# TEAM JACK FOUNDATION NEWS

VOLUME 12 | JANUARY 2025

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**Child brain tumors are highly complex and involve genetic mutations and molecular changes that are not well understood making it difficult to develop treatments. Tumors are genetically distinct from adult brain tumors, which is why we cannot apply adult therapies to children. Currently there is only one FDA approved therapy specifically developed for childhood brain cancer.**

## STAY CONNECTED

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TEAM JACK FOUNDATION

GALA

PRESENTED BY: Fat Brain Toys

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2025



# FALCONS QB, KIRK COUSINS,

## Announced as Keynote Speaker for the 12th Annual Team Jack Gala

### Presented by Fat Brain Toys

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Kirk Cousins is set to inspire our audience as the keynote speaker for the 12th Annual Team Jack Gala Presented by Fat Brain Toys. Known for his leadership on and off the field, Cousins will share his journey of perseverance, faith, and professional excellence, making this event a must-attend for fans, professionals, and community leaders alike.

The 2025 Gala Event, scheduled for February 22, 2025, is Team Jack's premier event for celebrating achievements, raising awareness, and supporting Team Jack's efforts to fund childhood brain cancer research.

### About Kirk Cousins

Kirk Cousins is an NFL Quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons. Born in Barrington, Illinois, Kirk exhibited his passion for football at an early age, learning the fundamentals of the sport through flag football. After moving to Michigan, Kirk attended Holland Christian High School where he became a three-sport athlete and graduated with 3,204 passing yards, 40 touchdowns and 18 interceptions.

*(Continued on next page)*

Kirk continued his football career at Michigan State University where he set many records. He was the second player in MSU history to be a three-year captain. In 2011, the team went 11-3 (7-2) and played in their first ever Big Ten Championship Game. Kirk was named Second Team All-Big Ten by his coaches and received the 2011 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award.

In 2012, Kirk was selected in the fourth round of the NFL draft by the former Washington Redskins. He became the starting quarterback for the team at the beginning of the 2015 season, leading them to a 9-7 season finish and an NFC East Division Championship. He was named to his first Pro-Bowl in 2017 and set numerous franchise records in Washington. In March 2018, Kirk signed with the Minnesota Vikings where he has played for five seasons, being named to the Pro- Bowl three times and leading the team to become the NFC North Division Champions in 2023.



Kirk is known both on and off the football field for his exemplary leadership qualities and his commitment to making a difference in the name of Christ. In 2023, he received the Bart Starr Award which is awarded annually to the NFL player that best exemplifies outstanding character and leadership in the home, on the field, and in the community.




Kirk and his wife, Julie, partner with numerous non-profit organizations and are advocates for making an impact in the surrounding community through the Julie and Kirk Cousins Foundation. Kirk is widely known for his Christian faith, to the Pro committing all his success and leadership to the glory of God. He is widely sought-after for public speaking engagements where he inspires leaders everywhere to consider the unique responsibility and privilege that accompanies their roles. Kirk and Julie are parents to their sons, Cooper and Turner.




## What to Expect

The gala will feature a night of fun and purpose, including a VIP and social hour, dinner provided by Certified Piedmontese Beef, inspiring program and a silent and live auction. The event will once again be emceed by NASCAR announcer, Rick Allen. Cousins' keynote speech will be the highlight of the evening, offering attendees a rare glimpse into the mindset and experiences of one of football's most respected figures.

Sponsorships and table sales are open now and are expected to sell quickly. Early registration is encouraged for those hoping to secure their spot on what promises to be a memorable evening.

**For Gala information and updates, visit TeamJackFoundation.org. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Team Jack at 402-925-2120 or at info@teamjackfoundation.org.**

## Ways You Can Help With the Gala:

Scan QR Code to Learn more

**1. Ask your company to purchase a corporate table.** It is a great way to show your support of our efforts and gain visibility for your corporate giving.

**2. Donate an auction item.** Do you have a timeshare? Own a business that could donate a gift certificate? Do you like to put together unique baskets for others to bid on? We'd love your help expanding our items.

**3. Talk about Team Jack with your friends!** The more we spread the word, we not only spread awareness but we also have a chance to increase both items listed above!

**Contact info@teamjackfoundation.org and we can help you further!**



TEAM JACK 12th FOUNDATION Annual RADIOTHON

PRESENTED BY: THE HOME AGENCY thehomeagency.com

# Team Jack Radiothon Raises Over $200,000 for Research

Huskers Radio Network

On September 26, the 12th Annual Team Jack Radiothon presented by The Home Agency was an incredible day for raising research funds and awareness for childhood brain cancer! Over $200,000 was raised through the eleven-hour event broadcast on dozens of radio stations throughout Nebraska, distributed by the Huskers Radio Network. Listeners across the state called in, donated on-site in Elwood at The Home Agency, and gave online to help fund better treatments for kids with brain cancer. We are truly grateful for the support from donors, radio stations, sponsors, volunteers, radio hosts, and families for making this day a success!




From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for making this year's Radiothon an overwhelming success! Your generosity, kindness, and unwavering support have made a difference, and we are truly humbled by your dedication to our cause. We are grateful for you and will look forward to another great year, next year!

## Highlights from the day:

- **$200,000** raised!
- Approximately **520 donors**!
- The station that raised the most was KBRX-O'Neill with **$12,807 raised**, with Max Country-York in second with **$4,633**. Thanks to all participating stations for your efforts!

## Prize winners:

- $20,000 Cash Prize - Courtney Kness
- $5,000 Cash Prize - John Kant
- $2,500 Cash Prize - Kelly Terrell
- Great Wolf Lodge in KC - Shelia Lemmert
- Ultimate Tailgate Package - Galen Larson
- Husker Red YETI Cooler - Deb Hood
- 2 Tickets to NU FB vs. Rutgers - Vickie Schmall
- Top Radio Station - KBRX, The Top Dog in Country, O'Neill, NE
- John Cook Signed VB - Peggy Carpenter
- Nebraska VB Team Signed VB - Marsha Fairbanks

**If you missed the opportunity to contribute and would like to, please visit: teamjackradio.org**
**Stay tuned for updates on the 2025 Radiothon!**

# Team Jack Approves Two New Projects for Funding as Part of POWER5 Pediatric Brain Tumor Initiative

One of our biggest priorities is a project right here in Nebraska at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. This project is our POWER5 Childhood Brain Tumor Initiative which is a $5 million commitment to UNMC to fund laboratory and clinical research, pain management in cancer, and education.

Supporting research and education in this critical area not only has the potential to improve treatment outcomes for children battling brain cancer but also contributes to a broader understanding of the disease, leading to advancements in medical practices and patient care. Because Omaha is the center for care for any child diagnosed with brain cancer in Nebraska, we have made this program a priority.

To date, the Team Jack Foundation has funded 15 projects within the POWER5 Program, totaling over $2.5 million.

In 2024, two new research grants were awarded as part of the POWER5 Childhood Brain Tumor Initiative at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Children's Nebraska in Omaha. The 2024 funding commitments total $514,696 over three years.



**Sutapa Ray, PhD**

*UNMC Division of Hematology/Oncology*

**Medulloblastoma Research**

**$350,262**

Role of Coactivator-Associated Arginine Methyltransferase 1 (CARM1) in Pediatric Brain Cancer Medulloblastoma



**Angie Rizzino, PhD**

*Eppley Institute of Research*

**Medulloblastoma Research**

**$164,434**

SOX2 Levels Control Transcriptional Dynamics in Tumor Cells

Each of these projects focuses on finding new treatment options for medulloblastoma, the most common malignant brain tumor in children. Medulloblastoma accounts for 20 percent of all pediatric brain tumors and occurs most commonly in children between the ages of 3 and 8 but can be seen in children and adults of any age. Nebraska has an annual incidence of 0.4 pediatric medulloblastomas (MB) per 100,000 people.

Medulloblastoma is grouped into four subtypes. Researchers continue to learn more about this type of tumor including discovering new subtypes. Medulloblastoma can grow quickly and can spread to other areas of the brain and spinal cord. Approximately 30 percent of children have medulloblastoma that spread when they are first diagnosed. Research is critical to learn more about this tumor and how to effectively treat it in children.



## Pediatric Brain Cancer in Nebraska

Nebraska ranks 7th in incidence rate for pediatric brain cancer in the United States. The other six states are in the northeastern part of the United States.

Pediatric brain cancers represent 26% of all cases of childhood cancer in Nebraska, making it the most frequently diagnosed type of cancer in children in Nebraska.

Nationally, childhood brain cancer is the leading cancer cause of death in children.

Until recently, there has NEVER been a drug developed specifically for childhood brain cancer.

# Collaborative Research Leads to Breakthroughs



Dr. Sidharth Mahapatra

Brain cancer remains one of the most challenging types of cancer to treat in pediatric patients. This underscores the critical need for continued research, awareness, and innovative treatment options to improve outcomes for children diagnosed with this devastating disease. Collaboration is vital to research to accelerate discoveries, foster innovation and combine expertise, which has been proven by Dr. Sidharth Mahapatra at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

In April 2022, as part of Team Jack's Power 5 Pediatric Brain Tumor Initiative, we awarded Dr. Sidharth Mahapatra $226,000 for the development of the first regional medulloblastoma core facility, in Nebraska.

By funding the development of the Core Facility which includes pediatric brain tumor tissue banking, Team Jack is playing a vital role in advancing research, developing new treatments, and improving outcomes for children with brain cancer. Tissue banking is important for many reasons including developing new therapies, personalizing treatment and developing new targeted treatments, and for the future of research. Understanding the biology of the tumor is crucial for improving outcomes for kids affected by this devastating disease.

This project is led by Dr. Sidharth Mahapatra at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and is funded by the Team Jack Foundation. Dr. Sage Green, who was an oncology fellow at Nemours Children's Hospital, contacted him last year because she had a patient with a posterior fossa tumor thought to be medulloblastoma. When she ran the standard studies at her institute on the tumor sections after resection, it seemed like a WNT tumors, which has over 95% 5-yr survival and is prescribed standard risk therapies, i.e. 3 chemotherapy medications and lower grade craniospinal irradiation. Children's Oncology Group at Nationwide confirmed her findings and diagnosis. When the tumor sections were sent to St. Jude and Mayo Clinic prior to treatment stratification, each site discovered high c-MYC amplification, which is a high-risk feature found in Group 3 and Group 4 tumors, both of which are assigned high-risk therapies, i.e. 4 chemotherapy medications and higher grade craniospinal irradiation, and have a 5-yr survival of 57% (G3MB) and 76% (G4MB).

Dr. Green reached out to Dr. Mahapatra for his help. They strategized to have the core facility perform RNA sequencing of the sample in question so that they could use transcriptomic analyses to group the tumor. They simultaneously had Nationwide Children's run methylation analyses on different tumor sections to do the same.

Together, they arrived at a high-risk Group 3/4 MB diagnosis for which he received high-grade therapies. He remains tumor-free more than 2 years after his initial diagnosis.

Interestingly, they were approached after publication of their work by a group in Germany led by Dr. Ulrich who has been collecting tumors like the one in question here. He has amassed a small cohort of these to which he added theirs. He has proposed that these tumors that have both low- and high-grade features might be a subgroup of their own, different from the 4 classical ones we are used to thinking of. He presented his work at ISPNO in June 2024.

In conclusion, this collaborative work has not only helped a child but has contributed to a growth body of literature possibly identifying a new subgroup of MB.

## CL Werner Foundation Awards Grant to Team Jack Foundation

Werner Foundation

The Team Jack Foundation is pleased to receive a grant for $25,000 from the CL Werner Foundation for the Power 5 Pediatric Brain Tumor Initiative. The generosity of Nebraska based businesses and individuals has fueled the Team Jack Foundation to fund over $12.7 million in childhood brain cancer research since its inception in 2013.

The CL Werner Foundation supports those who believe in encouraging people to achieve their full potential through Faith, Family, Health and Education.

"I've learned that being wealthy doesn't mean a thing unless I use my money to help people. That's how I am. It came directly from my folks, and they got it from their folks," said CL Werner, founder of Werner Enterprises, Inc.

# Nebraska Clinicians and Scientists Use Team Science to Fight Childhood Brain Cancer

*Published in Nature, June 24, 2024*

**From tumour-homing nanoparticles to a potential medulloblastoma growth inhibitor, the Nebraska Children's Brain Tumor Collaborative is trying to improve outcomes for children with high-risk central nervous system malignancies.**

Paediatric neurosurgeon, Afshin Salehi, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and Children's Nebraska, regularly deals with hard-to-treat paediatric brain tumours. However, he describes diffuse intra pontine gliomas as the worst. "These tumours are located primarily in the midline of the brain and are often unresectable," he explains. "Overall survival is nine to 14 months from the time of diagnosis with maximal treatment, and five-year survival is essentially zero."

Alongside his clinical responsibilities, Salehi runs a basic science lab which is developing a new nanoparticle to enhance the efficacy of laser interstitial thermal therapy (LITT), a minimally invasive procedure that uses heat to destroy areas of abnormal cells. This 'photothermal therapy' nanoparticle has a tumour-homing capability. "It could be systemically injected to accumulate in paediatric high-grade glioma tumours to help remove the malignancy using LITT," Salehi says. "These nanoparticles will be designed to absorb the laser wavelength, leading to a very customizable treatment zone. We want to treat the tumour without injuring nearby vital structures."



*Sidharth Mahapatra, who established the NCBTC, holds brainstorming sessions to advance tumour research.*
*Credit: UNMC-CHRI Nebraska*

Salehi believes this nanoparticle could progress to clinical trials fairly quickly, once optimized in animal models. "We currently have nothing else to offer these patients," he says. "If this works, then many paediatric neurosurgeons will want to test it."

Salehi has also teamed up with UNMC pharmaceutical scientist and professor, Aaron Mohs, to address the issue of suboptimal illumination during tumour surgery, particularly medulloblastoma. "By injecting Mohs's new fluorescent nanoparticle, I could operate more effectively because the tumour should light up, compared to surrounding tissue, in a way that's not possible now," Salehi says.

The research of Salehi and Mohs, along with dozens of other collaborative projects, would not be possible without the Nebraska Children's Brain Tumor Collaborative (NCBTC), part of the Pediatric Cancer Research Group (PCRG) within the Child Health Research Institute. The NCBTC's goal is to advance understanding of high-risk paediatric brain tumours, such as high-grade gliomas and medulloblastomas.

These collaborative research projects are a priority for Nebraska, which, according to the US Central Brain Tumor Registry, ranks seventh in the nation for paediatric brain tumours.

"Having a centre dedicated to researching these malignancies makes perfect sense for our catchment area," says NCBTC medicinal chemist, Paul Trippier, an associate professor at UNMC. "Our multidisciplinary team works together to advance basic understanding of what brain tumours are, what causes them and what makes them progress."



*Afshin Salehi is developing a nanoparticle with tumour-homing capabilities.*
*Credit: UNMC-CHRI Nebraska*

## The rise of team science

While collaboration is an integral feature of today's NCBTC, it took the vision and persistence of one physician-scientist to provide the spark that brought it to life. Sidharth Mahapatra, director of the NCBTC and paediatric intensivist at Children's Nebraska, had never considered paediatric brain tumours as a research focus before his arrival there.

"I'm not sure I took care of a single brain tumour patient at my previous institution. Yet when I started at Children's in 2015, I was taking care of 10-15 kids annually in the ICU after their brain tumour surgeries," Mahapatra says. "I thought about Nebraska's high rates, and how a study of these tumours would encompass cellular signaling, inflammation, neurobiology and critical care — fields that I was developing expertise in through my PhD and fellowship research. I realized that this was an ideal way to leverage the skills I had developed both at the bench and bedside to tackle a very serious problem in the children I cared for."

Mahapatra started his work by obtaining paediatric brain tumour tissue samples from pathologists at Children's and UNMC, creating the first paediatric brain tumour bank in Nebraska. The data he generated was added to the public domain (GSE148389) and provided transcriptomic and clinical data specifically on medulloblastomas diagnosed and treated at the two institutions. With no dedicated infrastructure in place, he had to do all the heavy lifting himself.

"In the thick of the pandemic, when many of us felt isolated and separated from our research, I realized that I couldn't move the field fast enough alone," Mahapatra says. He approached five colleagues on campus — all studying different aspects of paediatric brain tumours — to explore ways in which they could collaborate on innovative research projects.

As a result, in late 2020, Mahapatra established the NCBTC. Receiving joint funding from the state of Nebraska and Team Jack Foundation, Mahapatra is now working on a Pediatric Brain Tumor Core Facility that specializes in animal modelling and tumour banking, to provide internal researchers access to these resources. "When a new researcher joins us, we can now offer easy access to the patient database, tissue samples and established animal models," he says.

With the infrastructure in place, collaboration between researchers was flourishing.

Mahapatra's research identified a list of onco-proteins for potential inhibition to halt medulloblastoma

growth, but he lacked inhibitor design expertise. He approached cancer drug discovery specialist, Trippier, to collaborate. Following Trippier's evaluation of each compound, the pair chose one to pursue: B7-H3, an immune checkpoint molecule in paediatric medulloblastomas that plays a role in tumour immune evasion. "We're optimizing several lead compounds targeting this immune checkpoint inhibitor as effective killers of medulloblastoma cells that can get into the brain of mice, without killing normal cells," Trippier says. "This process has taken about two years, compared to the five or six years it would take at many other institutions."

For Salehi, who received bench science training before attending medical school, collaboration between scientists and physicians is essential for making progress in such a challenging malignancy. "If an MD and a basic scientist are talking all the time, which we do here through a coached process with regular meetings and brainstorming sessions, we hear many creative solutions," he says. "We all find that our counterparts often provide unexpected insights based on their specific expertise."

Mahapatra agrees that the NCBTC is making great strides toward its goal of understanding and combatting paediatric brain tumours in Nebraska and beyond. "My intention was for the NCBTC to serve not only me or my direct collaborators, but to also help those connected to my collaborators," he says. "While we share a strong emphasis on publishing and creating innovative preclinical models to advance our science, the ultimate goal remains the same: to help children who continue to suffer devastating outcomes from brain tumours."

For more information on how the NCBTC uses novel collaborations to fast track breakthroughs in paediatric brain tumour treatment, visit their website.

**For more information on how the NCBTC uses novel collaborations to fast track breakthroughs in paediatric brain tumour treatment, visit their website.**

# Team Jack Represented at this Year's International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-oncology in Philadelphia

On June 28, Team Jack's Executive Director, Kylie Dockter, attended the International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-oncology (ISPNO) in Philadelphia, PA. ISPNO is the largest and most important scientific meeting in the world focused on pediatric brain cancer. It brings together clinicians, researchers, advocates, nonprofits and more, worldwide to learn about cutting-edge science and to collaborate and meet experts in the field. The meeting includes a comprehensive scientific program covering research updates on pediatric brain cancer.

"ISPNO is important because it brings together people in several different fields all with a common goal: to fight childhood brain cancer. It's a great opportunity for organizations like Team Jack to connect with others in the scientific community to further our mission. It also gives us a chance to collaborate with researchers and other organizations to discuss new ways to work together because we know we cannot achieve our goals alone," Kylie Dockter, Executive Director.



*Dr. David Doss, Kylie Dockter, Stefani Kammrad, Dr. Chittalsinh Raulji, Dr. Sidharth Mahapatra*

During the three-day meeting, the days start with a 7 AM sunrise session and end with poster sessions and networking events. Throughout the sessions, researchers present their findings in low- and high-grade brain tumors, clinical trials and quality of life.

Nebraska was well represented at the event with several individuals from University of Nebraska Medical Center and Children's Nebraska in attendance, including Dr. David Doss, Stefani Kammrad, Dr. Chittalsinh Raulji, Dr. Sidharth Mahapatra, and Dr. Grace Lai.

"The quality and quantity of work presented were truly inspiring, reflecting the passion and dedication so many have toward finding a cure for this devastating disease," Dockter said.

# Nebraska Wins the Broken Chair Trophy!

In an off year for the Nebraska vs. Minnesota football matchup, the 2024 Broken Chair Trophy took to the hardwood for the Nebraska vs. Minnesota volleyball match on November 14! **This fundraiser raised $8,625 for Team Jack and $4,600 for Team One Four, bringing the all-time fundraising total to $175,000!** Special thank you to all who contributed to this event. We are thrilled to host the Broken Chair Trophy until next year when the game will be back on the gridiron!

**To learn more Visit brokenchairtrophy.com**




Carter Nelson

# Nebraska Football Home Opener Doubles as Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Game

Nebraska Football's 2024 season-opener versus the University of Texas-El Paso was an exciting day for the Team Jack Families, as it was the Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Game. Each year, Nebraska Athletics invites families affected by childhood brain cancer to attend a Nebraska Football game to help raise awareness for the disease. On August 31, over 130 people attended this special day which began with a tailgate at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel hosted by the Team Jack Foundation and sponsored by Muchachos. This pregame tailgate provides an opportunity for families to connect and for new families to be introduced to the group. An added bonus is getting to hear the Nebraska Pep Band and watch the Nebraska Football Team depart the hotel to the stadium for the game. This year, the families even got a surprise visit from the Nebraska Cheer Squad and Herbie Husker!

"We are truly grateful for the unwavering support from Nebraska Athletics. Each season, the opportunity for families to come together and experience a Nebraska Football game is something truly special, fostering cherished memories year after year. In addition, our partnership with the University has helped us raise significant awareness and research funds for our cause," said Kylie Dockter, Team Jack Foundation Executive Director.

During halftime of the game versus UTEP, the University of Nebraska Life Skills Department Executive Associate AD, Keith Zimmer, presented Team Jack, represented by Brianna, Jack, Ava and Reese Hoffman, a check in the amount of $40,000, proceeds from the July 2024 Nebraska Football Road Race, that will go directly to the POWER5 Childhood Brain Tumor Initiative at UNMC and Children's Nebraska. Also present, were title sponsors of the Nebraska Road Race, Jim and Sharri Baldonado from The Home Agency.

Thank you to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Keith Zimmer and Kate Frazier and staff at UNL Life Skills, and everyone else who made this special day possible for our families.

**Go Big Red!**












TAKEDOWN THE TUMOR YOUTH WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

# Takedown the Tumor Tournament Reaches Three-Year Total of $217,000 Raised for Team Jack



*Team Champions: The Best Wrestler*

On Sunday, December 8, the 3rd Annual Takedown the Tumor Youth Wrestling Tournament was held at Papillion La Vista High School. With over 450 young wrestlers competing for giant trophies and custom medals, they were also helping raise funds for childhood brain cancer research. The tournament supports the Team Jack Foundation, and with this year's $65,000 raised, the three-year total has now reached an impressive $217,000! Team champions and runners-up were also awarded trophies, with The Best Wrestler winning the team championship, and Nebraska Wrestling Academy finishing in second.

In addition to wrestling in the tournament, the young athletes were given the opportunity to fundraise for Team Jack and earn Takedown the Tumor gear for different levels reached. A special thank you goes out to the parents of our fundraisers for allowing their children to fundraise for Team Jack and to the many donors that contributed. Several of the fundraisers were wrestling and fundraising in memory of friends or siblings that have passed from childhood brain cancer. This special connection was touching to see, and helped raise $20,490!



*The Josh & Marie Akerson family and Takedown the Tumor committee.*

The top fundraiser was Miles Ostronic from Westside Wrestling Club. He was able to raise $6,525 for childhood brain cancer research, and he had great motivation both to wrestle and to fundraise. **Miles said, "I'm wrestling for my best friend, Jimmy, that died of brain cancer. It definitely helps to remember him more. I want to make him proud."**

## Highlights from the day:

- **Over 450 wrestlers, which was double the amount from the 2023 tournament.**
- **Wrestlers that fundraised for Team Jack combined to raise $20,490 for research.**
- **Great participation from clubs in the metro area and beyond!**

"We were thrilled with the increased number of wrestlers this year, and the overall support from the wrestling clubs, families, sponsors, volunteers, and committee. We could not host this event without help, and we are truly grateful to all who lent a hand in any way. For next year, we are discussing new ideas to fine tune the Takedown and make it even better," said Kylie Dockter Executive Director, Team Jack Foundation.

**Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, OMAWA-Omaha Metro Area Wrestling Association, Nebraska USA Wrestling, and the Josh and Marie Akerson Family for continuing to help facilitate this event.**

RUNZA®

## Runza® Restaurants Holds 3rd Annual Dine Out Day for Team Jack Raising $24,334.75!

On Tuesday, July 16, 53 Runza® locations gave 10% of sales to Team Jack! The 2024 Dine Out for Team Jack Day raised $24,334.75 for childhood brain cancer research bringing the three-year combined total to over $68,000! These funds are helping fund better treatments for kids with brain cancer so they can not only defeat their tumors but go on to live happy and healthy lives. Special thanks to the participating Runza® Restaurants and to everyone who dined out to help Team Jack!



# Brain Tumor Warrior Bettie

## Hosts Fundraiser to Support Research




Last summer, brain tumor fighter, Bettie Chambers, held a fundraising challenge and one-mile fun run on the Fourth of July in her hometown of Bennett, Nebraska. Through a fundraising challenge and a one-mile fun run on the Fourth of July in her hometown, Bettie was able to raise $8,400 for childhood brain cancer research! Bettie is a senior in high school this year and is very active in her school participating in cross country, wrestling, and track. Since she was diagnosed, she has been an advocate for the cause. In 2018, Bettie hosted a Disney-themed dance when she was just 11 years old, raising $13,000 for Team Jack. We are grateful for her efforts to help us fund the cure! A special thank you to everyone who gave generously to Bettie's fundraiser knowing that fighting childhood brain cancer is a team effort.



## A special thank you to those who continue to support our cause through fundraisers...

### $4,500

**Cozad Chamber of Commerce Golf Event**

On Saturday, May 18 2024, the Cozad Chamber of Commerce, presented by The Home Agency, hosted their Celebrity Golf Tournament with proceeds totaling $4,500 benefiting the Team Jack Foundation.

### $3,000

**Van Wilson Memorial Golf Tournament**

In June 2024, the Van Wilson Memorial Golf Tournament held their second annual golf event in memory of Van Wilson. They hosted 78 players and were able to donate $3,000 to the Team Jack Foundation.

# TEAM JACK GOLF CLASSIC 22

## Raises Over $45,000 in Third Year!



PRESENTED BY:

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL BUTCHER
OMAHA STEAKS
SINCE 1917







On Monday, July 8, the Team Jack Foundation hosted their 3rd Annual Golf Classic at Lincoln's Wilderness Ridge Country Club Presented by Omaha Steaks. This year's event brought together 21 teams and 19 former Nebraska football players for an 18-hole scramble to raise over $45,000 for Team Jack.

"It's great to be golfing and raising money for a great cause. I just met one of the guys I was golfing with, Brent, who lost his daughter to brain cancer four years ago and that's what we are out here to do...to raise money. It's incredible to see how much money the Team jack Foundation has raised and getting to see the difference it makes," said Cam Jurgens, Philadelphia Eagles center.

This year's presenting sponsor was Omaha Steaks who were on-site and provided steak samples and franks for the players during the tournament. They also provided the main course at the post-event meal. Gaining support from Omaha Steaks is key in raising research funds for childhood brain cancer and raising awareness for the disease.

The winning foursome was the Hampton Enterprises team comprised of Scott Lockard, Alex Carney, Andy Brown, and Nate McKown. They were paired with former Husker and NFL running back Andy Janovich. The top two teams in the two flights were awarded prizes, thanks to our generous sponsors: Omaha Steaks, Muchachos, Alumni Hall, and Scheels-Lincoln.

Prior to the start of the tournament, the former Nebraska Football Players participated in a longest drive competition, and the winner was Brandon Reilly. This competition was held in a raffle format to raise extra funds for the cause. The winner of the raffle was Chris Christensen from the Pulse Logistics team, and his prize was a men's watch donated by Borsheims. A second raffle prize, provided by Omaha Steaks, was won by Dylan Groeneweg from the Sid Dillon team.

Over $45,000 was raised for childhood brain cancer research through the Team Jack Golf Classic which was organized by former Nebraska Football Players, Rex Burkhead, Brent Qvale, Jeremiah Sirles, and Kenny Bell. Other former players that participated in the event included Adrian Martinez, Cameron Jurgens, Jay Foreman, Nate Gerry, Brenden Stai, Pierre Allen, Brandon Reilly, Andy Janovich, Austin Allen, Nate Swift, Brett Maher, Josh Banderas, and Cody Green.

Stay tuned for more information on the 4th Annual Team Jack Golf Classic!



# An Evening with Henry Winkler

Presented by:
*The Dennis Baumert Family & The Carson Family*
*in Memory of Jeanne Baumert*

## Emmy Award-Winning Actor and Author, Henry Winkler, to Headline Event in Omaha Next Summer

Mark your calendars! The iconic Henry Winkler, best known for his role as "The Fonz" on *Happy Days* and as a bestselling author, will be the keynote speaker at *An Evening with Henry Winkler*, a special fundraising event dedicated to raising funds for childhood brain cancer research.

The event will take place on August 7, 2025, at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha, Nebr. beginning at 6:00 PM. Proceeds will fund impactful childhood brain cancer research.

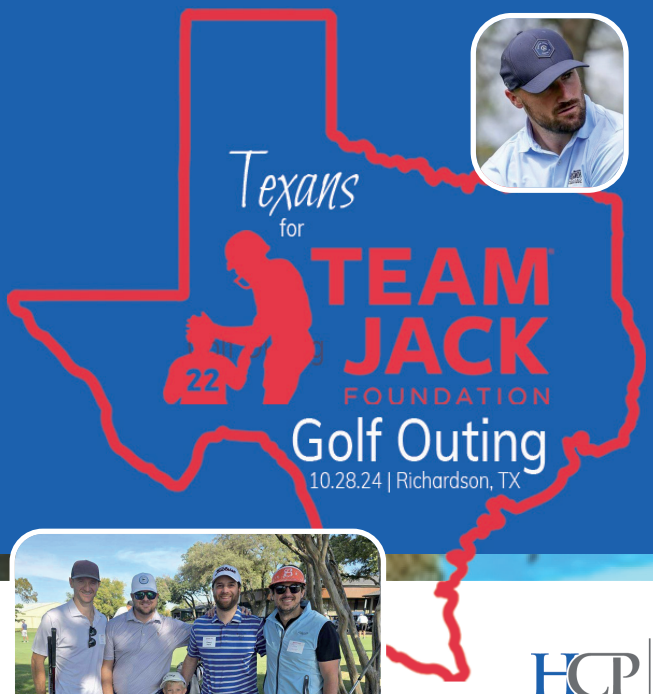
Attendees will enjoy an inspiring evening capped by Winkler's heartfelt and motivational keynote address. Audiences always leave Henry's presentations inspired and entertained. Through humorous anecdotes and inspirational life lessons about overcoming adversity to his storied career in television and entertainment, groups of all ages can learn from Henry's speeches. His passion for supporting others is the result of a lifetime struggle with undiagnosed dyslexia. Henry has worked tirelessly to bring awareness and support to children who learn differently by advocating for changes in the education system and informing parents and teachers about learning challenges.

Henry Winkler has celebrated over 50 years of success in Hollywood and continues to be in demand not only as an actor, producer, and director but as a best-selling author. His autobiography, ***BEING HENRY...The Fonz and Beyond***, was published in October 2023. It was on the *New York Times* bestseller list for 11 weeks and was a Good Reads Award winner for Best Humor book.

Henry co-starred as acting teacher Gene Cousineau on the hit HBO dark comedy, ***Barry***. In 2018, he won his first Primetime Emmy Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy for his role on the series. Henry has also won two Television Critics Choice Awards for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series and was nominated for both a Golden Globe and SAG Award.

Tickets are available now at TeamJackFoundation.org. Individual tickets are priced at $100, and table sponsorships begin at $1,500. Early reservations are encouraged as seating is limited. Proceeds benefit Team Jack to fund impactful childhood brain cancer research.

Thank you to our presenting sponsors, The Dennis Baumert Family and The Carson Family, in memory of Jeanne Baumert. For sponsorship information, contact us at info@teamjackfoundation.org.




# Rex Burkhead Hosts Inaugural Texans for Team Jack Event, Raising $69,000 for Team Jack

On October 28, Team Jack Board Member and Texas native, Rex Burkhead, hosted the Inaugural Texans for Team Jack Golf Classic at Canyon Creek Country Club in Richardson, TX. The event raised an impressive $69,000 to support the Team Jack Foundation and their mission to fund impactful childhood brain cancer research.

Plans are already underway for next year's tournament which will be held on Monday, October 27, 2025, at Canyon Creek. A special thank you to Rex, his family, our volunteers and all those who attended the event and supported our cause.



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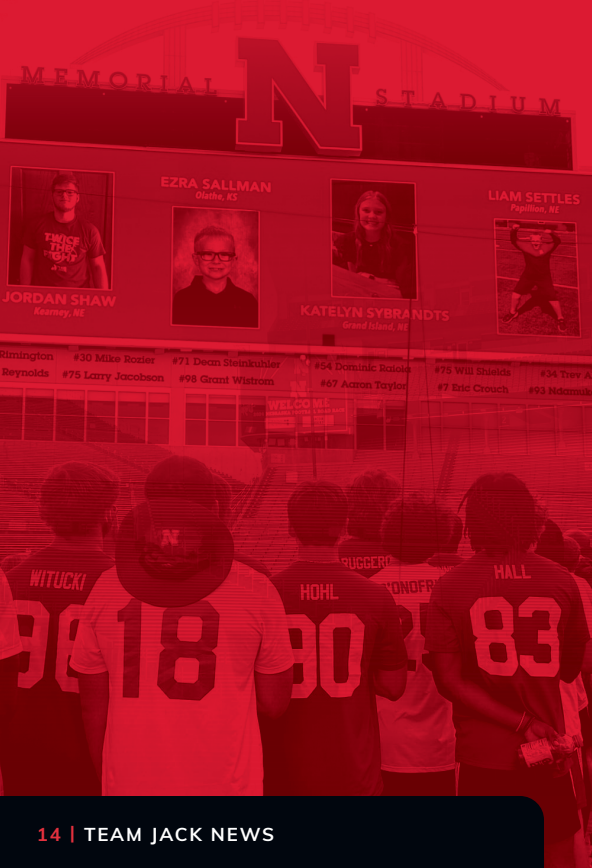
CANYON CREEK COUNTRY CLUB

NEBRASKA FOOTBALL

# ROAD RACE

Sponsored by The Home Agency
Coordinated by The Lincoln Track Club

# RAISES $40,000 FOR PEDIATRIC BRAIN CANCER RESEARCH IN YEAR 12




## The 12th Annual Nebraska Football Road Race

was held on Sunday, July 14, and was an outstanding day to raise research funds and awareness for childhood brain cancer! Nearly 900 runners and walkers participated in the one mile run or the 5k race that began and ended on Tom Osborne Field inside Memorial Stadium. To kick off the event, children affected by brain cancer led the Husker players through the tunnel walk. Both races finished the last sixty-nine yards on the field to signify the famous touchdown run by Jack Hoffman in the 2013 Nebraska Football Spring Game!



*Nash Hutmacher signing autographs for young Husker fans. Photo credit: Nebraska Football*

The entire 2024 Nebraska Football team was at the event cheering on the participants, signing autographs, and taking photos. The Nebraska Spirit Squad was there to support the event as well, and the Nebraska Men's Basketball team was out on the course giving out high-fives and encouraging runners. The Nebraska Volleyball team also shared a video message for all in attendance! The support from Nebraska Athletics continues to be crucial in funding better treatments and helping to rewrite the futures of children with brain cancer.

"It's extremely important to be able to do something like this and give back to kids. They're battling something a lot bigger than what we think is hard. What we do as hard is not hard compared to what they're fighting," said Nebraska tight end, Thomas Fidone.



*Photo Credit: Nebraska Football*

The Road Race is supported by The Home Agency and organized by the UNL Life Skills Department and The Lincoln Track Club and has raised more than $150,000 for research since it began. Funds benefit the Childhood Brain Tumor Program in Omaha at UNMC and Children's Nebraska.

"We continue to be humbled by the support of Nebraska Athletics and all of Husker Nation. Proceeds from the Road Race benefit the Nebraska Childhood Brain Tumor Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Children's Nebraska in Omaha. The program is making great strides in terms of care, clinical trial hosting, and research for kids with brain cancer. This would not be possible without the tremendous support from our home state," Kylie Dockter, Team Jack Executive Director said.



*Fan selfie at the Road Race with Elliott Brown. Photo Credit: Nebraska Football*

SEPTEMBER 2024

FLEET FEET MILES FOR TEAM JACK FOUNDATION

# Fleet Feet's Miles for Team Jack Challenge

## Continues to Make a Difference

The 5th Annual Miles for Team Jack virtual miles challenge organized by Fleet Feet was a great opportunity to get active in September in honor of our childhood cancer heroes! In addition, a significant amount of research funds was raised for childhood brain cancer!

With just over 300 participants, the group combined to log 19,820 miles and raise $24,613! These funds were generated by the participants sharing their individual fundraising links with their friends and family via social media, email and text.

While the bulk of the participants were from Nebraska, there were a total of sixteen states represented in the challenge. The goal of the Team Jack Foundation and Fleet Feet is to continue to grow the challenge to include participants from every state and continue to raise more funds for research each year.

Prizes were awarded throughout the month thanks to our sponsors Applied Connective Technologies and HOKA. The top overall fundraiser for the second straight year was Kevin McCaffrey from Lincoln, Nebraska. Kevin raised $3,692 for childhood brain cancer research and received a fitness watch and a $150 gift card to Fleet Feet as the top prize! Interestingly, Kevin also ran the most miles in the month of September with 506! He was a great advocate for Miles for Team Jack, asking people to join the challenge throughout the month!

Kevin McCaffrey said this about the challenge, **"I was very motivated by being a part of this cause and by the people who supported me, especially donating! If it wasn't for Marisa McClintock inviting me last year to her team, I wouldn't have known anything about this Team Jack challenge and nearly $6,000 dollars of donations over the two years wouldn't have been brought in via my participation!"**

Special thank you goes out to all the participants, donors, and sponsors for making Miles for Team Jack a successful fundraiser for childhood brain cancer research!

To learn more about Miles for Team Jack challenge, visit our event page
charity.pledgeit.org/milesforteamjack

### 2024 PRIZE WINNERS:

- **HOKA Shoe Winners:**
  Tarin Adkisson | Atkinson, NE
  Amy McFarland | Keenesburg, CO
  Steve Scoville | Elwood, NE
  Joy Mann | Omaha, NE
- **Team Mileage Champions**
  Team Fleet Feet | 2,282 Miles
- **Top Individual Fundraiser**
  Kevin McCaffrey | Lincoln, NE
- **Runner-Up Individual Fundraiser**
  Pam Schreiner | La Vista, NE
- **25-Miles Category Raffle**
  Ranae Stoakes | Lincoln, NE
- **50-Miles Category Raffle**
  Sara Oltman | Lincoln, NE
- **100-Miles Category Raffle**
  Tara Hallock | Waverly, NE

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TEAM JACK FOUNDATION

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Team Jack Gala**
  **Presented by Fat Brain Toys**
  February 22, 2025 | Lincoln, NE
- **Brain Cancer Awareness Month**
  May 2025
- **Team Jack Golf Classic**
  June 2025 TBD
- **Nebraska Football Road Race**
  July 2025 TBD | Lincoln, NE
- **An Evening with Henry Winkler**
  August 7, 2025 | Omaha, NE
- **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**
  September 2025
- **Team Jack Radiothon**
  **Presented by The Home Agency**
  September 2025 | TBD
- **Miles for Team Jack with Fleet Feet**
  September 2025
- **Takedown the Tumor Wrestling Tournament**
  December 2025

Mark Your Calendar