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The Nephrotic Syndrome Foundation

HISTORY AND MISSION

When their son Wilson was diagnosed with nephrotic syndrome eleven years ago, Andi and Tucker Callaway learned firsthand about the fear and isolation that can occur in both the patient and their loved ones after receiving such a diagnosis. Treating nephrotic syndrome, an autoimmune disorder that threatens the kidneys, typically requires regular hospital stays and medications used for cancer and transplants, in addition to taking steroids. Very little is known about the disease and its roots.

Fostering an understanding and supportive community is one of the keys to helping families cope with the challenges of nephrotic syndrome. Six years ago, the Callaways debuted the Alamo-based nonprofit The Nephrotic Syndrome Foundation (NSF) to assist struggling families and create a welcoming and loving community united in fighting the illness.

One of the foundation's most popular programs is Camp NSF, a completely free-of-charge weekend event, usually set in Livermore. Hosted in partnership with the Taylor Family Foundation, Camp NSF provides an opportunity for the nephrotic syndrome community to gather in a safe and carefree environment. The 2023 camp brought patients and their families together to enjoy games, arts and crafts, and horseback riding, among other activities.

NSF's Backpacks of Hope program compiles care packages into backpacks for kids who have just received their diagnosis. Each bag contains medical supplies, information on nephrotic syndrome, and various comfort items, including a blanket, headphones, and a journal. The foundation also runs a program that distributes thermometers, a crucial tool during a fight with an autoimmune disease.

Other services and resources available through NSF include the Finding Health information-session series, a peer-support network for young people, financial grants, the Little Angels care-package initiative, the NSF podcast, and engagement with advocacy and research efforts.

IMPACT

In the six years since its founding, NSF and its community has helped more than 2,000 families. In 2023, NSF reached a new milestone with its Patient Grant program, awarding more than \$20,000 in grant money to families who need assistance with the costs associated with managing



the disease. The grants make a significant impact and can be used for treatment, counseling, travel, medical co-pays, and more. The organization has also grown internationally and expanded their Peer Team panels, which advise younger patients on topics such as the transition to middle and high school, managing stress, and finding school-life balance.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

This season, join NSF in their campaign to raise \$25,000 by the end of December to fund Backpacks of Hope for 100 pediatric patients. The Quest Foundation has generously agreed to match all funds donated before December 31 up to \$20,000, making donations of any size doubly meaningful. All donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

In 2024, NSF will once again host their popular Day on the Green fundraiser—an 18-hole golf tournament at Diablo Country Club that culminates in a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, a raffle, and an award ceremony—on May 19 and 20, 2024. All proceeds will go toward NSF's programs.

You can take part in the many volunteer opportunities available at the foundation, including help-



ing pack the Backpacks of Hope with supplies, or consider making a financial donation. For details, visit www.nephroticsyndrome.foundation.org.



MARILEE HEADEN

*Proud Supporter of
The Nephrotic
Syndrome Foundation*



Honored to be a proud supporter of The Nephrotic Syndrome Foundation. This year we raised \$217,000 at the Day on the Green, money that will support families in the trenches with this disease.

You can learn more about this wonderful non-profit organization by going to www.nephroticsyndrome.foundation.org

Please join me and support this worthy cause.



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