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### **ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation Launches GlowGold Campaign to Light Up Virginia for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**

**Fairfax, VA** – September 1, 2024 – ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation is thrilled to announce the launch of its annual GlowGold campaign, a community-wide initiative to raise awareness and support for children with cancer and their families in Virginia. Throughout September, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, the Foundation encourages buildings, homes, and landmarks across the state to illuminate in gold to represent the 359 children diagnosed with cancer each year.

The GlowGold campaign serves as a powerful symbol of solidarity and hope for families affected by childhood cancer. By lighting up their communities in gold, participants show their support and help to bring attention to the resources needed by families impacted by pediatric cancer from the moment of diagnosis and beyond.

"No parent or family is ever prepared to hear the words 'your child has cancer,' let alone prepared for how isolating a cancer diagnosis can be," said Amy Godkin, Executive Director of ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation. "The GlowGold campaign provides a tangible way for our community to unite and show their support for these brave children and their families. By illuminating our state in gold, we hope to raise awareness, foster hope, and inspire action."

In Northern Virginia alone, about 125 - 150 children are diagnosed with cancer each year and currently there are roughly 215 - 230 children undergoing active treatment. The impact of cancer on children and their families extends far beyond the diagnosis. ASK immediately steps in from the moment of diagnosis to provide these children and their families with invaluable support, educational resources, and a strong community to lean on.

As Amy Godkin, Executive Director of ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation, notes, 'Children with cancer often face significant challenges during and after treatment, including late effects that can impact their cognitive abilities and academic performance. By choosing to GlowGold, you can raise awareness about these issues to help ensure that the families affected by cancer in your community receive the support they need.'

As a parent from Northern Virginia whose daughter, Julia, has battled a Grade II Ependymoma brain tumor, Melissa Alexander understands firsthand the devastating impact of pediatric

cancer. She shares, "Every September, I'll be Glowing Gold in honor of my bold, beautiful, brave daughter, Supergirl Julia. Diagnosed at just 8 years old, Julia endured countless surgeries, chemo, and radiation treatments. We're incredibly grateful for her progress, but no child should have to face such a battle. My family and I are committed to raising awareness. Every child deserves a brighter future."

To participate in the GlowGold campaign, individuals, businesses, and organizations are encouraged to:

- **Illuminate their buildings or homes in gold:** Use gold light bulbs, LED strings, or other creative lighting solutions to create a golden glow.
- **Share their support on social media:** Use the hashtag #GlowGoldVA to spread awareness and inspire others to join the cause.

By participating in the GlowGold campaign, you can help make a difference in the lives of families. Let's unite to light up Virginia in gold and support childhood cancer patients and survivors across your community.

For more information about ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation's Glow Gold campaign, please visit [www.glowgoldva.org](http://www.glowgoldva.org). To learn more about ASK's ongoing initiatives, visit [www.askccf.org](http://www.askccf.org).

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#### **About ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation**

ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to making life better for children and families affected by pediatric cancer. Through its programs and services, ASK strives to provide families with access to all-around support wherever they need it, from the moment of diagnosis, through treatment, and beyond.