

MAY 2020 | Vol 1, No 1

The Adventurist

A Kid Again's very own magazine about Adventures!

Our first issue!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



A Kid Again.
Giving illness a time out

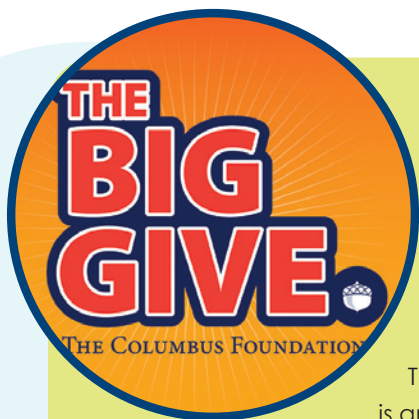
Hope, Happiness and Healing are more than just words. This is our mission at A Kid Again. With the incredible support of volunteers and friends we have been able to provide memorable experiences for families in Ohio, Kentucky, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Indiana and West Virginia. Today, more than ever, the kids and families we serve need Hope. You play a vital role in delivering quality Adventures that mean so much to kids and families battling life threatening illnesses. Thank You!



Proud of the A Kid Again staff and volunteers for living into a simple four-letter word that guides us – GOOD. Doing good. Living to provide Good to others. Knowing that we can help put a SMILE on a kids face in the midst of all they endure.

We have some exciting expansion news to share in the next publication of the newsletter. You will not want to miss it. There are over 1.5 million kids across America living with a life-threatening condition. A Kid Again is positioned to bring Hope, Happiness and Healing in the form of Adventures that include the entire family in a community of friends who can relate to what it means to live with a life-threatening condition.

Oyauma Garrison,
President and CEO



Save-the-Date: The Big Give is June 10

Mark your calendar for this incredible online giving rally!

The Columbus Foundation recently announced that The Big Give will be returning this summer. The Big Give is an online fundraising event hosted by the Columbus

Foundation, where more than 1,000 local nonprofits will opt in to benefit. Why give through The Big Give? All donations received during The Big Give are eligible for bonus pool funds on a pro rata basis, giving everyone who participates the opportunity to have their donation amplified. In addition, all credit card fees are covered by The Columbus Foundation, so 100 percent of the donation goes directly to A Kid Again. No gift is too small, and every gift makes a difference! Donors who wish to participate will be encouraged to make a donation on June 10th through The Columbus Foundation's Giving Store.

Consider making a donation on June 10th to A Kid Again as part of our HOPE, HAPPINESS, and HEALING campaign to provide Adventures for more local children dealing with life-threatening conditions. ♥

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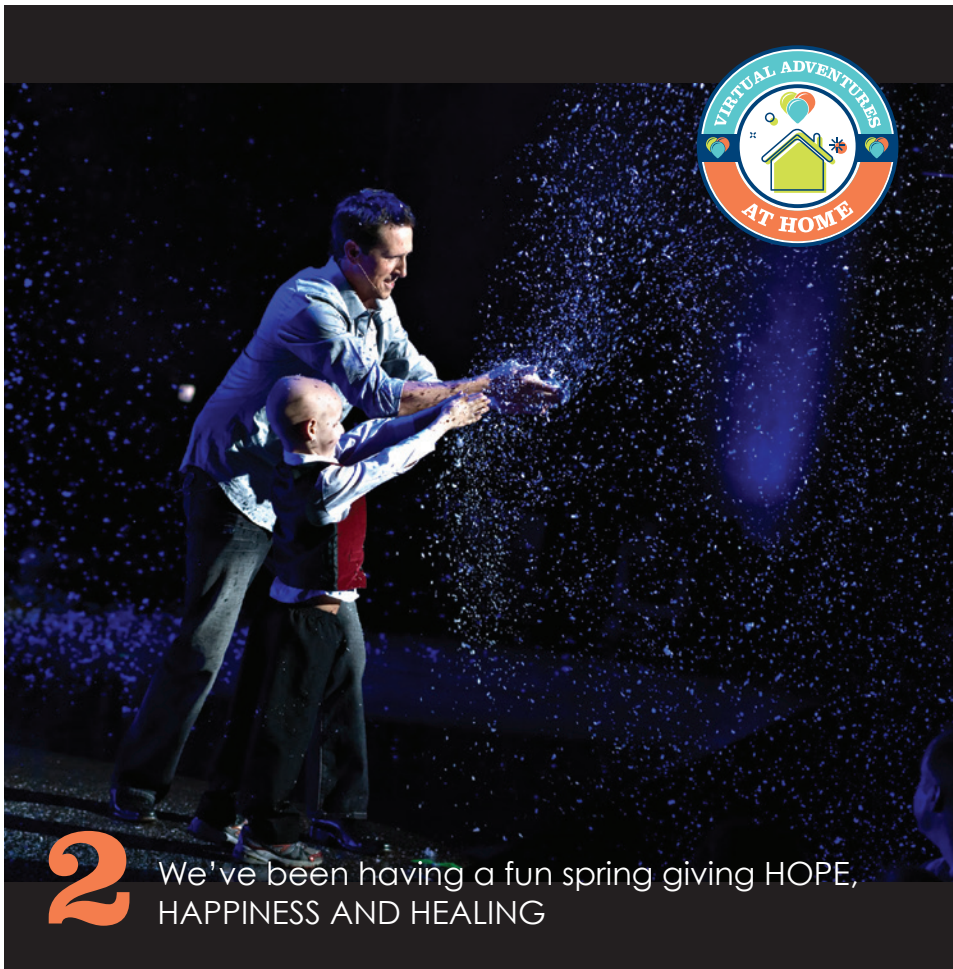
Poe Timmons
Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams

Billy Vickers
Modular Assembly
Innovations LLC.

Nicole Wilson
Carnival Cruise Lines

Lori Holtmann
Honorary Board Member

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Every Scoop Counts



Celebrating 25 Years

Twenty-five years of putting smiles on faces is something to celebrate! We've evolved since that very first Adventure and are looking forward to supporting families for years to come.



Kings Island Orion First Rider's Auction

A Kid Again was selected as the recipient of King Island's First Rider Auction as part of the launch of their new giga coaster, Orion. We are ready to launch!

GIVE HOPE. GIVE NOW.

Use attached envelope or
donate at akidagain.org/hope

WE'RE HERE FOR
HOPE,
HAPPINESS
AND **HEALING.**



When our families need a little **hope, happiness and healing,** A Kid Again is there.

A Kid Again knows the power of hope, happiness, and healing for kids and families dealing with life-threatening conditions. So when the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact Adventures and events, A Kid Again staff and board sprang into action to make sure the A Kid Again mission would continue, no matter what.

Virtual Adventures kicked off in March and were an instant success. Hundreds of families began tuning in to A Kid Again Facebook Live every Wednesday at 2pm to enjoy activities and entertainment, like scavenger hunts and magic shows, right in their living rooms. Kids and families got an interactive experience that brought smiles, laughter, and community, just like in-person Adventures would. As the summer months are approaching, A Kid Again is continuing to think creatively about how we serve our families and will begin an Adventure in a Box program to deliver smiles right to their doorsteps.

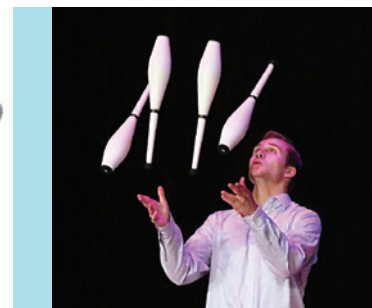
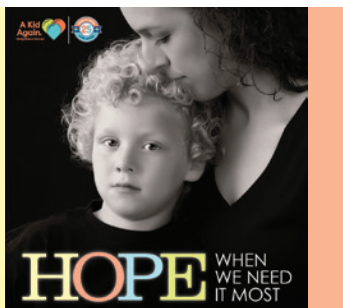
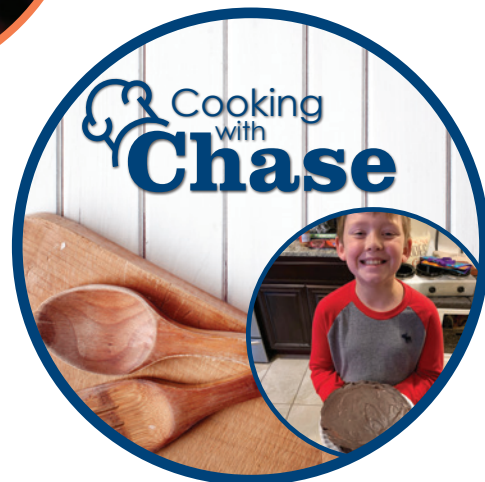
Our kids and families inspire us every day. Their resiliency, strength and hope are with us – and we know they are on the minds of our many passionate volunteers, donors and partners. That is why we launched our Hope, Happiness,

and Healing campaign. Similar to the reasoning for Virtual Adventures and Adventures in a Box, this campaign is designed to inspire by sharing the impact A Kid Again's mission has on the thousands we serve. We hope that hearing stories of those who have felt the power of Adventures and the hope, happiness, and healing they bring, inspire you.

Lives are forever changed when we can give a family a time out from illness. A gift to A Kid Again will help continue this important mission of delivering Adventures, whether in a box at their doorstep, virtually, or in-person. ❤️

GIVE HOPE. GIVE NOW.

Use attached envelope or
donate at akidagain.org/hope





CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



Twenty-five years of putting smiles on faces is something to celebrate! Originally under the name "Adventures for Wish Kids" and founded in 1995 by Poe Timmons, Kathy Derr and Jeffrey Dameron, what is now A Kid Again and its purpose hasn't changed - foster Hope, Happiness, and Healing for families raising kids with life-threatening conditions.

What did that mean 25 years ago? Originally our founders focused on

granting wishes, primarily to Walt Disney World Resort. Going on a trip to a new and "magical" place was fun, but what if there were a solution to recreate the excitement and care-free fun on an on-going, yearly basis throughout the child's entire treatment journey?

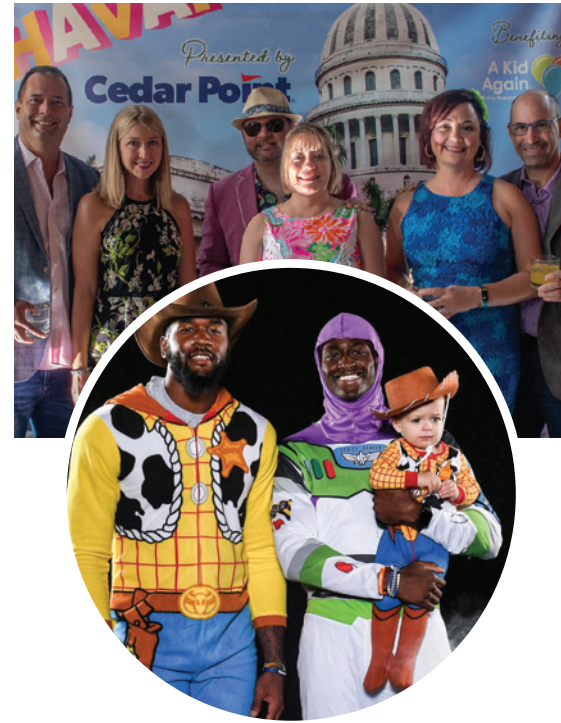
The first Adventure took place in Columbus, Ohio at Magic Mountain. It was an evening filled with putt-putt golf, video games, go-cart, and pizza! 192 attendees came ready to have fun. To pay for the event, Poe Timmons used her personal credit card, and the Adventures began!

Thanks to the fun-filled day at Magic Mountain, and the first-ever Holiday Adventure in December that same year,



nearly 700 people had the opportunity to experience much needed 'normalcy' and support. The families in attendance experienced the fun atmosphere surrounded by others who truly understood what they were going through. The following year, A Kid Again would host four Adventures, including





a day at Kings Island. And through the power of volunteer, donor, and partner support, the number of Adventures has been growing ever since!

It's been 25 years since A Kid Again decided to try something new to help bring

hope, happiness, and healing a little closer to home for families dealing with a life-threatening condition. Today, there are more volunteers, more partners, more donors and more local supporters delivering MORE ADVENTURES!

Thanks to the support of the community over the past 25 years, A Kid Again has hosted more than 500 Adventures with 250,000 kids with life-threatening conditions and their families in attendance. ♥

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Responding to the need — when it was needed most



When the world went into lockdown and cleaning and medical supplies became hard to find, A Kid Again sprung into action! "We know that our families rely on certain items regularly to keep their child safe and healthy," said A Kid Again CEO Oyauma Garrison. "If we could find products or get them donated

to get into the hands of our families when they need it most, then we would be there to do that!" Thanks to the generosity of board members and donors, A Kid Again was able to send cleaning products, paper towels, hand sanitizer and grocery store gift cards to more than 200 families across the organization.

"I greatly appreciated the supplies we got in the mail," said one family. "Thank you so much!"

"So thankful for (you) sending the sanitary wipes and mask with gloves," said another family. "Thank you for all you do for families like ours!"

Unfortunately, isolation is not new for A Kid Again families. Because many of our kids are immunocompromised, our families often live in a world of constant worry about what their child or another family member may be exposed to when out in the community. COVID-19 heightened that concern.

"Now more than probably ever, our families need us," said Oyauma. "Anything we are able to do to make it easier for them during this extra challenging time, we were ready to do."

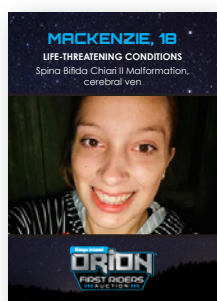
So A Kid Again staff loaded up cars and trucks with items, made trips to the post office, and dropped off packages on door steps. A special thank you to our partners, Matthew 25: Ministries, Middle West Spirits, L Brands, City of Columbus,



White Castle and the Columbus Foundation for their generosity in responding to the need. We are in this together and will continue to serve our families however we can until we can connect in person again! ♥



We Reached for the Stars with the Orion First Riders Auction



Longtime A Kid Again partner, King's Island doesn't launch a new roller coaster lightly - they make a big splash and support a good cause at the same time! For the third time in recent years, A Kid Again was selected as the recipient of King Island's First Rider Auction as part of the launch of their new giga coaster, Orion.

Roller coaster enthusiasts and A Kid Again supporters set out to raise money for the First Rider experience, which was originally set to be unveiled on April 9th. To be a First Rider, participants had to raise a minimum of \$150 for A Kid Again. In doing so, they would get an early experience riding Orion and receive a commemorative First Rider t-shirt.

For some A Kid Again kids, the chance to be a First Rider themselves was exciting! 11-year old Brody was a rider during the last First Rider opportunity and always enjoys the A Kid Again King's Island Adventure. His favorite memory of all? "When I got Mr. Jeff (Damron, from A Kid Again) to ride Ban-shee at King's Island, TWICE!"

While the COVID pandemic put the Orion launch on hold, that didn't stop the excitement behind anticipating the opening of a roller coaster that ties for the 7th largest drop in the world, and is the tallest, fastest and longest first drop at King's Island! We know it will be a ride our kids, families and the public won't want to miss.

All in all – supporters of the Orion First Rider Auction really reached for the stars on this fundraiser. We were on course to smash First Rider fundraising records and will share the results at the rescheduled launch. **Thanks King's Island for continuing to be such a tremendous partner of A Kid Again! ♥**





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Barb Matta, wife of former Ohio State Basketball Coach Thad Matta, has been a part of the A Kid Again family for more than 20 years. Barb is passionate about helping local families and goes above and beyond in her support of A Kid Again. She leads the Adventure committee and started a Women's Group to get her friends involved. Barb works tirelessly to support our mission and even helped establish the local A Kid Again Chapter in Indiana when she moved out of Ohio. ♥

Cedar Point Helps Our Kids Chill Out!

There are multiple anniversaries to be celebrating this year between A Kid Again and Cedar Point! It's the 150th Anniversary of the theme park and the 25th Anniversary of A Kid Again. It's a great time to celebrate these incredible milestones and a relationship that has created smiles, laughter and memories that will last forever.



When A Kid Again kids and families enter the park each summer, the Cedar Point team rolls out the red carpet and treats them to an amazing, special day. When Cedar Point opened their water-park in 2017, A Kid Again families could choose a park...or better yet, go to both!

Cedar Point General Manager Jason McClure and his team also host an Annual Winter Chill Out benefiting A Kid Again. This event invites roller

coaster enthusiasts to see what the park looks when it is completely closed during the winter months. Guests are also treated to some behind-the-scenes experiences and one-on-one conversation with Jason. We couldn't be more thankful to the 100+ Cedar Point employees who volunteer on this day to support A Kid Again and take pride in their park.

With more than 1,200 Cedar Point fans in attendance to pack the park on a cold February day, this year the Winter Chill Out raised \$60,000 in support of A Kid Again! ♥

GIVE HOPE. GIVE NOW.

Use attached envelope or donate at akidagain.org/hope



A Win for the Team – and Our Families

Cannon goes off and the Blue Jackets Win! That always makes for an extra fun hockey game, and that was the outcome for this year's Columbus Blue Jackets Adventure. A win for the team – and a win for our A Kid Again families.

More than 700 A Kid Again fans cheered on the Jackets during the March 3rd game against the Vancouver Canucks, while also enjoying face painting, side games, and even a special Tunnel of Pride experience. This time out from illness included the game, food and parking, making it cost-free and as care-free as we can for our families.

Much of this great Adventure is made possible thanks to the longtime partnership with the Columbus Blue Jackets and support of the CBJ Foundation.

Go Jackets! ♥



NASHVILLE COMES TO NOBLESVILLE



The Indiana chapter of A Kid Again welcomed some of Nashville's best songwriters to the Hoosier state for the second annual "Nashville comes to Noblesville" event, raising close to \$24,000 for A Kid Again. The evening featured performers like Dan Couch, a Logansport Indiana Native who scored his first TOP 40 radio single with MCA recording artist Kip Moore's debut single, "Mary Was The Marrying Kind."

Guests also had the opportunity to hear from Grammy-nominated songwriter Tim James, who has had over 50 major label cuts by artists including Alabama, Darius Rucker, Craig Morgan, Chris Young, and Montgomery Gentry, just to name a few.

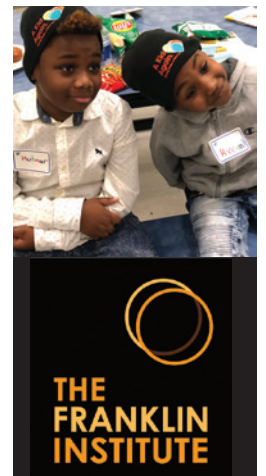
And finally, Nashville songwriter Matt Roy was in attendance to perform and support local Adventures. Matt has scored cuts on Kane Brown's platinum debut album and co-wrote Chris Janson's new radio single "Done," off Janson's Platinum selling "Real Friends" album. Matt recently signed a publishing deal with Nashville powerhouse music publishing company, BMG! ❤️



A Kid Again Comes to Philadelphia

The A Kid Again team is growing! Following a successful launch at the end of 2019 and our first Adventure at the Franklin Institute at the top of 2020, we hit the ground running hiring an Executive Director to lead the Philadelphia chapter.

Please welcome Rachel Lippoff to the A Kid Again family. Rachel has more than 20 years of nonprofit experience and joins us from Jefferson Health where she most recently served as Director of Development. Under Rachel's leadership, we are certain to see more exciting Adventures ahead. Meeting Trey Burke, formerly of the 76ers, was a highlight for many families at the first Adventure – so the bar has been set high! ❤️



INTRODUCING A New, Sweet Adventure



The Southwest Ohio Chapter was spreading some love earlier this year, with its inaugural Valentine's Bash: A Sweet Adventure. More than 200 guests enjoyed a day of dancing, sweet treats and activities – giving those families a time out from illness!

Adding to the sweet treat were some special visitors! Cincinnati Bearcats football players spent time with our kids and their families.

"We've been given a great platform, and if we use it to help other people and just to put smiles on other people's faces, that's a big enough reward for us," said Defensive Lineman Blake Bacevich, while reflecting on the experience.

The kids seemed to enjoy having the players there as well. "They were so much fun for the kids," said one parent. "And it looked like they were loving playing with the kids. Thank you for making my Kimmie laugh and enjoy her day." Another parent added, "These young men were the epitome of class and showed all our kids such genuine kindness!! It was so heart-warming!! Thank you to you all!!"

A Kid Again strives to continue to offer new, exciting Adventures each year for our A Kid Again families, and the Valentine's Bash proved to be a success, with many more to follow. ♥



Tom & Ann DiMarco: Generously Fueling Our Adventures

The first time we met with Tom & Ann DiMarco, it was obvious they cared about others.

As the CEO of TSO, the nation's largest Interim HealthCare franchise, Tom leads a caring team of more than 7,500 employees, who deliver compassionate medical care to people every day. Since 2012, Tom and Ann have been the incredible advocates for the children and families of A Kid Again! Their example constantly enables others to find the same passion to serve others in need!



"It is exciting to watch the evolution of A Kid Again's mission and reach. I've seen Oyauma develop a plan and a team to expand on the mission of the Founder—to bring A Kid Again to every child with a life-threatening condition. As you watch the plan and mission become a reality, you realize that this is just the beginning!" ♥



A Sweet Partnership

As part of its 70th anniversary, Johnson's Real Ice Cream has teamed up with A Kid Again and Giant Eagle to bring everyone something special in May.

During the month of May, Johnson's Real Ice Cream will donate 25 cents for every pint of delicious ice cream sold, and Giant Eagle stores will match this donation! Supporting this campaign will allow A Kid Again to host year-round events, whether they're virtual or in-person, to support our kids and families to provide lasting memories.

Participate by:

- Visiting johnsonsrealicecream.com/a-kid-again/ to have your sweet treats delivered
- Use Curbside Express to pick up your pints from your local Giant Eagle grocery store, who is discounting Johnson's Ice Cream AND matching their donation to A Kid Again during the month of May!
- Place your order online and swing by a Johnson's Real Ice Cream location in Columbus or Chicago to pick up your ice cream
- Tagging Johnson's Real Ice Cream and A Kid Again in social media posts and using the hashtag **#everyscoopcounts**



A Kid Again Kid Aidan Grows up

My name is Aidan Valentine. You may remember me as the boy who lost his eye to retinoblastoma, and would chase his sister around the house yelling "I got my eye on you!"

Now, I'm an 18-year-old young adult, thinking about myself as a child not knowing what this part of my future would look like, or even knowing if it would even be there for me. If it wasn't for Adventures, I can't say my childhood would've been as happy and joyful as I remember.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for impacting my life and my family's life for the better, forever.

Thank you,
Aidan Valentine



WE SAY YES TO HAPPINESS

During the last several weeks, no one has been immune to the challenges of COVID-19. The struggles are real, but we continue to rely on hope to see us through. In the midst of it all, many people have learned the value of setting aside some time for fun.

Renee Dunham and her daughter, Lucy, know this all too well. Lucy's difficult medical journey often demands a break from what has become the everyday norm. That's why Lucy derives so much

happiness from A Kid Again Adventures. Events like Shop with the Pacers at Circle Center Mall in Indianapolis go a long way toward brightening her day.

Lucy's mom is quick to express her gratitude. "Victor Oladipo took Lucy's group to the Finish Line and personally bought her two new pairs of shoes. "Events like this are so amazing for families like ours. We're families who just need a break, with kids who need to create new and wonderful memories."

Hope, happiness, and healing have been the backbone of our mission for more than two decades. Help us create new and wonderful memories for kids like Lucy who so dearly need them.

GIVE HOPE. GIVE NOW.

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