



Families
Fighting
Cancer
Together

Newsletter

**June
2023**

Are You Ready for This?

There's not much time left to get teams registered for our 2nd annual 3 x 3 basketball tournament fundraiser. With school being out for the summer, it's been harder to spread the word, so please help us by telling your friends about this event.



Family Fun Night Coming in September

This will be similar to the old Relay for Life, but all money stays here to help our FFCT families. Get your teams together now and plan how you want to reach your goals. There will be food trucks, games, and small business booths at the event. Come have a great time!

Family Dinner held May 20th

Food, family, fun, and friends were plentiful at the FFCT dinner held in Thatcher on May 20. The room was decorated with brightly colored tablecloths and with posters with encouraging messages of love for each of FFCT's "warriors" as well as posters featuring their stories. Luke presented each warrior with a personalized tee shirt.



Activities included games and face painting...



...and EATING! There were so many varieties of yummy dishes it was impossible to try them all! We sent lots of food home with the families.



Everyone appeared to be having a good time and it was great getting together!

Thank you, United Way!

We were just awarded a great grant from United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties. They have been partners and supporters of our organization since its inception almost three years ago.

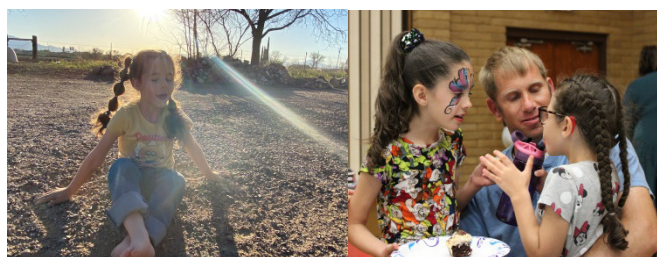


Featured Warriors

Addelyn Mullenau



Reagan and Melia Mullenau are parents to two little girls: 8-year-old Chloe who loves to dance, and 5-year-old Addelyn who loves listening to music and playing outside in the sunshine. Reagan and Melia often travel from the Gila Valley to Phoenix, Tucson, and back home, going to Addelyn's 16 different doctors and specialists. They love to play games along the drive, read from a children's joke book, and read other books or listen to favorite music in order to make each trip enjoyable. With so many appointments sometimes Melia will take Addelyn to her appointments alone so Chloe doesn't miss out on her favorite things like school and dance, and Addelyn is learning to love seeing some of her doctors. All this keeps them busy, but they say, "We wouldn't be able to make it to all of Addelyn's many appointments without the kindness from Families Fighting Cancer Together. Thank you for all you do!"



Aria Smith

When Aria, now 13, was born, every long bone in her body was broken. She has been diagnosed with Type 3 severe Osteogenesis Imperfecta, often referred to as Brittle Bone Disease. By the time she was three, she'd suffered 150 breaks. Floating in warm water is the only place she gets some relief from her daily pain. She lives outside town in a rural area surrounded by dirt and Aria couldn't go



outside in her wheelchair. FFCT provided windows and a door for the poolhouse so she can use the swim spa year-round, and put in cement

around the house so she can go outside without being carried. This has made a huge difference for Aria, who is so happy to be outdoors. In fact, she broke her femur a couple of weeks ago and within days they found her outside trying to ride her bike.

Her family tries to keep Aria's life as normal and adventurous as possible. They spend about a month out of the year in a tent, which comes with benefits and challenges—she is on her mom's back a lot, but gets to explore the great outdoors. They do primitive skills and survival camps together.

She's become an avid reader—around 35 chapter books in the last 10 months! Check out her online book review: <https://youtu.be/JAyUe0A0kvo>

Aria had a leading role (Flounder) in the EAC Children's Theater spring musical, *The Little Mermaid*. Her impressive talent won the hearts of the audience. She is pictured here with one of her fans after a performance.

