Dear Friends,

WHEN YOU THINK OF CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL COLORADO, WHAT IMAGE COMES TO MIND?

If you’re like most people, you might picture one of our many facilities across the state. Perhaps you envision a cheerful building filled with the best pediatric caregivers and cutting-edge medical technologies. A place of hope, compassion and healing.

We couldn’t be prouder of the work that we do on the Anschutz Medical Campus and in our care locations statewide. Yet our team’s vision for the future goes far beyond the walls of a hospital building – and that’s really what Courage is… The Campaign to Transform Children’s Health is all about.

Last year, Children’s Hospital Colorado kicked off its most ambitious fundraising initiative in history. Since then, our generous community has invested more than $235 million into the Courage is… Campaign – well over half the goal of $400 million. In addition, the hospital recently rolled out a new roadmap for the future, which further solidifies our vision to transform the health and well-being of children both here in Colorado and across the Rocky Mountain region.

So what does transforming children’s health truly look like?

Picture a child from Colorado Springs undergoing chemotherapy. Thanks to donors supporting expanded services in Southern Colorado, his family is able to avoid weekly commutes to Denver and access world-class pediatric care at a facility just miles from his home.

Picture a child suffering from a rare disease in rural Wyoming. With the help of donors to our virtual health program, his local physician can consult with our experts to develop a treatment plan – all without leaving the child’s hometown.

Picture a teen mom in Denver who is feeling overwhelmed. With the support of our Prevention Fund, our team can provide education and resources to give her child the best-possible start in life – and even help to avoid medical issues down the road.

And picture the hundreds of thousands of children who are benefiting from our team’s research discoveries – groundbreaking new treatments that would not be possible without our team of physician-scientists and the donors who support them.

We are incredibly grateful that so many of you have already committed to joining us on this journey. With your help, our courageous vision for the future will soon become a reality.
I love early morning. The quiet. The hope. The time to think, dream, wonder and plan.

Recently, I’ve rejuvenated an old habit I had when I first arrived at Children’s Hospital Colorado in late 1999. I’ll get to the hospital early and watch it “wake up” and come to life.

In the middle of the night, fear can take over. You wake at 1:30 a.m. fretful over the challenges of life. A tired brain focuses on how everything can go wrong.

But the morning brings fresh perspective. Fresh hope. Fresh courage.

So, I come and sit in the Boettcher Atrium at Children’s Colorado and watch courage awaken – and replace fear – as families walk through the door. Some of those who enter are here for the first time; some for the hundredth. It is clear that illness has abruptly intruded in the lives of these children.

Children’s Colorado provides the first rays of hope on these fretful mornings, as the natural light bathes the atrium with optimism and beauty.

Children enter, and I feel great empathy and affection for them. They are often cuddling their favorite stuffed animal in their arms. As they enter, almost all hold hands with their parents.

I realize, of course, that my affection pales in comparison to that of the parents holding their hands. These parents are holding their very heart and soul in their hands – their child with whom they would gladly change places.

All of us at Children’s Colorado come right along beside them. We share our courage until their own is rejuvenated.

It is amazing to watch as hope grows into courage, because they realize they are not alone in their journey.

Courage in the morning is beautiful because it replaces fear with hope.

Courage thrives here!

When Sydney was a toddler, her parents used to call her the “I-do-it” kid. That was because Sydney, a spunky, determined little girl, would often protest her parents’ efforts to help her by exclaiming, “I do it!”

With her joyful and independent spirit, Sydney seemed completely healthy. But shortly after she turned 3, Sydney’s mom and dad noticed a change in their daughter. Sydney seemed fatigued, and she stopped wanting to play with friends or ride her bike. Often-times, she would ask her parents, Stacie and Dan, to carry her.

Then one day, Sydney developed a severe fever. Upon examining Sydney, her pediatrician referred the family to Children’s Hospital Colorado for further evaluation.

A shocking discovery

Doctors initially thought that Sydney might be suffering from some sort of viral heart infection.

“They didn’t waste any time,” said Sydney’s mom, Stacie. “We were seen by every department while they tried to figure out what was wrong.”

With state-of-the-art technology and imaging, caregivers at Children’s Colorado ultimately determined that Sydney did have
an infection, but the larger under-
lying problem was something far more serious. Doctors discovered a congenital heart defect that had remained hidden since birth: Sydney was born without a left coronary artery.

This news was alarming, but in the weeks that followed, Sydney and her parents found solace and support at the hospital. "Children's Colorado took care of everything for us," recalled Stacie. "Our hands were held every step of the way with compassion, understanding and detailed explanations."

After evaluating Sydney's treatment options, it was decided that bypass surgery would be the best course of action. Two months before her 4th birthday, Sydney was checked in to Children's Colorado for a precarious open heart surgery. Stacie and Dan knew their daughter was in great hands, but they still described the day of the surgery as "terrifying."

"You're handing your child over to these doctors and nurses, and you're praying that they're going to bring her back to you," Stacie recalled. "But there was also peace in knowing that, no matter the outcome, you had done everything you possibly could for your child. Children's Colorado gives you that gift. They're the best of the best."

Hours later, the most frightening day of Stacie and Dan's life turned into one of the happiest when they learned that their daughter's surgery was a success. Sydney's heart was repaired and beating on its own.

**Bouncing back**

Sydney spent the next several weeks in the hospital recovering. Once they were home, Sydney's parents noticed an immediate difference in their daughter. "She got back to being a child who could do everything on her own again," said Dan. The "I-do-it" kid was back.

Now 13 years old, Sydney still has that same energetic spirit, and she's using it to entertain audiences on stage. She performs as a professional actress with several local theater companies, including recent roles in *Annie*, *Shrek* and *The Music Man*. She dreams of someday being on Broadway.

Sydney continues to face chronic chest pain - a lingering consequence of her heart defect. She also has scoliosis – a side effect of her surgery that requires daily physical therapy. But she refuses to let her challenges get her down. "She's a child who lives life to its fullest," said Stacie. "She tackles the world. She's a very courageous kid."

Sydney says she is incredibly thankful to Children's Colorado. "Now I get to be on stage. I get to do what I love," said Sydney. "It's nice to know that even though you went through something bad, you got through it."

**Best of the best: The Heart Institute**

Continually recognized for its outstanding outcomes, the Heart Institute at Children's Hospital Colorado is one of the best places in the nation for pediatric heart care and surgery. Combining our world-class medical team with state-of-the-art technology, no other hospital in the region offers the depth of expertise available at Children's Colorado.

We also have one of only eight stand-alone pediatric cardiac research centers nationwide, where there are currently more than 100 different studies underway. Our team of clinical researchers is working hard every day to identify less invasive, more effective treatments for young heart patients.

With the help of generous donors, our physician-scientists will continue to identify transformative discoveries that give kids like Sydney hope for a healthier future.
Community rallies around
The Campaign to Transform Children’s Health

Trying out for the varsity team. Performing a violin concerto. Earning a blue belt in karate. Performing the lead role in “Annie”. Taking first steps.

These are just a few of the milestones that our patients have celebrated over the past year. While they may seem like typical childhood experiences, these everyday courageous moments are nothing short of extraordinary given the medical challenges that these kids have overcome. And they get at the very crux of Children’s Hospital Colorado’s new philanthropic initiative, Courage is… The Campaign to Transform Children’s Health.

Campaign momentum builds
Last year, Children’s Colorado launched the most ambitious philanthropic campaign in the hospital’s history. Since then, the community has come together in incredible ways to support Children’s Colorado’s courageous vision for the future. Collectively, our generous donors, board members and community partners have contributed more than $235 million toward the Courage is… Campaign – well over half the overall goal of $400 million.

Further strengthening the Campaign’s momentum, the hospital recently adopted a strategic plan known as Reimagine 2020. This roadmap for the future details bold new initiatives that will have far-reaching impacts on children’s health – locally, regionally and even globally (see more details on page 12). The Courage is… Campaign will provide the critical funding needed to achieve the goals outlined in the plan, enabling Children’s Colorado to impact pediatric health in ways that we only dreamed of yesterday.

“Since the Courage is… Campaign launched last year, we have been thrilled with the philanthropic partnership of the community,” said Steve Winesett, president and CEO of Children’s Hospital Colorado Foundation. “Philanthropic support will continue to be the critical factor in advancing our vision to reimagine children’s health, so we’re incredibly grateful to our donors.”

As we move into the next phase of the Courage is… Campaign, we invite you to join us in helping to give more children the opportunity to experience their own courageous moments, both today and in the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.COURAGEIS.ORG

About

Courage is…
The Campaign to Transform Children’s Health

As one of the top 5 pediatric hospitals in the nation, Children’s Hospital Colorado has more than a century of powerful momentum on its side.

Today, Children’s Colorado stands at a critical juncture. Now, more than ever before, our mission of giving children healthy futures is within reach. With the help of the community, we are poised to make strategic investments in people and programs that will advance pediatric health care in ways we only dreamed of yesterday.

Courage is… The Campaign to Transform Children’s Health is designed to build on our history of accomplishments and seize the enormous opportunities before us.

This $400-million fundraising effort will transform the future of pediatric medicine while promoting healthier communities across the Rocky Mountain region.

With your help, we can improve the health of children in Colorado and around the world.

Campaign Update

OVERALL CAMPAIGN GOAL: $400 MILLION

Funds Raised to Date:
$235 Million*
$200 Million
$300 Million

*As of 12/31/15

$235 Million* AS OF 12/31/15
COURAGE IS… THE CAMPAIGN TO TRANSFORM CHILDREN’S HEALTH
SEeks TO TRANSFORM THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN
THROUGH SIX KEY OBJECTIVES.

Building Healthy Communities
Children’s Hospital Colorado is already unparalleled in the region for outstanding patient care. Not only do we intend to keep it that way, but with the launch of the Courage is… Campaign, we’re ready to take our work far beyond the walls of the hospital to improve the health of children in communities across the region.

Goal: $83 million
• Prevention and early intervention programs: Recognizing the critical role of prevention, Children’s Colorado will work to improve child health through initiatives that support families, prevent illness and injury, and create safe and healthy places for kids to live and thrive.
• Outstanding clinical programs: The Campaign will accelerate the positive momentum in clinical programs that are already proven to deliver some of the best outcomes in the country.
• Growth and partnerships: We’re working to strengthen community partnerships and regional care alliances so that every child in the West can access our pediatric experts.
• Virtual health programs: Investing in virtual health will help to give families across the region access to the resources and expertise of a top 5 children’s hospital.

Creating Breakthroughs with Research and Innovation
Federal research funding has decreased across the country, making increased philanthropic investment even more critical to advancing the progress of pediatric medicine. The Courage is… Campaign seeks to strengthen our research efforts and accelerate the pace of groundbreaking discoveries at Children’s Hospital Colorado.

Goal: $46 million
• Research Institute: From giving young investigators seed funding to providing bridge grants to physician-scientists on the brink of new breakthroughs, a robust Research Institute provides the infrastructure needed to foster a culture of collaboration, creativity and continual discovery.
• Individual research projects: By supporting world-class research projects across all clinical areas, the Campaign will reinforce Children’s Colorado’s position as an international force in overcoming children’s health care challenges.
• Center for Innovation: The newly formed Center for Innovation will allow Children’s Colorado to turn more of our clinical and research insights into ground-breaking discoveries with far-reaching public benefits.

Investing in Brilliant Talent
So much of Children’s Hospital Colorado’s promise for the future revolves around our incredible team of pediatric experts. Everything we aspire to do – from finding transformational cures to providing the highest-quality care for children fighting life-threatening diseases – relies on keeping and growing our world-class medical and scientific talent.

Goal: $76 million
• Sustained excellence through endowments: Endowed gifts provide a permanent source of revenue, eliminating the risk of funding gaps. This allows innovative clinical and research programs to grow, excel and thrive.
• The Recruitment and Retention Fund: This fund further strengthens our ability to attract and keep the brightest minds in medicine and science – and gives them the resources they need to address children’s health challenges.
• Data Analytics Resource Center: With enhanced infrastructure and technology, we can give our clinicians richer, more accessible data to support clinical and operational excellence.
• Center for Nursing Excellence: The Center will support the education, professional development and leadership growth for these critically important caregivers.

Expanding Services in Southern Colorado
Increasing access to high-quality care is a critical part of Children’s Hospital Colorado’s mission. The Courage is… Campaign will help Children’s Colorado to expand our presence in Southern Colorado and improve the health of children throughout the region.

Goal: TBD
• Collaborating to keep kids healthy: Our enhanced presence in Southern Colorado will enable Children’s Colorado to proactively partner with more pediatric practices, schools, recreation centers and other community assets to improve children’s health.
• A new hospital: Children’s Colorado recently announced plans to build a dedicated pediatric hospital in Colorado Springs (see article on page 13). The new facility will allow more children to receive the care and expertise of a top 5 children’s hospital closer to home.

Growing the Children’s Fund
Gifts to the Children’s Fund are unrestricted donations used to strengthen the hospital’s areas of greatest need. This critically important fund allows us to respond efficiently to any clinical need while also providing children and families with crucial support and resources – many of which are not reimbursed by traditional insurance plans.

Goal: $100 million

Building our Future
Planned gifts are a vital part of the Courage is… Campaign, because they prepare our institution to face the challenges we haven’t yet predicted, ensuring that Children’s Colorado will always have the resources it needs to help kids in need. By making a future gift or estate gift to Children’s Colorado, you can create a courageous legacy and foster healthier futures for generations to come.

Goal: $95 million

Total Campaign Goal: $400 million
Children’s Colorado to expand services in Southern Colorado

As part of our commitment to provide outstanding pediatric care to the Southern Colorado community, Children’s Hospital Colorado recently announced plans to build a new hospital in Colorado Springs.

Located on the Memorial North campus, the new facility will support our mission of enhancing access to high-quality pediatric care across the state and region. Supporting healthier communities is a key initiative of the Campaign to Transform Children’s Health. Building a hospital just for kids in Colorado Springs will allow more children to receive the care and expertise of one of the top 5 best children’s hospitals in the country, closer to home. By expanding the health system in Southern Colorado, Children’s Colorado can proactively partner with more pediatric practices, schools, recreation centers and other community organizations to help keep kids healthy.

2016 building plans
Construction will begin in 2016, and the facility is expected to open in 2018. In conjunction with the Campaign, philanthropy will play a major role in bringing the project to fruition. We thank our generous donors for partnering with us on this exciting new endeavor to support children’s health across the entire Rocky Mountain region.

Reimagine 2020 outlines bold vision for the future

As the Courage is… Campaign gains momentum, Children’s Hospital Colorado is moving forward with a new strategic plan that will define the path forward for the organization.

Reimagine 2020 is a roadmap for the future that – in conjunction with the Campaign – will enable Children’s Colorado to transform children’s health while deepening our impact on patients, peers and communities in ways we’ve never done before.

As one of the top 5 children’s hospitals in the nation, Children’s Colorado is already at the forefront of children’s health. Taking into account the rapidly changing health care landscape, the leadership team has put extensive thought and planning into the future of Children’s Colorado. The result is a plan that ensures our organization will continue to define and deliver pediatric health care excellence through 2020 and beyond.

Reimagine 2020 calls for an unwavering focus on the areas that have always made Children’s Colorado great, including clinical programs, our exceptional team, technology, operational excellence, quality and safety, among other areas. In addition, the hospital plans to tackle new frontiers that will broaden its impact far beyond Colorado. These transformational strategies include enhanced investments into research and innovation, population health initiatives that drive healthier communities, and new partnerships that will bring better care to more children across the Rocky Mountain region.

With the help of generous donors, the Reimagine 2020 plan will enable Children’s Colorado to realize its ambitious vision for improving children’s health. The plan ensures that every dollar invested into Children’s Colorado will continue to be used strategically to have the greatest possible impact on the patients and families we serve, both today and in the future.

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The power of endowments
Donors fuel talent, innovation and hope

It takes top talent to transform the future of pediatric medicine. That’s why we are incredibly grateful to the donors who have established endowments at Children’s Hospital Colorado.

These supporters are families and foundations. Moms and grandfathers. Doctors and dads. And over the past several months, they have come together in extraordinary ways to support Courage is…The Campaign to Transform Children’s Health.

Endowments are a powerful force for attracting top talent and fueling solutions to children’s health care challenges. By helping eliminate funding gaps, endowments allow us to do what matters most for today’s children while setting the stage for healthy generations to come.

The generous donors who establish these endowments are families coming together in extraordinary ways to support the benefit of our tiniest patients.

Donors fuel talent, innovation and hope in this together to try to make a difference.

Courage is… Campaign.

For the benefit of our tiniest patients.

When 13-year-old Sophie Schlosser was hospitalized at Children’s Colorado for complications resulting from a rare autoimmune disease, her parents were overwhelmed by the extraordinary care she received. The Schlosser family, who lives in Aspen, later made a $250,000 gift to establish the Schlosser Family Endowed Fund for Pulmonary Training. The gift supports training and education for interns and fellows at the Children’s Colorado Breathing Institute. The Schlossers say they hope their gift will help to teach their own children about the importance of gratitude and giving back.

“There is nothing more important than the life of a child, and we’re all in this together to try to make a difference.”

- Richard Ehst, donor

Advancing endocrine bone disease research

Inspired by the care that their daughter Remington received at Children’s Colorado, Ed and Jeannette Kerr pledged a $2 million gift to establish an endowed chair in Endocrinology. The fund will promote patient care and research into better treatments and cures for endocrine bone diseases, while expanding the scope and research of Children’s Colorado’s Endocrinology program.

Giving hope to Homocystinuria patients

Pennsylvania-based businessman Richard Ehst and his wife Angela have donated $2 million to fund the groundbreaking research of Dr. Kenneth Maclean at Children’s Colorado. Mr. Ehst’s gift was inspired by his 10-year-old grandson Will, who has a serious metabolic disease called Homocystinuria. Dr. Maclean and his team are leading the way in Homocystinuria research.

“...the first 1,000 days of a child’s life are to overall healthy development.”

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Colorado is providing more than $75,000 to support food security for Children’s Colorado patients. The gift will enable Children’s Colorado to help our patients avoid the threat of hunger.

Corporations get behind the Campaign

Since we launched the Courage is… Campaign, many generous corporate partners have come forward with gifts that will help transform Children’s Health.

Comcast, a longtime supporter, has committed $500,000 in television advertising to support the Courage is… Campaign, as well as more than $50,000 in special events advertisements.

CoBank has donated $100,000 towards Children’s Colorado’s Emergency Trauma Outreach Symposiums. The gift supports outreach to rural communities to train emergency responders and physicians in best pediatric practices.

Since 2000, Kohl’s has given more than $4.7 million to Children’s Colorado. The company’s 2016 gift of $278,663 will kick off a new campaign to teach parents and caregivers how critically important the first 1,000 days of a child’s life are to overall healthy development.

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WE ASKED SOME OF OUR MOST LOYAL DONORS:

What inspires your support?

“Children’s Hospital Colorado is at a tipping point. It started when we moved to the Anschutz campus, and now it’s rocketing ahead in so many ways. For me, it’s all about investing in the future and making it better for children who are going to grow up and become adults—hopefully adults who are healthy members of society. That’s why I give.”

Diane Gates Wallach, Gates Society Founding Member

“I support Children's Hospital Colorado because I am the beneficiary of life-changing medical research, so I am passionate about maintaining that legacy and heritage. A single breakthrough can positively impact thousands—even millions—of children who are facing debilitating diseases, and yet research funding is scarcer than ever. I give to support the physician-scientists who are on the brink of the next major discovery in children’s health.”

Betsy Searle, Foundation Board of Trustees and Gates Society Member

“We’ve seen first-hand the debilitating effects of stress and anxiety. We give to Children’s Colorado because we believe the research and work conducted by the Pediatric Mental Health Institute will have an enormous impact in helping children to live happy, healthy lives. We feel privileged to support a mental health program that will benefit countless children and their families for years to come.”

Leslie and William Vollbracht, who established the Leslie and William Vollbracht Family Chair in Stress and Anxiety Disorders

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The baby – a girl – was healthy. Was. Then, two months after birth, she got a respiratory virus.

A bad, baffling one that, despite intensive care over the next eight months, destroyed her lungs through a merciless mechanism called interstitial lung disease (ILD). Her parents made the heart-wrenching decision not to seek a lung transplant, and the girl died.

For pediatric pulmonologist Robin Deterding, that death a decade ago – a death she couldn’t explain – was a turning point: an end that was also a beginning.

“If you treat kids with rare, complex diseases, the present isn’t good enough,” she says. “You aim for the future – making a difference not just 100 years from now, but in the lifetime of a child. To do that, you have to think outside the box.”

Jumping into the unknown
Some people might be put off by the prospect of jumping out of the box and into the unknown. Deterding isn’t one of those; in fact, she’s spurred on by the prospect.

“I like to be a trailblazer, and I’ve always been driven by curiosity and an appreciation for the complexity of science. I like to live in a ‘yes’ state, not a ‘no’ state,” she says.

As she rattles off the advances and convergences she sees from exploring new avenues – DNA sequencing and stem-cell technology, to name a few – Deterding’s enthusiasm blazes even brighter.

She explains how her research colleagues can now lift a skin cell from a child, take it back to a “stem cell” in the lab – meaning to de-specialize it, transforming it into a cell that could become nerve or muscle or lung tissue – and then create the cell with the specific mutation that causes a disease.

“Then we can do testing to find drugs that can prevent or correct that mutation,” says Deterding. “They’ve already done it with cystic fibrosis. Now, working with scientists around the country, we’ve got grants to do it for ILD. High-throughput drug testing is the way of the future for our kids with genetic mutations.”

Deterding’s vision of the future and her current research also include discovering specific protein markers of diseases to pinpoint what’s going wrong in a child’s body – and how to make it right again.

“We have a unique new collaboration with a Colorado biotech company that lets us measure thousands of proteins in a single drop of blood,” she says. “This technology should allow us to determine a kid’s disease diagnosis, prognosis and response to treatment. That’s personalized medicine, and that’s the future, too.”

She makes these predictions – these promises – from the place where she chooses to take her stand, as a clinician and a researcher: From a place of hope, in the state of "yes."
Voices of Courage

WE ASKED OUR PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS, “WHAT DOES COURAGE MEAN TO YOU?”

CONNOR, AGE 21
“Courage is being me and doing my best.”
Connor Classic rider and patient at the Anna and John J. Se Center for Down Syndrome

JULIA, AGE 18
“Courage is not just putting on a brave face because that’s what people want to see. It’s telling yourself you are brave enough and that you can do it.”
Spent 24 days in intensive care for Guillain-Barre Syndrome complications

TOBIN, AGE 6
“Courage is epic bravery – like not being scared of haunted houses! It’s also treating other people the way you want to be treated.”
Longtime patient with a rare metabolic disease

BROOKE, AGE 11
“Courage is trying to be as brave as I can be, even in a scary situation.”
Heart Institute patient

SHARE YOUR STORY
Whether you’re a patient, a parent or a donor, we want to hear your story of courage. Go to: www.childrenscoloradofoundation.org/yourstory

DR. NICK FOREMAN
“I’ve treated hundreds of patients with brain tumors, and I’ve seen parents who take a disaster, such as the death of a child, and still go on to support other children. The courage of these parents and their desire to improve outcomes going forward… that sort of courage following a death is absolutely inspiring.”
Children’s Hospital Colorado pediatric neuro-oncologist
I pride myself on my optimism. I am a very positive person and live every day by my motto: “Live well, love much, laugh often.” I have had this motto since my first cancer diagnosis on November 30, 2004.

I was a scared, 13-year-old girl whose main concern was losing my hair. Naivety unexpectedly helped me through my cancer treatment. All I knew was that I was sick and needed to get better. I really didn’t understand the full implications of having cancer. I stayed positive and went into remission before my 14th birthday in May 2005.

When I relapsed in June 2010, however, I fully understood the ramifications of having cancer. I had just finished my first year at The Colorado College. I knew I was seriously sick and that there was a chance that the cancer could win. My worst fear had been relapsing, but upon learning I had cancer again, my primary emotion wasn’t fear, but anger. I had never been so mad in my life! I just wanted to give up, and initially I even refused a bone marrow transplant.

That attitude did not last too long. After some time, I recognized that anger and frustration weren’t going to get me anywhere. So I chose positivity. Just like when I was 13, I told myself, “I am sick and need to get better.” I decided to make the most out of every day throughout my treatment and pepper my life with love and laughter. I made it through my bone marrow transplant and was able to get my bachelor’s degree, join a professional dance company and travel the world – all because of my choice to be positive. Today, I’ve been cancer-free for more than five years.

Courage means staying positive in the face of adversity. It is being optimistic when you have every right to be sad, upset, terrified, angry and feel defeated. Courage is finding that silver lining and seeing the glass as half full. That’s what beating cancer taught me. That’s what courage means to me.

I asked Mackenzi, what does courage mean to you?

Mackenzi celebrates two birthdays every year: One traditional birthday – she turns 25 this May – and another to celebrate the day she beat cancer. The two-time cancer survivor calls October 8, 2010, her “re-birthday,” because that was the day that a life-saving bone marrow transplant at Children’s Hospital Colorado sent her leukemia into remission for good.

We asked Mackenzi, what does courage mean to you?