

1600 Broadway, Suite 2400
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danisfoundation.org

Dani's
FOUNDATION



***Become involved
for a child's sake!***

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SYMPTOMS OF PEDIATRIC SARCOMA

- A lump or bump on the body.
- Pain or tenderness. Pain may become intense when the tumor is located near important nerves.
- Swelling is prevalent, especially when the long bones of the arms or legs are affected.
- Fractures may be caused by a weakening of the bones related to tumors.

Other symptoms may include:

- Fatigue
- Unexplained Weight Loss
- Unexplained Fever
- Poor Appetite

However, none of these symptoms is a sure sign of cancer which is why early detection and prognosis is so important as well as medical attention and proper testing.

Take action when...

- Pain is out of proportion to injury.
- Pain does not get better despite adequate therapy.
- Asymmetry, a dissimilarity in corresponding parts on opposite sides of the body which are normally alike.
- There is a limp or the inability to move the extremity without discomfort.
- Symptoms that persist for more than 2 weeks.



Dani's Foundation is committed to educating the public on the symptoms of pediatric sarcoma with the goal of seeking earlier detection and ultimate survival.

We are asking for your support!

If a child or young adult shows any the symptoms listed, please seek the proper medical attention. Your knowledge of the symptoms of pediatric sarcomas could save a life.

***Dani's Foundation would like to thank the following organizations
for their financial grants to this program.***



NATHAN B. AND FLORENCE R.
BURT FOUNDATION



I would like to take this opportunity to invite you and your staff to participate in a community education program that is designed to promote earlier detection of pediatric sarcomas; those rare forms of cancer that affect children and young adults.



As you will read within, the symptoms of these cancers can mimic the aches and pains of normal childhood growth or be attributed to those injuries that student athletes obtain. The difference is that symptoms from injuries tend to improve... the symptoms of cancer more likely to persist.

As an athletic training professional, I encourage you to become involved with this vital community education program. By working together to become aware of the symptoms of pediatric sarcomas, we can insure better health for our children and those student athletes that we serve. Information is the key to deciphering between a minor injury or a more serious condition.

I am involved with Dani's Foundation and their commitment to educate the public on the symptoms of pediatric sarcomas with the goal of promoting early detection and ultimately saving lives. I hope that you will join me in this very important campaign. Your involvement will be simple, but the result could save a child's life!

I am asking you to please:

- Review the information in this brochure.
- Post the informational poster as a daily reminder of the symptoms of pediatric sarcoma.
- Distribute informational brochures to your staff and student population.
- Encourage a medical evaluation should any of the symptoms persist for more than two weeks.
- In advance, I thank you for your consideration of this very important community health campaign. Your support will be the key to our ultimate success!

Yours in Health,

Steve Antonopoulos
Head Athletic Trainer in Professional Football
Honorary Chairman, Dani's Foundation Campaign to End Pediatric Sarcoma!

Just the Facts

- Cancer kills more children than any other disease.
- On average, 46 children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer every week day in the United States.
- One in every four elementary schools has a child with cancer.
- The average high school has two students who are current or former cancer patients
- Sarcomas are cancers of bone, muscle, fat, cartilage, and soft tissue
- There are more than 50 types of pediatric sarcomas, and they account for 20% of all pediatric cancers.
- Bone cancer incidence increases between the ages of 11 to 15 coinciding with the adolescent growth spurt
- Under the best circumstances, chances for a 5-year survival rate are slightly better than 60%
- Cancer that has spread to other organs by the time of diagnosis decreases 5-year survival rates to about 20%



THE FACES OF PEDIATRIC SARCOMA

As a teenager, **Dani Stell** found a lump on her ribcage. For six months, the lump was thought to be associated with youthful activity. Subsequently, Dani was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare type of cancer that typically affects children and young adults. By the time of Dani's diagnosis, the cancer had spread to her lungs. Although she showed no symptoms other than the lump on her side, Dani was in critical condition. She lost her battle with cancer in April 1999. She was 19 years old.



Former NFL quarterback **Norris Weese**, retired from football but did not retire from the pain associated with taking hits from aggressive linemen. Several years after retirement, Weese was suffering from a nagging pain in his back for nearly 8 months. His doctors attributed this pain to past football injuries. Once diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, Weese was in a battle for his life. He succumbed to this rare form of cancer in 1995. He was 43 years old.

Maressa McClintock is a six-year soft tissue sarcoma survivor. At the age of 10, Maressa was your typical active child participating in all types of sports. She had just completed a 3K run when she brought a tennis ball-sized lump on her leg to her parent's attention. Without missing a beat, her parents made an appointment with their family physician, who referred her on to a pediatric oncologist and then an orthopedic surgeon. Time was of the essence! As Maressa explains, "I had the best of the best care" as she underwent 4 months of chemotherapy, surgery to remove the tumor and abductor muscle in her leg and 8 weeks of radiation. Throughout it all Maressa amazed her family and her doctors as she continued her competitive swimming practices. Maressa and her family attribute her survival to early diagnosis by a team of physicians and specialist who perform miracles every day – one child at a time!



In 1991, **Jason Greer** noticed a lump on his collarbone. The lump appeared suddenly and grew to the size of a golf ball after only 3 weeks. His doctor immediately performed a biopsy which diagnosed Jason with Ewing's Sarcoma. The disease was caught in its first stage. Following intensive treatment at the Children's Hospital of Seattle, Jason remains healthy and continues to live a full life. He attributes much of his survival to the swift response and wonderful care given by his doctors and other medical professionals.