

GATHER AROUND



A Quarterly Newsletter from the Southwest Kids Cancer Foundation (SWKCF) Board

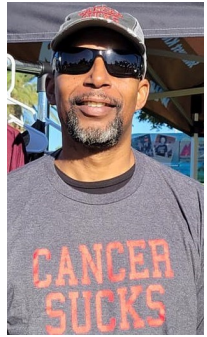
JANUARY 2023

A Note from our President/CEO, Tim Harris

Happy New Year!!! Welcome 2023!!!

We are in 2023 and looking forward to a wonderful year of programs and camp. I want to say “thank you” to all of our volunteers that helped make our camps and events awesome in 2022. Let’s all make 2023 awesome as well.

Cheers to everyone that volunteered or played in our December *Golf Fore Cancer Tournament*. Despite the rain, it was a record-setting event and we are already planning how to make 2023 even better.



We begin the new year with a full agenda. We have *epic* fundraisers and fun events already scheduled, not to mention our summer camps. We start off with our first-ever Casino Night Fundraiser on Saturday, March 25th. This is a 21+ only event held at the Children’s Museum of Phoenix, featuring casino-style games, a silent auction (someone say “trips?”), raffle prizes, great food, cash bar, music and more fun than most of us can handle. Have you bought your tickets yet? For more information and to [purchase tickets](#), go to [swkcf.org/events](#). Like our other fundraisers, we expect this to sell out as well, so don’t wait. Have a business or something to promote? Contact us regarding sponsorship opportunities.

We are gearing up for our camps and in the process of bringing on a new Camp Director. We are excited to be announcing our new director very soon. Registration for camp will open in mid-February, so keep an eye out for those upcoming notices. Camp Sidekicks will be this June 25th-June 30th, and Camp Sunrise will run July 2nd-July 7th.

Lastly, I want to let you all know how much I appreciate everyone that has been, and is currently involved with the Southwest Kids Cancer Foundation. In my short time with this organization, I have met so many wonderful volunteers and supporters, and I look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming months and years. Thank you for all that you do! Without you, none of this could be possible.

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



“BET AGAINST CANCER” Casino Night Fundraiser

Saturday, March 25th, 2023
7-11pm
at The Children’s Museum
of Phoenix

Please join us for a “Royale” night of fun, featuring all of your favorite casino games, including, Poker, Blackjack, Roulette and Craps. We have a silent auction you won’t want to miss! Your ticket includes poker chips, food from Ling & Louie’s, Music by DJ Dev and more fun than you can handle. There will be a cash bar, featuring signature “Camp Sunrise and Camp Sidekicks” signature drinks, raffle prizes, photo opps and more! OUR EVENTS SELL OUT! Limited tickets are available. Go to [swkcf.org/events](#) or click [here](#) to buy your tickets before it’s too late. SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE (contact Tim Harris at tim.harris@swkcf.org).

Dressy-casual/cocktail attire please. Must be 21 or older to attend.

Special Thanks to: Queen of Hearts Casino Parties, LLC, Pour Masters Bar Service, Ling & Louie’s Asian Bar and Grill, DJ Dev and The Children’s Museum of Phoenix

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Upcoming Events:

Check swkcf.org/events often as we add more events regularly!

January 21st, February 1st, March 1st, April 8th: Board of Directors Meetings (open to the public)

Mid-February: Camp Sunrise and Camp Sidekicks Registration Opens

March 1st-March 31st: Cooking for a Cause at Ling & Louie's Asian Bar and Grill. Visit Ling & Louie's during the month of March, order their signature SWKCF dish and they will donate a portion of the proceeds from that dish.

Mid-March: Registration Opens for Camp Volunteers

March 25th: "Bet Against Cancer" Casino Night Fundraiser at The Children's Museum of Phoenix, 7pm -11pm

April 18th: Tax Day! The last day to get your 2022 AZ Tax Credit Donation in

June 24th: Volunteer Arrival for Camp Sidekicks at Whispering Hope Ranch in Payson, AZ

June 25th-June 30th: CAMP SIDEKICKS!!! at Whispering Hope Ranch in Payson, AZ

July 1st: Volunteer Arrival for Camp Sunrise at Whispering Hope Ranch in Payson, AZ

July 2nd-July 7th: CAMP SUNRISE!!! at Whispering Hope Ranch in Payson, AZ

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.

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

Camp Sunrise and Sidekicks Updates:

A New Camp Director is Coming

As previously announced, David "Stumpy" Stuempfle's service as Interim Camp Director came to an end following last years camps. Don't worry, he is still a huge part of Camp Sunrise and Sidekicks, so you will continue to see his smiling face. David was not only helpful in making sure the 2022 camps were a success, but he was instrumental in the process of our 2022 accreditation with the American Camp Association (ACA). Saying "thank you" for all that he did will never seem like enough. We appreciate what David and all the great camp staff has done to bring our camps back to life.



Over the last several months, the board has been active in a search for a new, permanent Camp Director. We feel confident that a formal announcement will be coming soon, so stay tuned.

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 February of 2023.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF OUR SUMMER CAMPS? LET'S TALK! WE ARE IN NEED OF COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS FOR OUR CAMPERS. ONE WEEK OF YOUR TIME WILL LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT IN YOUR HEART. Camp volunteer registration will open up in March. Watch for upcoming announcements.

Do you know a family with a child battling cancer, or a childhood cancer survivor? Please share our information (and this newsletter), so that we can offer our services to them as well. If you have any ideas for upcoming events or would like to partner with us, please contact Tim Harris at tim.harris@swkcf.org.

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Board Committees & Volunteer Engagement:

ANNOUNCING THE 2023 SWKCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We've had some exciting changes among our Board of Directors. We're all still here, we just rearranged some things. To learn more about the individuals on our Board, please visit our [website](#). We look forward to meeting you all in our new roles.

Chair: Shannon Collins

Co-Chair: Ashley Larson (Marketing & Communications Chair)

Secretary: James Walker

Treasurer: Craig Scheinerman

Member: Ildiko Laczko-Kerr (Fundraising Committee Chair)

Member: Seth Zimmerman (Volunteer Engagemt/Community Outreach Chair)

Member: Lindsey Gray

Member: Katy Cavanagh

Member: Harvey Bedolla

Board of Directors Meetings

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. The Board meets the first Wednesday 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 Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 at 6pm via Zoom, click [here](#) to attend.

Star Search

The SWKCF Board of Directors is actively looking for volunteers to join our committees. Here are our needs:

- ◆ **Volunteer Engagement & Community Outreach:** We currently need 3-4 people who would like to get involved in organizing and planning events for our volunteers and "Campily," and to help in our expansion to other underserved communities where we do not yet have a strong presence. An ideal candidate would be compassionate, organized and likes talking to people.
- ◆ **Fundraising & Events:** We are looking for 2-3 members to assist in our fundraising efforts by offering input and assisting on fundraising events, creating more fundraising opportunities, and coordinating with the public to carry out these events. An ideal candidate would be creative, outgoing and self-motivated.
- ◆ **Marketing & Communications:** If you are creative, have good computer skills or are a social media influencer, then we want you! We'd like to add an additional 2-3 volunteers to assist with our public marketing and communications.

Additionally, we are in need of bi-lingual volunteers to assist on most of our committees or as a general volunteer. 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 contact Shannon Collins at Shannon@MoveUpAZ.com.

Amazon Smile and Community Rewards/Donations:

Amazon recently announced they will be discontinuing their Amazon Smile donation program, on February 20th. While we are disappointed to be losing these donations, there are still other ways to support SWKCF.

If you shop at Frys/Kroger, be sure to enroll your shoppers card in their Community Rewards Program and choose the Southwest Kids Cancer Foundation.

Our programs rely 100% on public donations, corporate sponsorships and grants. 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.

Community Rewards

You can help support Southwest Kids Cancer Foundation just by shopping at Fry's!

Here is How:

1. Go to www.fryscommunityrewards.com
2. Create an online account if you do not have one already.
3. Enroll in community rewards by selecting Southwest Kids Cancer Foundation on the list of organizations.
4. When you shop, funds will be applied to SWKCF at no added cost to you!
5. Shop at Fry's and help SWKCF!

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 AND OTHER PROGRAMS.

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Thank You!

2022 allowed SWKCF to operate under some sense of normalcy, after 2 years in flux. Camps were back! Picnics were back! Our 10th Annual “Golf Fore Cancer” fundraiser was the best ever! And as we look ahead, we are excited for the continued growth in 2023. On behalf of the SWKCF Board, we say “Thank You” for your continued support.



Contact Us:

For questions, suggestions or feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out!

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

Shannon Collins, Board Chair: Shannon@MoveUpAZ.com or 602-361-5470

www.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. You never know when they might know someone willing to donate their time, talents or funding, or who needs our support. #2- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and LinkedIn (Southwest Kids Cancer Foundation). Like and share our posts to amplify our message and help us connect with more people, and don't forget to share your own photos and stories and tag us (#swkcf, #southwestkidscancer, #azcampsunrise).

