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Help Honor Jamie's Memory with New Playground Equipment at Bloomfield City Park

JULY 10TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Help Honor Jamie's Memory with New Playground Equipment at Bloomfield City Park

A Missouri family wants to honor their late, young son after he lost his cancer battle. Jamie Tweedy was diagnosed with G anglioneuroblastoma, a form of cancer, after being initially diagnosed with Pneumonia. After several years and rounds of treatments, Jamie died in May of 2024 a day after Mother's Day.

To keep his memory alive, the Tweedy family hopes to fundraise and donate a locomotive train piece to the local city park in Bloomfield, Missouri.

"Jamie absolutely loved going outside, playing with friends, and going to the park with his family. He became extremely attached to a "train park" in the town we lived in before his diagnosis. We would visit the park often and everytime we came back to town we had to stop by it rain or shine, whether he was asleep or awake, and whether he was feeling good or not...we still stopped by ," the fundraiser reads.

More details about the effort, as well as the GoFundMe, [can be found on their social media page](#). You can read more about Jamie's Journey by clicking [HERE](#)

To donate please click [HERE](#), the GoFundMe page is set up and ready for your kind donation. The Bloomfield Park Board is already in the process of raising money for equipment at the park. A grant has been written and they hope to hear very soon if they qualified for the grant monies. While there is still more work to be done, they are trying to make a difference with an all volunteer team.

"As a Park Board Member myself, I am excited that Jamie's memory will last forever and on a piece of equipment he would have enjoyed playing on with his friends. I want to thank everyone who has already donated and those that will donate to make the Bloomfield City Park event better," Dee Loflin, owner ShowMe Times, Bloomfield Park

Board Member and Bloomfield Chamber Board Treasurer/Member.

Here is what you will find on the GoFundMe Page for Jamie.

Hello my name is Sarah Tweedy and I want to say I truly appreciate you taking the time to learn about our sweet Jamie's story.

In August of 2022, our then 3 year old son was unexpectedly diagnosed with ganglioneuroblastoma after unrelated imaging from symptoms caused by the common cold. The initial hospital diagnosed Jamie with possible pneumonia and after additional imaging from a secondary hospital it was confirmed that the "pneumonia" was actually a tumor located in Jamie's thoracic cavity.

Jamie had surgery to resect his tumor in September of 2022, and after biopsies, genetic testing and other labs were completed; we were informed that his cancer was considered low risk low grade. A conservative treatment plan was recommended by 3 different hospitals that included monthly labs and 3 month follow up imaging. At his 3 month follow up imaging, we were hit with the unfortunate news that his ganglioneuroblastoma had progressed and was now considered high risk. We transferred hospitals and oncologists immediately and started chemotherapy in February of 2023 after his broviac central line was placed.

Jamie underwent multiple rounds of high dose chemotherapy and immunotherapy from February of 2023-November 2023. His tumor was relentless and continued to grow despite treatments.

He was deemed an unsafe candidate for any form of radiation or additional surgery by hospitals across the U.S. due to the size and exact location of his tumor. After additional genetic testing, we agreed to trial a daily oral chemotherapy pill that ultimately (and thankfully) helped stabilize and slow down the rate of progression. He then took that oral chemo pill daily from Nov of 2023 to the day of his passing May of 2024. Jamie's tumor, though it remained localized, continued to progress slowly in size with each follow up imaging.

In May of this year, I lost the most amazing little boy a mommy could ever ask for. A major part of me was taken away from us the day after Mother's Day and our family has been left completely devastated and heartbroken.

Jamie had the biggest heart and hated to ever see us sad or worried about him. He would try to hide any kind of pain or discomfort just so we wouldn't worry about him. (And he hated taking medicines) Our sweet boy demonstrated the strength that others could only hope and pray they could ever have, and he was an inspiration to all of those around him. Before he became really ill, Jamie absolutely loved going outside, playing with friends, and going to the park with his family. He became extremely attached to a "train park" in the town we lived in before his diagnosis. We would visit the park often and everytime we came back to town we had to stop by it rain or shine, whether he was asleep or awake, and whether he was feeling good or not...we still stopped by.

I am creating this fundraiser on behalf of our Jamie's memory. We were able to modify the layout and design of the "train park" Jamie so loved and once funds are raised, we will be donating the locomotive train piece to the local city park in my hometown in his memory.

After his diagnosis, I created a Jamie's Journey page on Facebook, where I was an open book and updated about his journey often. I haven't made a update in quite sometime due to our loss, but will be updating his page often as we continue down this new path of Jamie's Journey, where we plan to honor our son's memory but also make a difference in other deserving children's lives. Bloomfield is in desperate need for a safe and fun environment for children to explore, learn and grow.

Please consider donating to help our cause. Feel free to follow Jamie's Journey page on Facebook, where I will be completely transparent on were we are with funding, process, and outcomes. We appreciate all the love and support we have been shown the past 2 years and would love to pass it on. Any additional funding raised past goal will go to future park/playground enhancements for locations of need in Jamie's memory.

If you are uncertain about donating via GoFundMe but would still like to donate in another manner, you can reach out to us via private message on Jamie's Journey facebook page and we can make additional arrangements that fit your request.

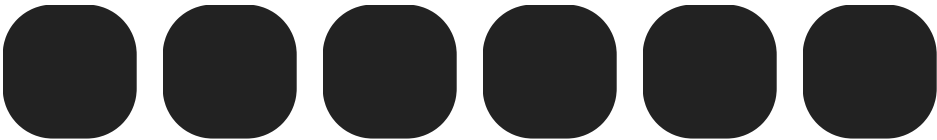
- Approximately 1 and 260 children will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20

- Currently only approximately 8% of federal funding is allocated towards childhood cancer research (previously it was only 4%....OUR KIDS ARE GREATER THAN 8)
- Cancer is the #1 cause of death by disease among Children

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32nd Annual 4th of July Patriotic Parade for Kids

JULY 02ND 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

32nd Annual 4th of July Patriotic Parade for Kids

The 32nd Annual Fourth of July Patriotic Parade for Kids will be held on Thursday, July 4th at 10:00 a.m.

This annual parade will begin at the corner of Elm and Vine streets in downtown Dexter, across from the License Bureau with the Dexter Fire Department leading the way.

The youngsters guided by Uncle Sam (aka Jason Banken) will gather on the steps of the U.S. Post Office on Stoddard Street to salute the American Flag with the Pledge of Allegiance. They will sing a few patriotic songs and pose for those everlasting photos and videos. (ShowMe Times will be there!)

The parade will follow its traditional route down Elm Street to Stoddard Street with kids on bicycles, tricycles, wagons, scooters, golf carts, on foot or in strollers. You may even see a few patriotic dogs in the parade.

The parade will get moving again, east down Stoddard Street to Poplar Street, where it will turn south at the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) back to Vine Street and turn west returning to the Bankens' front yard where they will be treated to lemonade and a small snack.

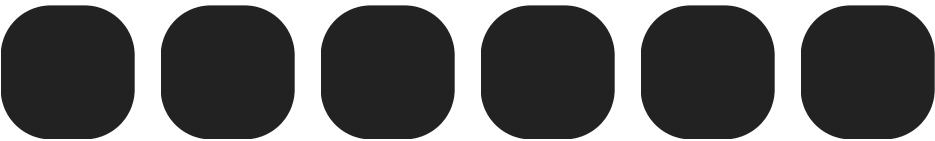
The "just for kids" parade was started by Janice Barney, Lisa Greer and Jean Rahm. The parade leadership has passed to a new generation, as Kristina and Jason Banken, now host the holiday parade each year. The Banken family began hosting the parade 17 years ago, and have continued to build upon the Independence Day tradition.

Children are invited to participate. They may walk or bring their bikes and other means of transportation for the parade. Parking will be available for grown-ups in the city parking lot on Vine Street across from the Dexter Municipal Building

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Dexter's Favorite Patriotic Veteran Receives Flag

Flown Over U.S. Capitol

JUNE 28TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter's Favorite Patriotic Veteran Receives Flag Flown Over U.S. Capitol

Walter P. Rushing, U.S. Navy Veteran, was quite surprised on Thursday afternoon when he received an United States Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

Dee Loflin, owner of the ShowMe Times, knew about the US Flag Program and contacted Mike Schoelhamer, Constituent Services Specialist, with Jason Smith's office, to get a special flag for Dexter's move beloved Veteran.. Smith is the 8th Congressional District of Missouri in the US House of Representatives.

Mr. Rushing is moving to Tennessee to be with his two daughters and their family.

He was in the United States Navy and if you have ever been in his apartment it's like walking into a mini war museum. He has quite the collection.

On Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. the public is invited to drive by, honk and waive at Mr. Rushing. It will be his last time waiving those American flags in Dexter. You may also stop by and sign his banner!

Thank you Mr. Rushing for all the memories and making us smile each and every day!! The students on the buses will miss you very much! You are truly the most Patriotic Veteran of Dexter!!

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Ribbon Cutting Held for IV Salon and Spa in Dexter

JUNE 26TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Ribbon Cutting Held for IV Salon and Spa in Dexter

[IV Salon and Spa](#) had their grand opening and ribbon cutting in downtown Dexter.

They are located at 201 E. Stoddard Street, just across from the U.S. Post Office.

To contact them you can [message on Facebook](#) or call 573-614-7175.

They offer a luxurious blend of beauty treatments and unparalleled customer service! Their place is beautiful!

The owner is Rachel Murphy.

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Peyton Boles and Ryder Boles Named as Recipients of National Scholarship Program

JUNE 25TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Peyton Boles and Ryder Boles Named as Recipients of National Scholarship Program

Royal Neighbors of America Awards Scholarships to Two Local Dexter Students

Peyton Boles and Ryder Boles Named as Recipients of National Scholarship Program

Royal Neighbors of America, a nonprofit life insurance organization located in Rock Island, Ill., has awarded 32 scholarships as part of its unique promise to provide Insurance with a Difference?. Since 1961, scholarships have been awarded annually to help alleviate the financial burden of higher education for members and their families. Peyton and Ryder Boles of Dexter, MO were both awarded this acclaimed scholarship to complete their bachelor's degrees at Murray State University.

"The program is an investment in tomorrow's community leaders," said Senior Director of Social Impact Amy Jones. "By supporting our members in their educational pursuits, we are empowering them to be at the forefront of critical issues and shaping a better future for all. These scholarships are not just financial aid; they are a commitment to nurturing the leaders who will drive positive change in their communities."

This scholarship program emphasizes the importance of strong, community-based leadership delivered through volunteerism. Students are required to respond to essay questions about their personal experiences and discuss a social issue currently affecting communities.

"My goal is to have zero debt by the time I graduate. I took many hours of dual credit in high school to cut down on expenses, and I will be working over the summer to cover additional costs. This scholarship has removed some of the financial burden from my shoulders, and I am very grateful to Royal Neighbors of America," says Peyton Boles

More than \$5 million has been awarded to date. Scholarship recipients can use their scholarship funds for tuition, room and board, and books. To learn more about the program, visit royalneighbors.org/scholarships.

"Education is a powerful tool for change, and we are honored to support our members in their educational journeys," said Royal Neighbors CEO and President Zarifa Reynolds. "A sincere congratulations to the 32 outstanding individuals who have been named as scholarship recipients this year. Our Scholarship Program has and will continue to fulfill our mission to insure lives, support women, and serve communities."

About Royal Neighbors of America

In 1895, nine founding women created a membership community. They were one of the first to make life insurance accessible to women. Nearly 130 years later, Royal Neighbors remains committed to its mission of Insuring Lives, Supporting Women, and Serving Communities ?.

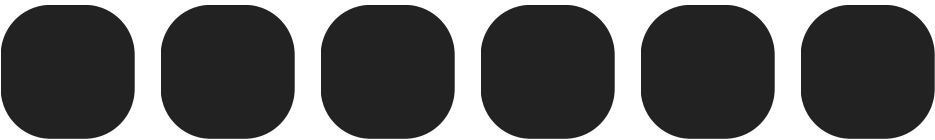
The organization's 265,000+ members, chapters, employees, and appointed agents across the country drive the mission through localized volunteerism and Philanthropy Programs making social impact the cornerstone of their work.

Royal Neighbors members experience Insurance with a Difference ? through their tailored life insurance and annuity products, opportunities to make an impact in their communities, and access to a variety of Member Programs including savings on prescriptions, health screenings, grief support, and more.

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