

For immediate release: Wed. April 30th, 2014, Santa Clarita, CA

“Kids come first—not last!”

Jack’s Angels Foundation for Pediatric Brain Tumor Awareness

May is Brain Tumor Awareness Month; **the leading cause of cancer-related death in children¹ remains one of the least-funded areas of cancer research.** It should be generally known that 4% of the National Cancer Institute’s (N.I.H.) yearly budget for cancer research is allocated for all pediatric cancers.² Because there is so little industry(pharmaceutical) investment, pediatric cancers suffer the most from cuts to the NIH. Public awareness of this fact has the potential to create change in our system.

Jack’s Angels mission is *awareness, support and research for **DIPG***, (diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma)a pediatric brainstem tumor responsible for **80% of pediatric brain tumor deaths** annually³, no survivors, and no significant progress to this effect in well over 30 years⁴. Just approved in April 2013 as a Public Charity, Jack’s Angels supports the DIPG research fund at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, our regional Children’s research institution. “The other half of the financial equation that often gets ignored is the research institution itself, its doctors, researchers, and other personnel. Creating a specific fund for pediatric brain tumor research will allow for more creativity in research protocol and collaboration between institutions. We hope that one day there will be such a fund at every major children’s research institution in the US, that for diagnosed children and their families, hope may begin to replace certain grief. Many neuro-oncologists agree that progress in this area will invariably benefit all of cancer research, our understanding of the brain, and our approach to medicine,” comments Janet Demeter, founder of Jack’s Angels.

Jack’s Angels is continuing its campaign to help Jack, “Count to a Million!” for pediatric brain tumor research at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles with its 2nd Annual, “Art for Jack, ‘Celebrating Children’s Art’” event on Tuesday, May 20th, 3:30-7:30pm at the High Desert School MPR in Acton. The event features children’s art workshops, family entertainment, art exhibits, auction, raffle, and a special presentation of Center Stage Opera, with early registration available for the new children’s choir (K-6) starting this fall 2014. For more information about the event and Jack’s Angels, visit www.jacksangels.org.

Jack’s Angels was founded in loving memory of James-William “Jack” Demeter (8/30/08-7/30/12), who was diagnosed with DIPG October 28, 2011 and died roughly 9 months later, the median survival time for children diagnosed with DIPG⁵. The foundation and its name was inspired by the love and support of the local communities of Acton, Agua Dulce, and Santa Clarita, and the people, who demonstrated with their hearts that **our children must come first, not last.** The business of government, medicine, and pharmaceutical research puts profit, not children’s lives, first, with respect to cancer research. We believe that this absolutely can and will change with public support and attention brought to our representatives in government.

¹ The American Childhood Cancer Association www.acco.org

² “Focus on Pediatric Cancer” Conference, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda MD, 2014

³ The Lyla Nsouli Foundation for DIPG Research

⁴ The Oxford Journal of Neuro-Oncology, 2012

⁵ The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation www.pbtfus.org