

GATHER AROUND



A quarterly newsletter from the Southwest Kids Cancer Foundation (SWKCF) Board

OCTOBER 2022

A Note from the [NEW] President/CEO, Tim Harris

Hello to the Southwest Kids Cancer Foundation (SWKCF) Campily!

I want to introduce myself. My name is Tim Harris and I am the new President/CEO of SWKCF. While I am new to the foundation, I am certainly not new to the non-profit world. I have spent the last eleven years in non-profit as a Director of Business Development, Operations and Programs. Prior to non-profit, I was in the corporate sector for 20 years as a Field Operations Director in the copy and printing industries. I have been married to my wife, Kathy, for 10 years. We have 7 children between us, 5 grandchildren and 4 dogs. I love sports, but mostly baseball, football, golf and boating. I bring extensive non-profit knowledge in hopes of taking the SWKCF to the next level, and bring lots of awareness to the organization. If you see me around, I'll probably be in my Cancer Sucks gear, stop and say "hi"!



I look forward to working with you, please feel free to contact me at 623-910-1572 tim.harris@swkcf.org.

Tim Harris, President/CEO



The 10th Annual "GOLF FORE CANCER" Tournament

This year's golf tournament is again at We-ko-Pa Golf Resort on **December 3rd, 2022**. It is one of our biggest annual fundraising efforts, and with your help, this year we can beat our 2021 revenue record! The tournament sells out each year, so don't wait to book your foursome.

Registration is open, click [here](#) to register today! For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Ashley Larson ashley.larson@azcampsunrise.org or Tim Harris tim.harris@swkcf.org.

2022 Event Updates:

Oct 15th: Dbacks Race Against Cancer at Salt River Fields, 7am to 11am

Nov. 19th: Volunteer Celebration/Recruitment Picnic for all past, current and future volunteers! Join us as we celebrate our volunteers! Not a volunteer, yet? Come learn more about SWKCF and opportunities for you to get involved. Enjoy food, fun and games at Kiwanis Park in Tempe, 10am to 4pm. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

Nov. 29th: Giving Tuesday, please **GIVE** to SWKCF. Your donation allows kids with cancer and their siblings to attend Camp Sunrise and Camp Sidekicks free of charge.

End-of-Year Giving/Tax Credit Season: You can receive an AZ **dollar-for-dollar** tax credit for your SWKCF donation of up to \$400 (single) or \$800 (married). This is **in addition** to the school and foster youth tax credits, check with your tax preparer for more information. Click to **DONATE** today.

IT COSTS ABOUT \$1000 PER CAMPER TO ATTEND OUR WEEK-LONG, SLEEP AWAY CAMPS IN PAYSON, ARIZONA. EVERY DONATION COUNTS!

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SAVE THE DATE: 2023 Events (details to come)

Spring 2023: Casino Night Fundraiser

June 24th: Volunteer arrival for **Camp Sidekicks** at Whispering Hope Ranch

June 25th-June 30th: **Camp Sidekicks** at Whispering Hope Ranch

July 1st: Volunteer arrival for **Camp Sunrise** at Whispering Hope Ranch

July 2nd-7th: **Camp Sunrise** at Whispering Hope Ranch

Fall 2023: Volunteer Celebration and Recruitment

Winter 2023: Golf Tournament

All Year Long:

You can receive an AZ **dollar-for-dollar** tax credit for your SWKCF donation of up to \$400 (single) or \$800 (married), **in addition** to the school and foster youth tax credits. Click here to **DONATE** today.

DID YOU KNOW THAT NO FAMILY PAYS TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO CAMP SUNRISE OR CAMP SIDEKICKS PROGRAMS? YOUR DONATIONS HELP COVER 100% OF THE COSTS OF CAMP.

Camp Sunrise and Sidekicks Updates:

Summer Camp 2022

After being on hold due to COVID, we were finally able to hold Camp Sunrise and Camp Sidekicks in-person this past July. They were a huge success and a much needed relief for the pediatric cancer fighters and their siblings. Thanks to our medical team and staff, campers and families for following our COVID protocols— we can proudly report that there were **NO** COVID cases reported at check-in, during or directly after the camps.



For the first time, we held camps at Whispering Hope Ranch located in the beautiful Payson, Arizona. Whispering Hope Ranch has 45 acres of cool pine trees and is already set up to accommodate the physical, emotional and developmental needs of our campers. The location proved to be better than anyone could have anticipated and we're looking forward to continuing our partnership with Whispering Hope Ranch. SWKCF also partnered with Children's Cancer Network (CCN) to provide summer day camp to our campers who couldn't join us in Payson. Thanks to CCN for supporting our campers and we're looking forward to next year.

Summer Camp 2023

The upcoming 6-day Summer Camps for 2023 will again be at the Whispering Hope Ranch in Payson, Arizona. Camp Sidekicks will run from June 25th to June 30th, with volunteers scheduled to arrive on June 24th. Camp Sunrise will run from July 2nd to July 7th, with those volunteers scheduled to arrive on July 1st. Additional details and registration information to come in the Spring of 2023.

Camp Activities Update

The Board continues to look for opportunities to expand activities for SWKCF campers and their families. We're excited to expand our partnerships with current and new organizations that support pediatric cancer patients, survivors and their siblings to increase engagement and impact. This includes offering more events where families can spend a few hours enjoying themselves, without the thought of "cancer" entering their minds. In 2023, we also plan to be more present in local hospitals and their oncology clinics.

If you have any ideas for upcoming events or would like to partner with us, please contact Tim Harris at tim.harris@swkcf.org.

The Hunt for Our Next Camp Director Begins:

With the end of our summer camps also came the end of David "Stumpy" Stuempfle's service as Interim Camp Director. Stumpy, along with all of the camp staff, did an amazing job ensuring that the experience for each camper was safe, enjoyable, and memorable. The Board truly appreciates Stumpy's willingness to step into this role and help make 2022 a success.

Now begins the search for our permanent Camp Director. The Camp Director is a lead volunteer who is responsible for collaborating with the Board to plan and implement Camps Sunrise and Sidekicks, as well as day camps and retreats. Along with our President/CEO they manage and supervise all aspects of camp. Does this sound like a good fit for you or someone you know? Please reach out to Tim Harris tim.harris@swkcf.org for additional information.

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Board Committees & Volunteer Engagement:

The Board of Directors is committed to expanding access and increasing transparency between the Board and our community through meaningful engagement and decision-making opportunities.

Board of Directors Meetings

The Board meets the first Thursday of every month at 6pm, remotely via Zoom. Additionally, the Board meets in person quarterly, for a longer planning session (note on those months of a quarterly meeting there will not be a Thursday evening meeting). The quarterly meetings are held on Saturday mornings at 8am. **ALL BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.** If you'd like to make a public comment during a Board meeting, click [here](#) to submit our form. Minutes from all Board of Directors meetings are available on our [website](#).

The next Board meeting is Thursday, November 3rd, 2022 at 6pm via Zoom, click [here](#) to attend.

Want to be heard? Well we want to hear from you!

The SWKCF Board of Directors is looking for volunteers to join our active committees: Marketing/Communications, Fundraising/Budget and Volunteer Engagement & Community Outreach. Committee volunteers can expect to participate between 5-10 hours per month. Committee meetings are typically held one evening per month and usually via Zoom. If you can carve out a few hours each month to help out, we would love to have you. If you are interested or have any questions, please reach out directly to Tim Harris at tim.harris@swkcf.org.

Please Share Our Story!

SWKCF provides exciting and fun, medically staffed, year-round programs for pediatric cancer patients, survivors and their siblings. We need your help expanding awareness of what we do so we can better serve more families, not only in AZ, but in the entire Southwest. How can you help? #1- Tell your stories to friends, school personnel, co-workers, coaches and anyone else who will listen, because you never know when they might know someone who needs our support, or if they're willing to donate their time, talents or funding. #2- Follow us on [FaceBook](#), like and share our posts to amplify our message and help us connect with more people.

In Case You Forgot:

And speaking of support, we cannot do this without the generosity of our donors. Please donate when you can, but more importantly, share our website, swkcf.org with everyone you know (or don't know) so that they, too, will consider giving to our cause. Our programs rely entirely on the continued donations and grants we receive from the public. If you appreciate what we do for your family, friends or community, please encourage others to also champion our cause.

You can receive an AZ **dollar-for-dollar** tax credit for your SWKCF donation of up to \$400 (single) or \$800 (married), **in addition** to the school and foster youth tax credits. Click here to [DONATE](#) today.

Thank You!

The last few years have been a rough ride for everyone. While we have never lost focus or stopped working to ensure that our programs continued during this time, we also understand that the regular fluidity of this foundation suffered. The Board appreciates your patience and support as we adjust, adapt and power forward. We have made changes and continue to do so, all to enhance our mission and align with our [strategic plan](#). Know that while we will always continue to improve, we are now stronger than ever. On behalf of the SWKCF Board, we say "Thank You!"



Contact Us:

Have any questions, suggestions or feedback? Please do not hesitate to reach out!

Tim Harris, President/CEO: tim.harris@swkcf.org or 623-910-1572

Ildi Laczko-Kerr, Board Chair: ildikolaczko@msn.com or 480-570-8951