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February is Kiwanis Children Cancer Awareness Month

The treatment of childhood cancer is one of the great success stories of modern medicine. A few decades ago, only 20 percent of children survived the disease. Today, overall survival rates approach 80 percent. Yet cancer remains the leading cause of death from disease in U.S. children between infancy and age 15 and some types of pediatric cancer continue to have poor survival rates.

For Kiwanis Children Cancer Program, the aim is to close the survival gap while creating safer, more effective therapies to treat the disease. A further increase in survival rates will require combining the latest technologies with new approaches to drug discovery and innovative clinical trials. February will be Kiwanis Children Cancer Awareness Month, a time dedicated to highlighting efforts to reduce cancer's toll on children.

The Kiwanis Children Cancer Program is a fight against the disease which occurs year round. "Our goal is to raise funds to cure more children, and in the process, find new treatments that have less side effects and a greater effectiveness for all children fighting cancer, We are in this fight until we find the cure." said Jim Garcia, Lt. Governor of Pacific Northwest Kiwanis Division 22.

The Seattle Children Hospital is making great strides in eliminating childhood cancer. "We have the knowledge and the technologies to make it work. What we need now is the financial support that will help us make the leap from curing mice in the lab to curing children in the hospital," said Dr. Mike Jensen of Seattle Children Hospital.

Throughout the month of February, the Kiwanis are welcoming members of the community to join Kiwanis in the fight against childhood cancer. They can make a difference in serving the children of their community. More information can be found on the internet: <http://snohomish-kiwanis.org>.