



September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Families, caregivers, charities and research groups across the United States are observing September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. In the U.S., over 12,000 children under the age of 21 are diagnosed with cancer every year, approximately 3,000 of them will not survive the disease. A diagnosis can turn the lives of a family upside down - days suddenly filled with alternating moments of courage, frustration, boredom, anxiety and pain. The objective of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month is to put a spotlight on the types of cancer that largely affect children, survivorship issues, and - importantly - to help raise funds for research groups working towards cures (links below images).

Cancers that are common among adults (e.g., lung, breast, prostate, colon) are rare in children and adolescents, as demonstrated by the data from the NCI. Among the 12 major types of childhood cancers, leukemias and cancers of the brain and central nervous system represent more than 50 percent of new cases. Leukemias account for about one-third of cancers in children, with the most common type of leukemia in children being acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Childhood cancer is the most common cause of death by disease for young people in the United States.

For more information about Childhood Cancer, Awareness and Donations, visit <https://www.acco.org/default.aspx>, the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)* webpage at <http://www.pica.army.mil/mwr/ACS/EFMP.htm> or contact the EFMP Manager, Marci Keck, at 973-724-2145 or marci.keck@us.army.mil.

**The Department of Defense EFMP is a mandatory enrollment program that works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated community support, housing, and educational, medical, and personnel services to Families with special/exceptional needs.*