



# City of Mercer Island, Washington *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States, with approximately 15,000 children diagnosed every year, affecting not only the young patients but also their families, friends, and communities. Despite significant advancements in medical research, childhood cancer remains a critical public health issue, with many forms of pediatric cancer still lacking effective treatment options, leading to long-term health consequences and a need for ongoing medical care for survivors.

Only 4% of federal government cancer research funding is dedicated specifically to childhood cancers, highlighting a pressing need for increased awareness and support for research initiatives focused on pediatric oncology.

September is recognized nationally as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, a time to honor the young lives affected by the dozens of different diseases comprising childhood cancer, to remember those who have lost their battle, and to support the families and medical professionals who tirelessly fight to improve the prognosis for all children with cancer.

The color gold symbolizes the precious nature of children and the resiliency of childhood cancer warriors. Communities across the country "Go Gold" in September to raise awareness and support for childhood cancer research, treatment, and prevention, by wearing gold, displaying gold ribbons, and participating in events aimed at promoting understanding and solidarity.

The City of Mercer Island recognizes the importance of raising awareness about childhood cancer and the impact it has on families within our own community, including the brave children on Mercer Island who are currently battling or have battled this disease, including Keawe Brown, Emerson Vivion, Shea Sweeney, Cristina Scalzo, Harry McGovern, Delaney Clark, and especially Ewan Lill, Brett Storie, Stacy Pariser, and others.

By joining the "Go Gold" movement, Mercer Island can demonstrate its commitment to supporting these children and their families and can contribute to the broader effort to increase funding for childhood cancer research and improve outcomes for all affected by childhood cancer. Increased awareness can lead to earlier detection, improved treatment options, and better support systems for affected families.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim September 2024 as

## **CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

in the City of Mercer Island and encourage all residents to:

1. "Go Gold" by wearing gold, displaying gold ribbons, and participating in activities that promote awareness and support for childhood cancer research and the affected families;
2. Support local initiatives and organizations dedicated to helping children with cancer and their families;
3. Educate themselves about the signs and symptoms of childhood cancer to promote early detection; and
4. Advocate for increased funding and research for childhood cancer treatments and cures.

**APPROVED**, this 3rd day of September 2024.

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Mayor Salim Nice



Proclamation No. 345