Capitalizing on p53 loss/mutations in osteosarcoma by novel compounds

Over 50% of human cancers and around 80% of osteosarcoma cancers lack an important tumor suppressor known as p53. Dr. Iwakuma's team has identified a new KU0171032 compound that kills cancer cells with p53 deletions or mutations. Since normal tissues have intact p53 activity, Dr. Iwakuma's "KU" compound has the potential to kill only cancer cells, with minimal side effects to healthy cells.

Dr. Iwakuma's team has furthermore found that this new compound induces DNA damage and also inhibits one of the key DNA damage repair machineries found in cancer cells. The compound appears to accumulate unreparable DNA damage, specifically in cancer cells with p53 deletions or mutations, resulting in cell death. His research also shows that this compound inhibits osteosarcoma tumor growth in mouse models.

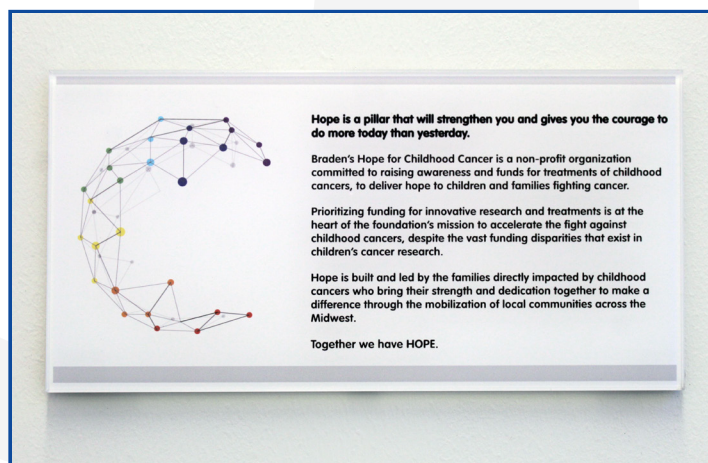
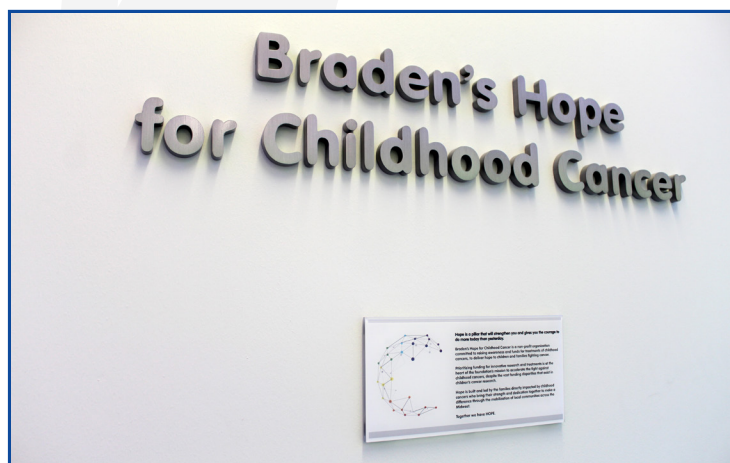
Dr. Iwakuma's team has been modifying the chemical structure of this compound and found some derivatives showing much better p53-specificity and cancer cell-killing activity than the KU compound. His team is currently examining whether these derivatives are more metabolically stable in the mouse and human bodies and can kill cancer cells with p53 deletions/mutations more effectively in mouse models. The team consists of more than 10 researchers, and Dr. Iwakuma is quick to point out that without Braden's Hope for Childhood Cancer, his research would never have progressed as far as it has. Dr. Iwakuma plans to submit a grant to the National Institutes of Health in June 2022 to continue this important work. He also plans to soon submit his first paper about the biological characteristics of KU0171032 to a high impact medical research journal. His work will advance the fields of p53-targeted therapies in osteosarcoma and will accelerate future clinical trials.

Impactful Funding

Research Organizations

This pillar and plaque located in the new Children's Mercy Research Institute, serves to hold the weight of the building in which the research we fund is conducted and as a reminder that HOPE is the foundation on which our studies are built.

- Deliece Hofen



Braden's Hope supports inter-institutional research involving investigators at these respective organizations:



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
CANCER CENTER



Braden's Hope initiated our "3 Million Reasons To Hope" campaign to fund three unique collaborative teams between Children's Mercy, KU Cancer Center, and the Stowers Institute. Three dream teams were created to bring children hope for a future through pediatric cancer research.

Childhood Cancer Research is grossly underfunded and receives less than 4% of the National Cancer Institute's budget.



\$ 451,128.26

Annual Events

10th Annual HOPE Gala

A Decade of HOPE

The Hope Gala is our premier fundraising event each year. While we were able to host an in-person event, we did have a narrow audience to maintain safe social distance. Guests were also able to attend virtually to hear the inspirational program and our hybrid gala was once again a huge success!

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor:



Kiewit

Our friends at Kiewit believe in the power of HOPE. For 8 years running, Kiewit has been our Presenting sponsor of the Hope Gala.

To date, Kiewitt has donated \$1.8 million dollars to fund childhood cancer research.





\$172,133.68

Annual Events

5th Annual Callyn's Course for HOPE



We celebrated 5 years on the course and hosted another sold-out event. The golf tournament is one of our core Hope events and is named after Hope Hero, Callyn. The event continues to grow each year and these sponsors and participants make raising funds for pediatric cancer research, a whole lot of fun!

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsors:



KBP and JECH returned as Golden Title sponsors for Callyn's Course for Hope.

In addition to supporting the golf tournament each year, they go above and beyond to raise additional funds outside of this event! KBP hosts a coupon book programs at area Kentucky Fried Chicken locations and JECH hosted a beautiful Home Tour to deliver so much hope to children like Callyn who fight cancer.





\$ 42,305.00

Annual Events

3rd Annual HOPE On The Hill 5K/10K Race



HOPE
on the HILL

It's a race to fund childhood cancer research. Hope on the Hill continues to grow each year as runners, walkers & volunteers come together to make a difference for children fighting cancer.

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor:



Kansas City



Blue KC has been a Presenting Sponsor of Hope on the Hill since its inception. Their employees serve on our advisory boards and they have hearts of HOPE.



KC Royals & KC Chiefs

Our Kansas City teams have hearts of HOPE

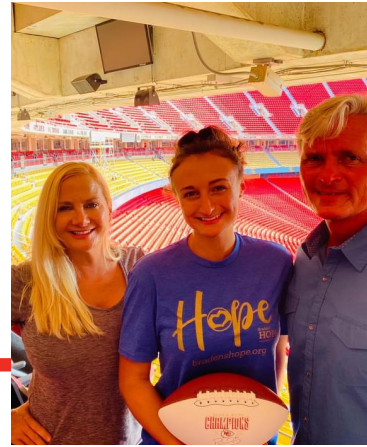
The KC Royals

The Kansas City Royals invited our Hope Heroes to Kauffman Stadium to see special video messages from our favorite boys in blue! Slugger also lead each of them through a scavenger hunt in the hall of fame and they had an opportunity to hang out in the dugout and on the field. Our Hope Heroes were all smiles!



The Kansas City Chiefs

Braden's Hope together with the Kansas City Chiefs hosted a day of Hope for our Heroes to meet KC Wolf & watch a special video message from Chiefs offensive-tackle, Orlando Brown. They left the stadium with a Chiefs football and a lot of HOPE.



Buck O'Neil Legacy Seat

Susan Bennett

Susan Bennett was honored for her volunteerism with Braden's Hope and was the honoree for the Buck O'Neil Legacy Seat on August 13, 2021. Sue works tirelessly for our children with cancer. She has been instrumental in so many aspects of our organization and helped build the Hope Gala, which is our largest fundraising event each year. Thank you Sue for giving HOPE to so many children and families.

"Buck O'Neil had an enormous impact on the world of baseball and the lives of the everyday people he touched. To honor Buck, the Buck O'Neil Legacy Seat program fills "Buck's Seat" for every home game with a member of the community who, on a large or small scale, embodies an aspect of Buck's spirit."



Our Community

Delivers SO.MUCH.HOPE



Check out the National Jersey Mike's Commercial

Jersey Mike's Day of Giving - \$65,198.00



Braden's Hope 2021 Home Tour - \$24,331.51



Snooze Eatery Fundraiser- \$8,798.00



No Shave November (OP Police) - \$5,360.00



Ladies Night at Scheels - \$2,500.00

Our Heroes

I am HOPE

HUDSON



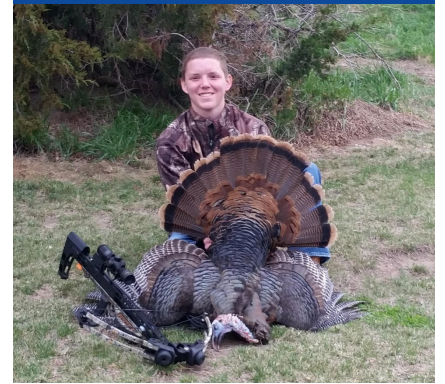
Hope Hero, Hudson was diagnosed with ALL at the age of 8. He enjoys creating art and this has always been his passion. While creating a special piece of art, he shared photos with his family and friends. Many people inquired about purchasing the piece. He decided to sell it and give the profits of \$700.00 to Braden's Hope!

ARDEN



Hope Hero, Arden was diagnosed with ALL when she was 3 years old. Her amazing family has been supportive, even from afar. Her uncle from Arizona, Jason Mohn, held a virtual coaches clinic and donated the proceeds to Braden's Hope. He raised a ton of awareness and \$2,700.00!

CONNER



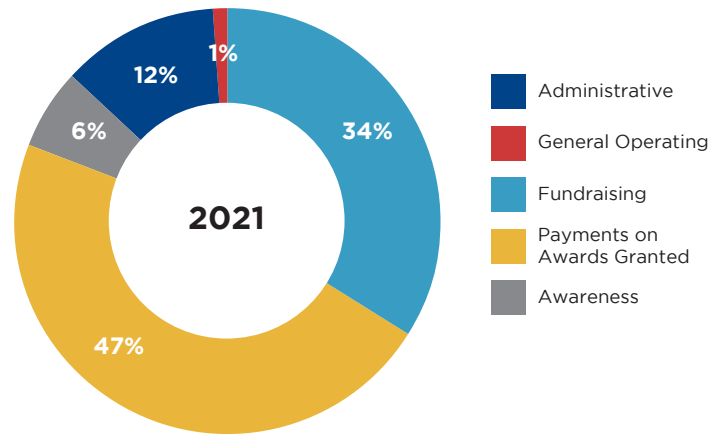
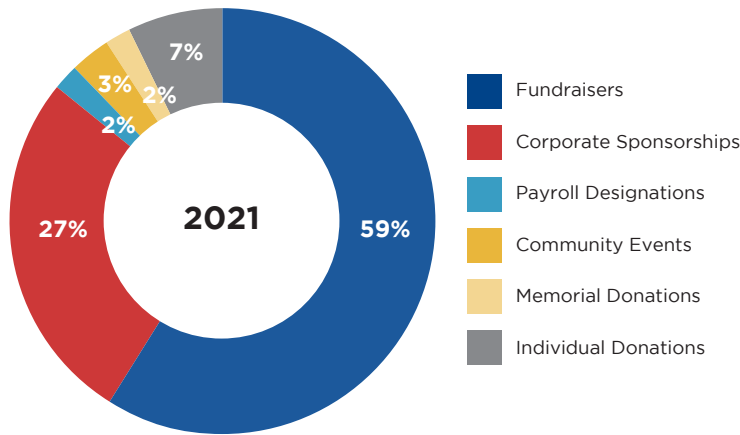
Connor was an active teenager before being diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma in 2014. After many treatments and a relapse, Connor gained his angel wings in 2016. His family started 'Connor's Cuddles' in memory of Connor. They gave \$15,000 to Braden's Hope in honor of Connor.



Our children deserve more and because of you, we have HOPE.

Financials

Revenue & Expenses



2021 Revenue

Fundraisers	\$639,505
Corporate Sponsorships	\$300,656
Payroll Designations	\$18,384
Community Events	\$36,321
Memorial Donations	\$20,318
Individual Donations	\$76,931

\$1,092,116

2021 Functional Expenses

Administrative	\$77,249
General Operating	\$9,307
Fundraising	\$218,065
Payments on Awarded Grants	\$300,000
Awareness	\$38,513

2020 Revenue

Fundraisers	\$506,723
Corporate Sponsorships	\$284,814
Payroll Designations	\$9,844
Community Events	\$24,371
Memorial Donations	\$24,705
Individual Donations	\$55,398

\$905,855

2020 Functional Expenses

Administrative	\$110,314
General Operating	\$8,652
Fundraising	\$212,251
Payments on Awarded Grants	\$700,000
Awareness	\$7,920

2019 Revenue

Fundraisers	\$667,666
Corporate Sponsorships	\$385,122
Payroll Designations	\$8,852
Community Events	\$36,499
Memorial Donations	\$17,790
Individual Donations	\$52,891

\$1,168,820

2019 Functional Expenses

Administrative	\$104,844
General Operating	\$21,766
Fundraising	\$375,310
Payments on Awarded Grants	\$700,000
Awareness	\$10,745

Delivering Hope

Board Members

Executive Board Members

Stacy Albin, Head of National/Strategic Partnerships | Northern Trust Asset Management

Andrea Bennett, Accountant | Braden's Hope for Childhood Cancer

Dave Flickinger, President | Kiewit Power

Rob Gorman, GM Commercial HVAC | SPX Cooling Technologies

Deliece Hofen, President | Braden's Hope for Childhood Cancer

Brian Hofen, VP Sales | Advanced Input Systems

Steve Linder, Regional Market Manager | Boulevard Brewing Company

Rob Rogers, President | Mid-State Aerospace, Inc

Kim Stanley, VP & Director of Development | Braden's Hope for Childhood Cancer

April Wasleski, Director Global Technology Center | H&R Block

Keith White, CEO | WireCo World Group

Advisory Board Members

Nichole Asquith

Robin Broder

Laura Buckman

Phillip Charlton

Jennifer Claar

Brian Dolezal

Laura Dolezal

Angie Ebright

Mikel Flickinger

John Fuller

Heather Foil

Amy Gregory

Brian Gregory

Amanda Grosdidier

Lesley Hewlett

Charlie Hill

Stephanie Ingelhardt

Jessica Lilja

Mark Mahon

Mallory McCandless

Jill Meyer

Laurie Minard

Barry Nelson

Tom Oltjen

Jim Ondick

Laura Read

Allie Sanchez

Jennifer Utting

Lindsay Weiss

Lori Werth

Jordan Wilcosky

Ellen Wood

Braden's Hope Young Professionals Advisory Board

Hannah Babcock

Erin Barham

Hanna Bohl

Austin Bradley

Kelsey Bradley

Bill Cross

Abby Curry

Brittney Diehm

Katelyn Ehrnman

Mackenzie Fuller

Rosie Hollis

Kory Kirkegaard

Steve Lotz

Will Miller

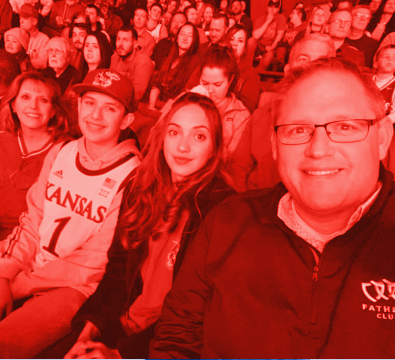
Mackenzie Randall

Madeline Sheffield

Blake Straatman

Blayr Studer

Brandi Thomas



Hearts + Hands

Thank you!

3,197

VOLUNTEER HOURS





Give Hope

Time to renew your license plate? Get your Braden's Hope for Childhood Cancer license plate today!

License Plate Renewal

- ✓ **Did you know that in 2021, the State of Kansas passed a proclamation for Braden's Hope to get our very own Kansas Distinctive License Plate!?**
- ✓ **As of January 1st, 2022, you too, can have a Braden's Hope license plate! Renew your license plate, raise awareness and give HOPE to children fighting cancer.**
- ✓ **A special thanks to Ron Ryckman, Nick Hoheisel, Rich Proehl and Elaine Bowers for championing this initiative in the legislature to make this dream a reality.**

Everything you need to know to get your Braden's Hope License Plate:

bradenshope.org/hope-license-plate

Together we are giving HOPE.



Because NO family
should ever have to
face the words,
"NO KNOWN CURE"



Deliece Hofen, President
Kim Stanley, Director of Development



Thank YOU for giving HOPE!



Braden's
HOPE
for Childhood Cancer
www.bradenshope.org