

## NauticEd Launches Nationwide Charitable Initiative to Benefit Childhood Cancer Cause

**AUSTIN, Texas – September 10, 2021** -- Global sailing educator NauticEd has announced a new charitable initiative to benefit research into childhood cancer, to coincide with September's designation of Childhood Cancer Month. According to NauticEd Global Director of Education Grant Headifen, the funding will directly benefit the study into immunotherapy methods to solve childhood brain cancer.

The statistics are astounding: cancer is the #1 cause of death by disease for children in the United States. Approximately one child in 285 in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer before their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, meaning one out of every 150 families will face this devastating diagnosis. In addition, 20% of children diagnosed with cancer do not survive the disease.

For Headifen, the cause isn't only meaningful to the 300,000 children each year globally who are diagnosed with cancer, but it is also very real and personal.

In 2021, Headifen's own 13-year-old daughter, Alexandra, developed DIPG – a devastating cancer of the brain. He and his family researched and immediately enrolled his daughter into the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital CAR T trial at Stanford University Palo Alto, California following her diagnosis. The trial investigates a new immunotherapy treatment that directly attacks her particular type of DIPG brain cancer. The initial results to date reveal a successful partial dissolving of the tumor and overall improvement in her condition. Subsequent infusions of CAR T are planned for Alexandra, with the hope of complete remission.

Headifen and his daughter are focusing on the future and setting their sights on fun family boating adventures ahead. They have sailed together in most yacht charter destinations on the planet such as Tahiti, Tonga, The British Virgin Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, Antigua, Puerto Rico, Greece, New Zealand, Australia, and more.

"Right now, she is too sick to sail, but on my watch, we are not going to lose this battle," Headifen said. "She has her eyes on the Seychelles. She saw a picture of how clear the water was against the white sand and declared it was our next stop in our family's ongoing boating adventures. For now, this is our fighting goal,"

The personal realization of the impact cancer has on children and families led Headifen to give voice to a new war cry: **"Kids should be going boating, NOT going through cancer."** Armed with his personal conviction and the support of his company, NauticEd International Sailing and Boating Education has launched a new fundraising initiative to help fight childhood cancer and to support the outstanding work of the Lucile Packard

CAR T research program. NauticEd donated \$15,000 to get the ball rolling and has aligned with the well-known Arms Wide Open Childhood Cancer Foundation a 501c3 non-profit, to collect and distribute 100 percent of the funds raised. Additionally, NauticEd's soon-to-be-released NauticEd Youth Program will donate 100 percent of its profits to the effort.

"We hope the sailing and boating community will step up and help us to help children and families facing the life-changing devastation associated with cancer," said Headifen. "Childhood cancer is just too close to all of our families. Every dollar raised will make a positive impact as we work together to find ways to save children and give them a fighting chance to enjoy life."

For more information on NauticEd's efforts on Childhood Cancer visit <https://www.nauticed.org/fighting-childhood-cancer> To help support this effort to win the war on childhood cancer, please donate any amount: [http://www.awoccf.org/donate\\_nauticed/](http://www.awoccf.org/donate_nauticed/)

### **About NauticEd**

NauticEd features over 24 online sailing courses, certification for sailors at all levels, feature-rich proprietary learning management systems, and a global network of sailing school and charter affiliates. Since Grant Headifen founded NauticEd in 2008, it has provided over a quarter million sailing courses to students worldwide and currently supports over 80,000 boating enthusiasts with courses, experience building tools and charter vacations. NauticEd is the only sailing education program recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators as having met the rigorous American National Standards, and NauticEd's SLC licensing is accepted by charter companies worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.nauticed.org](http://www.nauticed.org).

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