



PROCLAMATION

Childhood Cancer: September

Childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children. One in 264 children in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer by their 20th birthday. Every day, 41 children in this country are diagnosed with cancer — 15,500 each year — and the average age at diagnosis is just 8 years old.

For many types of childhood cancer, the prognosis has not improved in decades. One out of every six children diagnosed will not survive five years. Among those who do survive, 73% will live with chronic health conditions caused by the toxicity of their treatment, and 42% of those conditions are classified as severe or life-threatening. Roughly half of families facing childhood cancer describe the financial toll of out-of-pocket costs as considerable to severe.

In the last 30 years, only seven new drugs have been approved by the FDA specifically to treat childhood cancer. The National Cancer Institute has recognized the unique research needs of childhood cancer and the urgent need for increased funding.

Hundreds of nonprofit organizations — including the American Childhood Cancer Organization, Children's Minnesota, and the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center — support children with cancer and their families through educational, emotional, and financial help. Researchers and healthcare professionals dedicate their careers to treating and curing these children. Too many kids are still affected by this disease, and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure.

As Mayor of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, I, Amáda Márquez Simula, proclaim September 2026 Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Columbia Heights, and I encourage all residents to join in this observance and to support the families and children in our community affected by this disease.

Proclaimed this 14th day of September 2026.

Amáda Márquez Simula
Mayor, City of Columbia Heights