

PTATC 2020
 Pine Tree Apple
TENNIS CLASSIC
 — game, set, cure —
 CELEBRATING 35 YEARS



July 17-August 9, 2020

Founding Family

The Peterson Family

Founding Sponsor



Site Sponsor



Event Sponsors

Dr. Yoav Messinger & Dr. Julia Steinberger

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Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund

Funds raised benefit cancer re-
 search programs at



WELCOME!

The Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic (PTATC) is the premier mixed doubles tennis tournament in Minnesota and USTA Northern. Traditionally held the first weekend of August, the PTATC features more than 100 of the area’s top men’s and women’s tennis players. Funds raised benefit the pediatric oncology research program at Children’s Minnesota. Your generosity in supporting the PTATC helps provide vital information to cancer specialists around the world and supports the healing of a patient’s whole body when receiving treatment at Children’s Minnesota.

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35th Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic

July 17-August 9, 2020

Consistent with the USTA's "play local" theme, we are holding the tournament over a three-week period with matches played at a local park or club of the players' choosing. Each round will be scheduled in one-week increments to allow flexibility of date/time and location for the two teams playing.

Schedule of Events

The tournament will begin on Friday, July 17, 2020 and culminate on Sunday, August 9, 2020.

July 17-23, 2020

Open Division Round of 32: *Matches played at "local" sites of the players' choosing*

July 24-30, 2020

Open Division Round of 16: *Matches played at "local" sites of the players' choosing*

Masters Division Round of 16: *Matches played at "local" sites of the players' choosing*

July 31-August 6, 2020

Open Division Round of 8: *Matches played at "local" sites of the players' choosing*

Masters Division Round of 8: *Matches played at "local" sites of the players' choosing*

Grand Masters Division Round of 8: *Matches played at "local" sites of the players' choosing*

August 7, 2020, 7 p.m.

35th Anniversary Virtual Celebration Event: *Gather 25 of your best social distancing friends and celebrate 35 years of the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic from your deck or living room. To register for the FREE event, please visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/ptatc2020/page/467401>*

August 8, 2020 - Played At Bethel University Outdoor Courts (3900 Bethel Dr. St. Paul, MN 55112)

Grand Masters Semifinals: *10 a.m.*

Masters Semifinals: *12 Noon*

Open Semifinals: *2 p.m.*

August 9, 2020 - Played At Bethel University Outdoor Courts (3900 Bethel Dr. St. Paul, MN 55112)

Grand Masters Finals: *10 a.m.*

Masters Finals: *12 Noon*

Open Finals: *2 p.m.*

How To Find Updated Tournament Schedules and Results

All Tournament schedules and results will be available via www.ptacf.org

or on our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

at Keyword: PTACForg

A Message from the Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Board



Dear Friends of Pine Tree – Welcome to our 35th year!

It is a little hard to believe that for 35 years we have been gathering together each and every summer to watch outstanding mixed doubles tennis, eat apple doughnuts and rollovers from Pine Tree Apple Orchard and raise millions of dollars that make it possible for the incredible doctors and researchers of Children's Minnesota to find cures and treatments for childhood cancer. It is an honor for us as a board to be part of this event with you.

The 35th year will be a Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic like no other. In the midst of a global pandemic, we have been challenged to imagine an event with social distancing when so much of what we love about the PTATC each year is seeing all of you. But one thing remains clear...children's cancer research doesn't take a break for a virus. We need to continue our efforts to find a cure and end pediatric cancer. This truth is underscored as we hold our Board member, Jason Albrecht, and his family in our thoughts and prayers as he undergoes treatment for health complications stemming from his own battle with childhood cancer.

So, welcome to the 2020 PTATC, modified to adhere to social distancing guidelines. The format will be different than the one we are used to. There are many things about the event we look forward to each year that we will miss. But we are grateful for the flexibility, energy and commitment of our players, sponsors, donors and volunteers who are making this year's event one to remember. A special thank you to the Jacobson's Pine Tree Apple Orchard (our Founding sponsor), LifeTime Athletic White Bear (our Site sponsor), our Event and Presenting sponsors, and all sponsors, donors and volunteers. We continue to be amazed by the dedication of the research team of Children's Minnesota whose work not only helps children survive, but also thrive during and after treatment. And this year we are especially thankful for the steadfastness of our Founding Family, the Petersons, as we remember Mary Ann's life and incredible generosity.

A Message from the Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Board, continued

Through the work of so many, we have had another impactful year:

- Since our first PTATC, we have raised over \$5.7 million! These monies have made possible the discovery of the DICER1 gene that is not only linked to PPB cancer in children but has far reaching impact on other types of cancers. It has also led to the development and ongoing maintenance of two world renowned rare tumor registries. And, the physical functioning of children who have been through cancer treatment has been improved through our support of new therapies.
- In 2019, our event exceeded our fundraising goal making it possible for us to present a check for \$220,000 to Children's Minnesota.
- The pace of research continues to accelerate due to National Institute of Health funding of the circulating tumor DNA project for children with Pleuropulmonary blastoma (PPB). This doesn't lessen the need for Pine Tree support, instead it allows us to extend and accelerate our efforts to validate ctDNA as a way to follow children with PPB. This is a huge step forward for this work and highlights the enormous impact of Pine Tree support.
- The doctors at Children's Minnesota are now working with Children's Oncology Group, a cooperative organization consisting of more than 200 institutions that treat childhood cancer, to open a prospective treatment trial for children with Types I, II and III PPB based on the new information from the lab - research made possible by the generous donations to the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic each year.

The board would like to express our deepest thanks to Karin Glick for her tireless work as our Event Coordinator over the past three years. She has helped us immensely as we have set up new processes and systems for ensuring that this event can continue well into the future. Karin will be moving on to a new venture, so we are pleased to welcome Lisa Mushett from Net Results to be our new Event Coordinator. Lisa and Karin have been working together to ensure a smooth transition. Please join us in welcoming Lisa to our PTATC team!

Even in a year of unprecedented disruption and uncertainty for all of us, we are excited to continue in our mission to be a positive force in the health and well-being of kids with childhood diseases and their families. If you have an interest in joining this wonderful team of volunteers please let us know. We need you!

Game. Set. Cure!

Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Board:

Kevin Werwie, President
Nancy Jacobson, Treasurer
Jason Albrecht, Secretary
Matt Narr, Director
Eileen Hunter, Director
Dee Gaeddert, Director

2020 PTATC Committees

Advertising/Marketing

Cheryl Yasis

Banners & Signs (Proofing)

Carly Schroeffer

Children's Activities & Volunteers

Carla Albrecht

Jason Albrecht

Event Coordinator

Karin Glick

Lisa Mushett

Food Tent

Wendy Homyak

Patty Paulson

Willy Paulson

Chris Peterson

Mary Ann Kidd

Jerry Kidd

Junior Tournament

Diana Bukajeva

Logistics

Barb Jacobson

Merchandise

Bryana Nagan

Party - Planning/Decor

Nancy Ekvall

Party Decor

Bridget Krein

Party Food

Betty Toy

Boy Toy

Patient Stories

Mike Brunner

Photography

Mike Yates

Player Liaison

Bob Marolt

Tricia Moorhead

Jessa Richards

Tobias Wernet

Marla Zitelman (Lead)

Social Media

Lisa Mushett

Sponsorships

Eileen Hunter

Nancy Jacobson

Denise Rutkowski

Kevin Werwie (Lead)

Tournament (Lead)

Tucker Combs

Tournament Program

Al Smith

Floater Tournament Weekend

Keri Pakonen

General Tournament Promotion

Bill Jacobson



A Message from the Founding Family



Last year's letter started with the difficult time it was for our family due to Mary Ann's diagnosis of Glioblastoma, among other health complications. It's with a very heavy heart that I write this year's letter solo. Mary Ann passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family last September.

Mary Ann possessed a secret which she shared with no one, but showed to all. In that secret emanated beauty and elegance; provided love and support; and most of all showed how to live a selfless life with unbridled purpose and meaning. Pine Tree provided purpose and meaning in Mary Ann's life.

All of you who have been around Pine Tree for a while know the story of our daughter Julie who was diagnosed with Leukemia at a very young age. Mary Ann and I were so grateful for the amazing care by all the doctors, nurses and other care providers at Children's Hospital that we wanted to give back. Along with "seed" money from the Jacobson family of the Pine Tree Apple Orchard, the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic was born. Mary Ann was an integral part of Pine Tree coming into existence. We could not have imagined that the event would still be going strong 35 years later, and to see the incredible progress made in children's cancer research.

Over the years, Mary Ann hosted parties for potential donors. She specialized in any reason to have a party and Pine Tree was no exception. She enjoyed playing hostess and entertaining through her rich and beautiful life. Mary Ann was an excellent cook and generously shared her creations with everyone.

She created and helped execute the Pine Tree menu along with the Andersons in the early years. She did a lot of work for the Player/Sponsor Appreciation Party and got behind the auction, which became a staple of the party for many years. She had the uncanny ability to even get reluctant sponsors to participate...several are still sponsors today!

While Mary Ann was more quiet and "behind-the-scenes" than I was, she was a very strong force for Pine Tree's continued existence. She put forth the idea of the reserve fund to ensure Pine Tree could make it through the tough times and have additional funds available for special research needs. She would be incredibly proud of the creativity and resilience of the Pine Tree Board, committee members, players, sponsors and donors for pushing forward this year despite all the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Mary Ann was the driving force behind me. Sharing each other's souls is both a truth and one of the best gifts one can hope for in life. Equally important in her life were her children. Mary Ann gave her four beautiful daughters the same spirit and vitality that she herself embraced and emitted daily. She was a wonderful role model to which each aspired. I want to share The Gift with our Pine Tree family. I wrote it back in 1998 to share what makes Mary Ann so special (see page 11).

Thank you for all that you continue to do for these children and their families. The fact that this event and amazing research is still flourishing after 35 years is truly amazing! Our family is proud to continue our support and be part of this truly unique and incredible mission.

Keep up the great work!

Ron

The Gift - By Ron Peterson

I've known MaryAnn for 45 years and she still fascinates me.

Her favorite picture of herself is one with me in the background (it's not a good picture of me, but she looks great, and I can count on her to frame the ones where she looks her best). She keeps it on her makeup counter, and I think the reason she likes it so much is that whoever took the picture, caught a moment when I was looking at her.

How does she keep me interested and fascinated? That's where the gift comes in. It's the secret that she alone has, and I hope to pass some of it on to you.

First of all, she preens. It's not a preoccupation, but rather a habit just like a cat.

She's real; that's why she fits in anywhere.

She's easy to like because she likes herself.

She knows her faults and makes fun of herself; but don't you dare.

She's vulnerable, but yet most of the time much stronger than me.

She's both fun and funny, in a nerdy kind of way.

She believes in me to a fault.

She would go anywhere with me and has always been there.

She is my best friend.

She has picked me up from the airport for over 30 years when many wives would say to take a cab because it's too late, it's storming, or it's snowy.

She has always been excited to see me, even at the end of the day.

She loves making our life full of beautiful things, like dinners and drives, along with a high-energy level for

making things nice. She was a great mother when it was her turn in the "box" and now she's a great friend to those same daughters.

She is an even better grandmother because she's also their friend. She has 10 grandchildren, but to me, doesn't look old enough to have even one.

She doesn't have agendas, yet can get her way anytime she wants.

She's a "spoiled butt," but would be willing to camp out for three months if we had the time.

She's also a "nosy butt," but can be very private.

She's sexy, but doesn't flirt.

She's classy, but enjoys the simple stuff more.

She's frugal, but likes it when I'm not when it comes to something for her.

She wakes up happy and goes to bed happy.

She does all this naturally and doesn't think about it – she just does it.

She is a completely unbelievable woman who has been a wonderful role model for her daughters.

If you watch her closely, you'll see that she makes the lives of the people around her much better because of how she is. That's her gift to all of us.

Love, Dad

A Message from the Founding Sponsor



Dear Supporters of the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic,

Nearly 36 years ago, Ron Peterson and Dan Aberg asked us to partner in their efforts to establish a tennis tournament as a means to raise money for research into childhood cancer by lending financial support. We readily agreed to provide the seed money they were looking for, and soon the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic was born.

As we now celebrate the 35th Anniversary of this amazing tournament in 2020, it is so reassuring that we can continue helping these special children and their families affected by childhood cancer, especially during these uncertain times. Unfortunately, childhood cancer does not stop because of a pandemic, and it is not often in life one gets the opportunity to make such a difference.

We are honored to continue as the founding sponsor of the event and thrilled at its continuing success. It has been such a rewarding experience for our family to work with the many volunteers who make this tournament possible, and be a part of the continuing enthusiasm they generate in the fight against this horrible disease. It still amazes us that our initial investment has turned into more than \$5.7 million for the cancer research and oncology programs at Children's Minnesota.

We look forward to continuing our support in the future. Thank you for joining us in helping achieve our goal - to earn the last dollar ever in the fight against children's cancer. Game, Set. Cure!

Sincerely,

The Jacobson Family Pine Tree Apple Orchard



A Message from the Research Team

Dear Pine Tree Players, Sponsors, Volunteers and Honored Guests,

Oh my...What a year! COVID-19 certainly has impacted us all in many ways and research is no exception. Thanks to your amazing support, the research teams at Children's Minnesota have continued their work to improve the lives of children with cancer in the state of Minnesota and throughout the world. Our days may have looked a little different this year, but our passion and commitment remains. We're excited to let you know about all of the exciting work we have been able to complete since last year's Pine Tree event.

In the last year, the International PPB/DICER1 Registry has continued to work with children and families across the U.S. and around the world. We continue to collect medical data and tumor samples, and test conventional, novel and holistic medications against these tumors to see what works best. We are now working with Children's Oncology Group, a cooperative group consisting of more than 200 institutions that treat childhood cancer, to open a prospective treatment trial for children with Types I, II and III PPB based on the new information from the lab—the information you make possible.

Our work to develop a novel strategy to monitor tumors through blood testing is going well. We hope this new strategy will reduce the number of times a child must be sedated and exposed to radiation in order to understand their tumor's response to treatment. We also are learning more each month

about additional tumors linked to DICER1—and this year in addition to PPB, we've focused especially on childhood brain tumors, ovarian and uterine tumors and a new pelvic tumor type found in boys and girls.

In addition to research advancements, we're also working on data sharing. We want to make sure these findings are available to anyone who could benefit from them. That means strengthening our social media outreach and website. This is not a natural skillset for researchers—yet we know that this data is intended to be used for caring for kids and that means getting this information in the hands of families. Our goal continues to be to strengthen our collaborations so that we can spread the word about how to care for kids and adults with DICER1-related conditions—and also so that we can learn more—a true win-win. Along the way, we meet many families – families whose world has just been turned upside down by a cancer diagnosis. Like you, they look ahead, to see how their own journey could help someone else. For them and for you, we are forever grateful.

Children who undergo treatment for cancer deserve to not only survive their disease, but also to thrive both during and after treatment. PTACF funded research supports both of these critical goals. In the supportive care research arena, we have developed measures of nerve damage from chemotherapy for children and describe the long-term impact of this issue. We are excited about a new partnership with the University of Southern California to investigate



the genetic markers associated with an increased risk of nerve damage in both children and young adults. This may help our physicians better understand who is most at-risk for nerve damage, so it might be avoided. We are also working to make a large dataset on functional outcomes available to many. To that end, we are gathering data from clinical records on treatment toxicities and rehabilitation interventions to better understand their impact on long-term functional outcomes.

All of these discoveries were made possible through your hard work and generosity. Advances in childhood cancer research are being made, but there are miles to go before we rest. Children with advanced solid tumors, including PPB, still face poor prognoses and side effects of intensive therapies. More research is urgently needed to cure more children and improve quality of life for cancer survivors. More than 10,000 children under the age of 15 are diagnosed with cancer each year, and despite major treatment advances, 20% of children with cancer will not survive. For all those that do survive their cancer, we owe it to them that they can go on with good quality of life.

We believe all children deserve the same chance of survival and long-term happiness. Thank you for your support of this tournament that allows us to pursue this research. Generous support from PTACF is a significant part of the funding we rely upon to do this work. None of the tremendous advances in PPB/ DICER1 and chemotherapy-related neuropathy would

have occurred without you. We value and appreciate the support you provide to children and families across the country and around the world.

This has been an unprecedented year. As we reflect on our shared successes and challenges, we are grateful for the contributions of so many individuals who made this possible. At the same time, the beloved children who were diagnosed with late stage PPB or died, despite the best available care teach us that we have a long way to go. We're grateful for the opportunity to continue this work in their honor and with your support.

With gratitude,

Kris Ann Schultz, MD
Yoav Messinger, MD
Laura Gilchrist PT, PhD
Lynn Tanner, MPT
Anne Harris, MPH
Ann Mason, CRA and
Paige Mallinger, MS
Samantha La Belle, BS
Alexander Nelson, BS



Honored Angel: Alivia



A brave little girl. A wonderful daughter. A beautiful soul.

For Amy and Ian, the birth of their daughter, Alivia, in September of 2012 represented an initial step in their planned, wonderful life together. That all changed when Alivia was diagnosed with Ovarian Sarcoma on November 29, 2017 at the tender age of 5.

At diagnosis, it was discovered that Alivia was born with a mutated DICER1 gene, putting her at a higher risk for certain types of cancer. Her diagnosis came with such a poor prognosis that her oncologist refused to give them survival percentages.

With uncharacteristic resolve and the loving support of her parents, Alivia endured multiple surgeries and nearly a dozen different high-dose chemotherapies over two years. Sadly, Alivia passed away from her disease.

But cancer and treatments will never define Alivia. She was independent, creative, strong and, above all, fun.

She loved arts, crafts, and the performing arts. She could convince anyone to dance with her including nurses, strangers, and even her shy uncles.

She loved to play doctor. Alivia spent hours at home setting up her “exam rooms.” Once, she even used a toothpick to draw blood on her grandma. “She was not very happy with me that real blood draws were forever forbidden,” recalls Amy.

Alivia loved dogs, especially her dog Coco. “When people asked her if she had any brothers or sisters, she always said she had a brother, referring to Coco. Even her final words were to tell us with a smile that she was dreaming about her Coco.”

The family has nothing but love and admiration for the medical professionals who worked so hard to save Alivia’s life.

“Her healthcare teams became our family,” continued Amy. “It was as if each person on her team was handpicked for her and sent at the exact right time. Alivia was not afraid to voice her opinion or resistance. Instead of being met with resistance, she was met with love, understanding, and respect.”

Her nurses were also there for her end of life care. The end snuck up on us. We had three new nurses and they were all amazing. Mindy, the night nurse, was literally an angel sent from heaven. Even though Liv died, Mindy saved us. She provided peace, validation, reassurance, and love.”

Ian added, “Alivia’s cancer diagnosis completely changed our life. We scoured the earth looking for the best treatment plan. There was a point that we realized that her outcome would almost inevitably end the same no matter what we did. At that point we really decided to focus on her quality of life and appreciate every day we had with her.”

Alivia was part of the DICER1 registry, and her blood and tumor tissue samples were collected to help uncover more information about potential DICER1 therapies.

A military family, they have lived in St. Croix (USVI), Michigan, Arkansas and California after Alivia was born. But Alivia was a proud, self-proclaimed “California Girl.” She certainly embodied that carefree, beautiful image even while staring down cancer. We honor her memory by remembering her in that way and thank her in advance for helping to unlock effective treatments for others.

Honored Patient: Brody



Brody was a “surprise miracle” for Kayla and Jesse of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

After using fertility medications to have their first two boys, they were delighted to have Brody with no help at all. Life was busy, but great, for Jesse, a union electrician, and Kayla, a registered nurse at a local hospital.

“In November of 2016 we were at my parents when Brody vomited,” recounted Kayla. “We returned home where it continued, and he went unresponsive. He was ultimately rushed to Rochester by helicopter. Brody had a baseball-sized tumor and severe hydrocephalus in his brain. Our lives would be changed forever!”

The next day they met with the neurosurgeon, who would perform a 10-hour surgery to try and save Brody’s life. He was able to remove the whole tumor, but feared Brody may not be the same happy little guy he once was.

Brody had a very rare, aggressive, and hard to treat brain cancer known as AT/RT. His prognosis was very grim.

“Several weeks went by before Brody started interacting with us, but he got his smile back!” said Kayla. “At 10 months old he was like a 25-pound newborn. He had to relearn how to hold his own head up, sit, crawl and even drink out of a bottle again.”

In June 2017, Brody completed his protocol of five rounds of chemo with stem cell transplants and proton beam radiation. Follow-up scans indicated that Brody “failed” the treatment course. He had a new spot on the spine and worsening disease on the brain. The doctor told them that there was no cure, but there is hope.

Brody’s little body had its lifetime dose of radiation, and his bone marrow could not handle any more high dose chemo. He was started on low-dose, oral chemo and other meds in hopes of buying time. A subsequent scan showed some improvement. They continue scans every three months to monitor the disease.

“Today, Brody has endured so much, and we are beyond grateful he is still with us,” Kayla said. “He has had two shunt placements, five rounds of high dose chemo, three stem cell transplants, six weeks of Proton Beam Radiation to the entire brain and spine, seizures, five port placements, sepsis, C-Diff, RSV, pneumonia, several MRI’s, multiple blood and platelets transfusions ... all while keeping a smile. He loves music, his dog, Ollie, and his older brothers. Brody is so special. He touches hearts and brightens days with his contagious smile and radiant personality.”

Last year, Jesse and Kayla felt like his developmental progress “was stuck.” After learning about the work being done at Children’s Minnesota, they started taking him there for his PT, OT and speech therapy. Before going to Children’s MN, Brody was not able to stand without support. Now he can take a couple of steps without his walker. The family is grateful.

“Although this journey has been difficult, we live each day with a grateful heart and remember how blessed we are,” said Kayla.

A simple, but powerful, lesson for all of us.

Honored Patient: Lucas



A healthy perspective to match their son's newfound physical health.

For Spencer and Hannah of Sauk Rapids, Minn., the way their son's pediatric cancer journey unfolded was a shock to them, but all too familiar to the families who have battled ahead of them. A seemingly innocent development suddenly turned serious.

Their young son, Lucas (now 5), developed a lump on his neck last summer. His primary care provider noticed his enlarged tonsils and recommended they be removed. Later, a call from Lucas' ENT informed them that his tissue, analyzed at Mayo, indicated cancer.

Lucas' diagnosis was DLBCL-Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma, also known as Non-Hodgkin's B-Cell Lymphoma.

Lucas has had four rounds of chemo that required him to stay in the hospital for a week at a time. He will have scans for the next two years before remission is declared, and then check ins for the next 10 years.

While Lucas is now healthy and excited to be starting kindergarten soon at Pleasantview Elementary this fall, his journey to health has not been easy.

"In October of 2019, we almost lost Lucas to an infection that hospitalized him for over three weeks and at least 10 days were in PICU," Spencer said. "Typhlitis and Clostridium usually culminate in a fatal outcome. So many teams were involved - surgery, infectious disease, hematology/oncology, pain management, dietitians, physical therapy, occupational therapy and dozens of nurses and volunteers. We are indebted to all those who helped save our boy during this time. Words will never fully express how thankful we are for these angels in scrubs."

When Lucas' scans came back looking like those of a healthy individual who has never been diagnosed with cancer, Hannah remembered the words of Dr. Nathan Gossai when he went over Lucas' PET scan results with them.

"This is a big deal," Dr. Gossai said. "Lucas is a fighter. He has fought off things that others would not have been able to and he has done it like it was no big deal. I want you two to appreciate this and it may take a while to do so. There is no evidence of cancer left in Lucas' body."

Today, Lucas remains healthy and happy. He enjoys going to the splash pads, road tripping with his family and playing with his brother, Garrett. He likes to tinker and find out how things work in the world around him. Always exploring, Lucas is very methodical and uses logic and experimentation to get answers to his questions.

"Lucas has shown us what real strength looks like," Spencer said. "We know that our lives will never go back to how they were. Perspectives change and that is ok. Some things increase in value, while others seem petty. The journey has been the hardest thing we have endured as a family, but we made it through it with our family."

A healthy perspective to match their son's newfound physical health.

Cancer Facts

Since 1986, the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic has raised more than \$5.7 million for cancer research at Children's Minnesota. Through these efforts, Children's Minnesota has become internationally recognized for rare cancer and supportive care research which benefits children in Minnesota and throughout the world.



Pine Tree Apple
Classic Fund



In a given year, 40,000 children and adolescents are being treated for cancer.



Nearly two-thirds of childhood cancer survivors experience significant medical problems resulting from their original cancer treatment.



Early diagnosis of childhood cancers is difficult because symptoms are often similar to common ailments in kids.



The length of childhood cancer treatment ranges from 3 months to over 3 years.

Childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children and adolescents.

Source: Children's Minnesota

Supported Research Programs

Funds raised by the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic (PTATC) are used primarily to support research areas where there is little or no national attention and can be broken out into three main categories: DICER1 Rare Tumor Research, Preventing Cancer Treatment Side Effects and Promoting Quality of Life.

Rare Tumor Research

While advancements are being made for the most common childhood cancers, the same is not true for rare tumors. Pleuropulmonary blastoma (PPB) is a rare but aggressive lung tumor that occurs in very young children, usually children under age 7. In 1987, PTATC began supporting the International PPB Registry. In 2011, PTATC funding helped launch the opening of the International Ovarian and Testicular Stromal Tumor (OTST) Registry to study additional rare childhood tumors. Thanks to research funded by Pine Tree, the genetic link between these tumors and other cancers including kidney, thyroid and brain tumors has been found. This gene, called DICER1, is a critical regulator of cell growth. Thanks to this finding, we have expanded this research to include all DICER1 related tumors and have a new name, the International PPB/DICER1 Registry to reflecting this expanding work. Under the leadership of Dr. Kris Ann Schultz, the Registries seek to define optimal care for children with these rare diseases and develop more effective and less toxic therapies for children and adults throughout the world.

Combined, the Registries have enrolled more than 700 individuals from more than 49 countries and are now considered the model for other rare tumor registries.

This work has the potential to impact many, many people – including those without PPB or ovarian tumors – and may help oncologists around the world understand how to treat a wide variety of other tumors. Thanks to this research, new surveillance guidelines have been developed and are now in widespread use, allowing the diagnosis of many of these tumors in their earliest and most curable form. Our work continues to ensure early diagnosis whenever possible and to ensure that novel therapies are developed for those children and adults who still face the most aggressive types of these tumors.

Supported Research Programs

Preventing Cancer Treatment Side Effects

Going through cancer treatment is difficult at any age. But because kids' bodies are rapidly growing and developing while they undergo treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation, they are more susceptible to long-term side effects that can hinder physical, cognitive and emotional development. These impairments begin early in treatment and can cause physical limitations into adulthood.

Many children with the most common childhood cancers are surviving their diseases. In 1960, only 10% of children survived acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common type of childhood cancer. Today, over 90% of children diagnosed with ALL are cured. With survival rates rising, emphasis in pediatric oncology research is being placed not only on the cure but also on improving the long-term function of pediatric cancer survivors.

Dr. Laura Gilchrist has held a PTATC-endowed research position focused on this cause since it was established in 2007. Dr. Gilchrist and her team at Children's Minnesota collaborate with staff at other hospitals to do research designed to improve physical functional outcomes. They investigate issues that may arise due to treatment—such as muscle weakness, balance impairment, ankle contractures and neuropathy — a weakness, numbness and/or pain in hands and feet caused by nerve damage, estimated to occur in 80 percent to 90 percent of pediatric patients with cancer.

One focus is determining which changes persist long-term and which are preventable. Many families accepted such deficits as “normal” during cancer treatment. However, Dr. Gilchrist and her team have uncovered a number of interventions, including embedding physical therapy activity into patients' treatment plans, to bring fun, engaging activities that help patients lead an active lifestyle with their peers. This unique physical therapy program begun at Children's Minnesota and has now been implemented at many children's hospitals around the world.

Promoting Quality of Life

Childhood development is a dynamic process. If cancer and subsequent treatments occur during a critical point of development, the average development process may be interrupted. Many children with cancer are at risk for poor health-related quality of life and chronic health conditions. To address these issues and provide kids with the best opportunity to thrive during and after cancer treatment, care teams shared new research and approaches aimed at promoting resilience in childhood cancer patients and reducing illness and the stress of cancer and its treatment.

The doctors seek to improve pediatric cancer survivors' quality of life during and after treatment, relieving families of their perception on the fear of what their child could or should do during cancer treatment, which may limit movement and exercise. Published research has shown adolescent survivors who reported being more active had significantly higher quality of life scores, and exercise not only to be safe and feasible during pediatric cancer treatment but that it can improve physical functioning and various aspects of quality of life.

Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic Hall of Fame Award

Established in 1989, the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic (PTATC) Hall of Fame Award honors an individual or family that has made an outstanding and long-term contribution to the PTATC. Each recipient has shown significant dedication to the PTATC for more than three years. We are humbled by all those who have demonstrated such commitment and extend our sincere gratitude.

Pine Tree Apple Classic Fund Board

Past Year's Hall of Famers

1989 – Patty Kurtz	2005 - Willy & Patty Paulson
1990 – Mary Patterson	2006 - Susie Hanson
1991 – Colleen Richard	2007 - Sam Mairs
1992 – Linda Brandt	2008 - Deb Meath
1993 – Nanc Westlund	2009 - Anne Zink
1994 – Jim & Ginny Anderson	2010 - The Jacobson Family
1995 – Mike & Kathy Fleming	2011 - Mary Cornell
1996 – Judith & Jeff Young	2012 – Debbie Daniels
1997 – Ric Yates	2013 – Kevin Werwie
1998 – Sandy Martin	2014 – Chris Combs
1999 – Paul Steinhauser	2015 – Kris Premo
2000 – Nancy Jacobson	2016 – Jerry and Mary Ann Kidd
2001 – Jack Priest	2017 – Dr. Yoav Messinger
2002 - Peg Brenden	2018 – Dan Shannon
2003 - Barb Jacobson	2019 – Denise Rutkowski
2004 - Bruce & Denise Humphrey	

2020 Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic Hall of Fame Award: Keri Pakonen



The Hall of Fame Award honors an individual or family that has made an outstanding and long-term contribution to the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic. The best way to describe Keri Pakonen’s involvement in Pine Tree is to say that she has literally “done it all” over the years.

Keri has held the highest-level positions with the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic, serving first as a Board Member, then as Board Chair for several years. From 2009-12, she was the PTATC Co-Chair, raising over \$700,000 for the cause. In addition, Keri has been involved in multiple committees, including when she led the Auction committee, securing more than \$45,000 at the Appreciation Party - the most in tournament history.

A self-proclaimed “floater” these days, Keri is always the first arrive and the last to leave during the four-day tournament weekend, always keeping things on track and helping out wherever needed. Her knowledge of so many different areas shows her incredible dedication and commitment to this event and the mission. Keri brings relentless energy, passion and is a “super fan,” promoting Pine Tree every chance possible.

If this wasn’t enough, Keri and her husband, Rich, have been generous donors to Pine Tree through both financial contributions and auction items. In fact, at Keri’s surprise 50th birthday party, requests were made to make a donation to her favorite charity – the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic – in lieu of gifts. This is just another example of the Pakonen family’s incredible commitment and generosity.

Keri is an avid tennis player, creating a close connection to the event, but she absolutely loves the targeted research Pine Tree supports. The impact this great work has made, and continues to make, for the patient families is what drives her continued involvement and passion to make a difference.

**Congratulations Keri
2020 Pine Tree Apple Tennis
Classic Hall of Fame Inductee!**

Sportsmanship Award



Each year since its inception in 2000, the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic (PTATC) Sportsmanship Award has been bestowed upon a player that exemplifies this spirit.

2000 – Kevin Werwie

2001 – Julia Mars

2002 – Mike Olson

2003 – Dan Shannon

2004 – Michelle Olson

2005 – Chris Combs

2006 – Mary Cornell

2007 – Marc Miller

2008 – Robin Coverdale

2009 – Craig Gordon

2010 – John Trondson

2011 – Justin Seim

2012 – Eric Donley

2013 – Imke Reimers

2014 – Bob Marolt

2015 - Katie Resch

2016 - Tobias Wernet

2017 - Julian Dehn

2018 - Marla Zitelman

2019 - Matt Narr

Tournament History



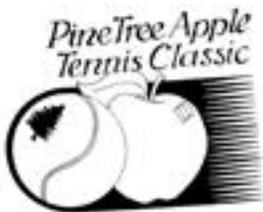
1986
 Chairs: Ron & Mary Peterson
 \$15,000 Raised
 Artist: Doug Ellis
 Tournament Winners:
 Janet McCutcheon & Bill Sternard



1987
 Chairs: Dan & Linda Aberg
 \$33,000 Raised
 Artist: Lisa Buck
 Tournament Winners:
 Jackie Moe & Mike Ach



1988
 Chairs: Colleen & Ken Richard
 \$44,000 Raised
 Artist: Lisa Buck
 Tournament Winners:
 Janet McCutcheon & Bill Sternard



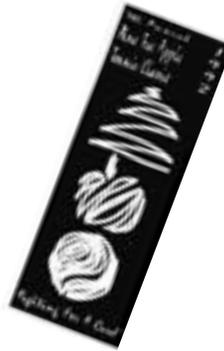
1989
 Chair: Sue Wolsfeld
 \$70,000 Raised
 Artist: Tom Ashworth
 Tournament Winners:
 Andrea Holikova & Marc Miller



1990
 Chairs: Mike & Kathy Fleming
 \$118,000 Raised
 Artist: Lisa Buck
 Tournament Winners:
 Andrea Holikova & Marc Miller



1991
 Chairs: Ginny & Jim Anderson
 \$120,000 Raised
 Artist: Gail Speckmann
 Tournament Winners:
 Jacki Moe & Marc Miller



1992
 Chairs: Dick Blackburn,
 Ann Kochsiek, Linda Seierstad
 \$120,000 Raised
 Artist: Nanc Westlund,
 Visual Expressions
 Tournament Winners:
 Steve Paulsen & Claudia Brisk



1993
 Chairs: Laurie Blackwell,
 Joanie Mellgren, Jeff Young,
 Ric Yates
 \$130,000 Raised
 Artist: Kent Anderson, St.
 Croix Screen Printing
 Tournament Winners:
 Kevin Werwie &
 Cathy Birkeland



1994
 Chairs: Sandy Espe-Sorenson,
 Dave Sorenson,
 Paul Steinhauser, Todd Zabel
 \$148,000 Raised
 Artist: Lisa Buck
 Tournament Winners:
 Ross Loel & Dana Peterson



1995
 Chairs: Sandy Martin,
 Ann Helgeson, Steve King
 & Liz Jaeger
 \$166,292 Raised
 Artist: Troy Shilison
 Open:
 Kevin Werwie & Jackie Moe
 Masters:
 Ric Yates & Peg Brenden

Tournament History



1996

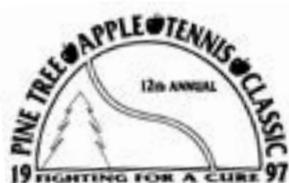
Chairs: Bruce & Denise Humphrey, Nancy Jacobson, Jamie Young

\$185,000 Raised

Artist: Pam Kurts

Open: Jackie Moe & Kevin Werwie

Masters: Peggy Brenden & Ric Yates



1997

Chairs: Jim & Gail Menne, Deb Meath, Dave Kahl, Mary Cornell

\$164,000 Raised

Artist: Chris Dummermuth

Open: Robin Coverdale & Marc Miller

Masters: David Nash & Pam Sommer



1998

Chairs: Peg Brenden, Dottie Hoel, Carol Whitaker

\$170,000 Raised

Artist: Dick Stuck

Open: Kirstin Sanderson & Mike Husebo

Masters: Peg Brenden & Ric Yates



1999

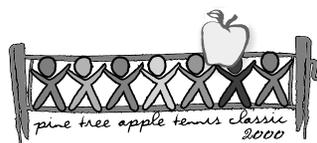
Chairs: Peg Kelly, Barbie Sheehan, Vicki Sperry, Deb Daniels

\$180,000 Raised

Artist: Joe Schroeder

Open: Alice Ransithienchai & Mike Husebo

Masters: Pam Sommer & David Nash



2000

Chairs: Bruce Vassar, Carol Danielson, Keith Erickson, Mike Greenbaum

\$170,000 Raised

Artist: Jennifer Vee

Open: Anne Gorde & Chris Combs

Masters: Pam Sommer & David Nash



2001

Chairs: Diane Pearson, Mary Patterson, Colby Carlson, Mike & Tonya Olson

\$212,000 Raised

Artist: Christopher Dow

Open: Chris Sheldon & Mickey Maule

Masters: Pam Sommer & Dave Nash



2002

Chairs: Jodi Brandtjen, Libby Brown, Sarah Kennedy, Brenda Werwie & Kevin Werwie

\$175,000 Raised

Artist: Joni Lantz

Open Division: Chris Sheldon & Mickey Maule

Masters Division: Fred Budde & Bernie McCann



2003

Chairs: Chris Combs, Sam Mairs, Deb Meath & Mary Patterson

\$223,000 Raised

Artist: Kent Anderson

Open: Chris Sheldon & Mickey Maule

Masters: Susan Rudd & Mark Brandenburg

Tournament History



2004

Chairs: Vickie Baker, Kate Booth, Trisha Connors, Layne McCleary, Lori Nichols

\$233,000 Raised

Artist: Jeff Hagen

Open: Chris Sheldon & Mickey Maule

Masters: Susan Rudd & Mark Brandenburg



2005

Chairs: Vickie Baker, Kate Booth, Trisha Connors, Layne McCleary, Lori Nichols

\$209,500 Raised

Artist: Jeff Hagen

Open: Chris Sheldon & Mickey Maule

Masters: Greg Wicklund & Kathy Hayden

Grand Masters:
Su Oertel & Ron York



2006

Chairs: Dean and Allison Hlushko, Layne McCleary, Denise Rutkowski

\$210,000 Raised

Artist: Kent Anderson

Open: Erik Donley & Meghan Donley Kimber

Masters: Marc Miller & Robin Coverdale

Masters 9.5:
Ron York & Su Oertel



2007

Chairs: Jenna Hedquist, Dean and Allison Hlushko, Kris Premo, Denise Rutkowski, Debbie Shearen

\$220,000 Raised,

Artist: Kent Anderson

Open: Chris Sheldon & Mickey Maule

Masters: Felicia Tebon & Dan Shannon

Masters 9.5: Bernie McCann & Fred Budde



2008

Chairs: Joe Miller, Kris Premo, Denise Rutkowski, Debbie Shearen,

\$189,000 Raised,

Artist: Kent Anderson, St. Croix Screenprinting

Open: Chris Sheldon & Mickey Maule

Masters: Felicia Tebon & Dan Shannon

Masters 9.5: Bernie McCann & Fred Budde



2009

Chairs: Joe Miller, Kris and Jessica Premo, Keri Pakonen, Debbie Shearen

\$163,000 Raised,

Artist: Jeff Hagen, St. Croix Screenprinting

Open: Imke Reimers & Erik Donley

Masters: Janet Hoffmann & Bill Sternard

Grand Masters:
Bernie McCann & Fred Budde



2010

Chairs: Joe Miller, Keri Pakonen, Jessica Premo, Kris Premo, Carly Schroeppfer

\$192,000 raised

Artist: Nels Femrite

Open: Imke Reimers & Erik Donley

Masters: Robin Coverdale & Marc Miller

Grand Masters: Bernie McCann & Fred Budde



2011

Chairs: Joe Miller, Matt Narr, Keri Pakonen,

Carly Schroeppfer

\$181,000 raised

Open: Lindsay Risebrough & Harsh Mankad

Masters: Tory Borovsky & Mehdi Benyebka

Grand Masters: Susan Rudd & Dan Shannon

Tournament History



2012

Chairs: Joe Miller, Keri Pakonen, Matt Narr, Tricia Moorhead

\$170,000 raised

Open: Caitlin Burke & Ishay Hadash

Masters: Geoff & Dana Young

Grand Masters: Susan Rudd & Dan Shannon



2016

Chairs: Stephanie Davis, Anne Krmpotich, Bob Marlot

\$254,000 Raised

Open: Alexa Palen & Nick Crossley

Masters: Larissa Mavros & Kevin Werwie

Grand Masters: Felicia Raschiatore & Mike Olson



2013

Chairs: Charice Crockarell, Joe Miller, Jacquie Mudge, Matt Narr

\$166,000 raised

Open: Erik Donley & Imke Reimers

Masters: John Trondson & Betsy Cionca

Grand Masters: Dan Shannon & Susan Rudd



2017

Chairs: Kathy Bjornson, Stephanie Davis, Bob Marolt, Katie Resch, Susan Rudd

\$270,000 Raised

Open: Jessie Any & Jack Hamburg

Masters - Larissa Mavros & Kevin Werwie

Grand Masters: Susan Rudd & Dan Shannon



2014

Chairs: Charice Crockarell, Joe Miller, Jacquie Mudge, Matt Narr

\$199,000 raised

Open: Tony Larson & Imke Reimers

Masters: Tom Olmscheid & Amy Jamieson

Grand Masters: Dan Shannon & Susan Rudd



2018

\$310,257 Raised

Open: Diana Bukajeva & Andres Osorio

Masters: Meghan Kimber & Kevin Werwie

Grand Masters: Susan Rudd & Dan Shannon



2015

Chairs: Bruce & Denise Humphery, Bill Jacobson, Nancy Jacobson, Jamie Young

\$367,000 Raised

Open: Imke Reimers & Mathieu Froment

Masters: Tory Borovsky & Gordon Reid

Grand Masters: Felicia Raschiatore & Mike Olson



2019

\$324,000 Raised

Open: Nitooli Wilkins & Julian Dehn

Masters: Meghan Kimber & Kevin Werwie

Grand Masters: Bob Marolt & Kathy Bjornson