



Our Mission:

The mission of the Super Jake Foundation is to fund and find a cure for neuroblastoma, a rare and deadly form of pediatric cancer, and to provide assistance to families with children with cancer.

Family and friends established this foundation in early 2005 to honor the courage and strength of four-year-old Jake Robert Widman, a superhero in every sense of the word. After a 15-month fight, Jake ultimately lost his battle with this terrible disease and earned his angel wings on May 27, 2005. Although the Foundation is headquartered in Chicago, it is a national organization pursuing research programs throughout the country.

Our Cause:

Neuroblastoma is a childhood cancer, which usually strikes children before age 5 and originates from neural crest cells (called neuroblasts) in the sympathetic nervous system, which runs from the base of the neck to the tailbone. Tumors can appear anywhere along this chain, but are most commonly found near the adrenal glands, which are located on top of the kidneys and in the chest.

Although extremely rare, affecting about 10 children in every million, neuroblastoma is still the most common cancer in infants and the third most common type in children. There are approximately 650 new cases diagnosed in the U.S. each year, but in as many as 7 of 10 children, the disease is not diagnosed until it has already spread, as was the case with Jake. At this point, there are no drugs or treatment available today designed specifically to treat neuroblastoma. With your help, our mission is to change that.

Our Hero:

Jake was diagnosed with stage 4, fully metastasized neuroblastoma on March 4, 2004 after a seemingly routine trip to the pediatrician for a suspected stomach virus. After a

draining, year-long battle that included ten rounds of high-dose chemotherapy, four surgeries, four weeks of radiation and three-bone marrow transplants, followed by 100 days in isolation, Super Jake appeared to win his fight and was declared “NED”, or no evidence of disease, at the end of January 2005.

However, this insidious cancer soon returned. On March 28, 2005, just two months into his remission, doctors found a tumor behind his right eye that rendered him blind in that eye. Though he resisted it with all he had, Jake peacefully lost his fight on May 27, 2005, leaving behind a glowing and remarkable legacy. Those who knew Jake will forever remember him decked out day and night in superhero garb, from hats to sunglasses to underwear. To his family and the thousands he touched, he is, and will always be, the *ultimate* superhero.

Your Role:

Jake’s story and the overwhelming circumstances of his disease have prompted others to get involved in helping to find a cure. But, the battle is an uphill one, so the more people *The Super Jake Foundation* touches, the better the chances of eliminating this disease.

If you or your company would like to join Super Jake’s fight, there are a number of ways you can help:

- First, we are looking for grants and corporate sponsors to help fund the Foundation's research efforts on an ongoing basis.
- We also invite you to join the team by volunteering your time and talents for the foundation. There are ongoing fundraising efforts currently underway and many ways to get involved. The experience can be summed up quite simply: rewarding and energizing.
- In-kind donations are always appreciated and your generosity will help cure this terrible disease. There are numerous children and families fighting daily, and your support is critical.
- Finally, *The Super Jake Foundation* holds a few annual events to raise funds for research and pediatric cancer support programs. You can help by volunteering time, corporate sponsorship, donating or soliciting silent auction prizes, raffles, ad sales and more. Tell your friends and make it an annual event. Efforts like these don’t come together easily, so the more, the merrier!

To get involved in any of the foundation’s efforts, please send an email to ann.fahey@abbott.com. You may also visit the Web site at www.thesuperjakefoundation.com for more information or to make a donation. Donations can be sent to The Super Jake Foundation, P.O. Box 477, Gurnee, IL 60031.

Proceeds from *The Super Jake Foundation* will fund pediatric cancer research at childrens’ hospitals throughout the country and will assist cancer families at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago where Super Jake was a patient.

By spreading Jake’s legacy through the efforts of the foundation, we celebrate his short but inspiring life and help fund critical research into the causes and cures of this terrible disease.

The Super Jake Foundation
www.justforjake.com

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