

September 4, 2016

Academy Parents,

We've got exciting news in the Youth Academy for the month of September: We are going GOLD! We are excited to announce that this year our Youth Academy will also be supporting Childhood Cancer Awareness Month! We are going to do our part to help raise awareness and funds in our area. As many of you know, WCWAA Soccer plays a role in raising awareness and funds in October for Breast Cancer Awareness month. We are excited to expand with the Youth Academy into September and pediatric cancer research.

Here is a message from one of our very own WCWAA parents and local Pediatric Oncologist:

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, a time to honor and remember children and families affected by these rare diseases and increase support to give children and adolescents with cancer better outcomes by raising funds for research and family support.

Each year in the U.S about 15,780 children/adolescents under the age of 21 are diagnosed with cancer. Sadly, about one in eight of them will not survive their disease. Too often, many of those who do survive their cancer are left with physical and/or psychological scars that affect them for the rest of their lives.

Fortunately, research in the many labs and in the clinics focused on fighting this devastating diagnosis has improved outcomes for childhood cancer... in the past few decades we have seen survival climb from around 60% to over 80%! While we celebrate this accomplishment, we acknowledge that it is not good enough. Too many young lives are taken too soon... too many families are left to deal with overwhelming loss.

More needs to be done to support these families.

I am so very proud to recognize WCWAA's recent decision to support Childhood Cancer Awareness Month by encouraging members of their Academy soccer program to wear gold soccer socks for the month of September! Please consider participating in this campaign... together we can work to "kick childhood cancer!"

Thank you for your consideration,

Chad T. Jacobsen, MD

Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist

Proud father of Thomas and Anna (WCWAA U10 Academy and '01 Black)

P.S. For those who want to do even more, here is a short list of other reputable (not all-inclusive) national organizations supporting research and support for childhood cancer:

CureSearch (www.curesearch.org)

Alex's Lemonade Stand (www.alexlemonade.org)

St. Baldrick's Foundation (www.stbaldricks.org)

Cookies for kids' cancer (www.cookiesforkidscancer.org)

Isabella Santos Foundation (www.isabellasantosfoundation.org)

All Academy players will receive GOLD socks this week at training. We will wear these at all games during the month of September. We will also talk to the players about them and why we will be wearing them. We want them to know that they can help make a difference.

Socks will be given to players at no additional cost. We would like to encourage you to consider donating \$5 for your player's participation in Childhood Cancer month – but it is not a requirement. All

donations received during the month of September will be donated to directly help research pediatric cancer. Donations can be given directly to me or to any Academy coach at practices or games.

We can't wait to help raise awareness and support for this great cause. Regardless of the level of your participation as a family, we appreciate your support and allowing your player to go gold this month with us!

Thanks again for helping make a difference!

Derek Harrell
WCWAA Soccer