Imagine life as an eight-year-old fighting cancer. Imagine what a joy it is to be able to get out of the hospital, away from chemotherapy and radiation, away from needles and doctors and nurses—and head out to meet your favorite sports star. The children of Kids Kicking Cancer, an organization that teaches breathing techniques and martial arts to children suffering with diseases many can’t even pronounce, were given that opportunity twice this past year. Superheroes meeting Superheroes.

Children as little as three feet tall stood amongst the giants, teaching those breathing techniques to the Detroit Pistons, instructing world class basketball players to “breathe in the light and blow out the darkness.” When the children finished teaching, the Pistons returned the favor, lifting some of the tinier children into the air to sink baskets, ensuring that each child felt like a superstar athlete.

As part of the Detroit Lions Crucial Catch initiative, the team held a Superhero Ball complete with costumes, food, activities, games, and a chance to interact. As one mom said, “It put a smile on my face! When my son goes to the hospital, and you see the pain, it kills me. He’s a sports fan, he loves football. He wants to be like them. It gives him hope that he can do anything.”

The highlight of the night was when the heroes of Kids Kicking Cancer taught their Detroit Lions heroes the themes of Power Peace Purpose. A hero is defined as “a person admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements or noble qualities.” All that attended these two events know that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

President - Kids Kicking Cancer
Knollwood Country Club was the perfect backdrop for the Inaugural Kids Kicking Cancer Golf Outing presented by SLI Group. On July 31, well over 100 golfers joined us for a day on the links to help raise much needed funds to support Kids Kicking Cancer’s life-altering work. After a strolling lunch, emcee Lila Lazarus introduced many celebrities who joined us from the realms of sports, entertainment, media, and politics. The golfers were sent off with a rousing national anthem by the Detroit Red Wings’ Karen Newman and an inspiring Breath Brake demonstration by the heroes of Kids Kicking Cancer.

Eighteen beautiful holes later the players were joined by a room-full of additional guests for dinner, and a fabulous silent auction.

Thank you to board member Josh Kaplan and his brother Darryl Kaplan for chairing the event. Looking forward to seeing you on July 30, 2018 for the 2nd annual outing!!
Through a St. Baldrick’s Supportive Care Research grant, Wayne State University Neuroscientist Hilary Marusak Ph.D. and her team, in cooperation with Children’s Hospital of Michigan, are following a group of 14 kids as they begin the Kids Kicking Cancer program. The first of its kind study is measuring how martial arts therapy can reduce pediatric cancer pain and distress and promote healthy brain development.

Using an fMRI machine, Dr. Marusak scans each child’s brain twice – once before they begin Kids Kicking Cancer and once after attending numerous classes, where they are taught the breathing and meditative techniques. “The brain, when it’s developing, is really sensitive to adverse experiences,” Dr. Marusak explained. “That’s why I was really interested in understanding how that affects the brain and how we can intervene and get the brain onto a healthier trajectory for kids who are exposed to these experiences.”

“When they come back to see us, we’re going to look at the same systems and see how brain responses to pain have changed and how their pain levels have been modified by doing Kids Kicking Cancer.”

We are excited to be working with Dr. Marusak and her team on this cutting-edge research and look forward to publishing positive results to further scientifically evidence what is already anecdotally known.

**ROBERT BRONSTEIN NAMED NEW CHAIR OF KIDS KICKING CANCER**

As an amateur Indy race car driver in his spare time, Robert Bronstein understands the need for focus. As President and co-founder of The Scion Group, it took similar dedication to build the largest privately-held student housing company in the United States. Rob’s Indy car has the Scion logo on the side. Below it is the logo of Kids Kicking Cancer, which Rob took the reins of as Chairman of the Board beginning in 2018.

Rob has been a member of the board of Kids Kicking Cancer for many years. He has been a mentor and a generous contributor to our organization making a significant difference to thousands of children.

With the Bronsteins, Kids Kicking Cancer is a family affair. Rob and his wife Rosellene’s daughter, Mia featured Kids Kicking Cancer as her bat mitzvah project. She used the lessons of our little heroes to teach her friends how to “breathe in the light and blow out the darkness,” while generating significant donations. Along with their other children Nathan and Sydney, the Bronsteins have actively participated in many KKC events. Rob and his family are also spearheading the drive to develop Kids Kicking Cancer Chicago.

**TRANSPORTATION UPGRADE**

As transportation options can be limited, and expensive, families of sick children are often unable to take advantage of the support services offered to them. Kids Kicking Cancer’s transportation program was created so that no child should be unable to take part in Kids Kicking Cancer programming.

Thanks to a grant from the Jeffrey and Jennifer Farber Family Foundation and the David and Nanci Farber Family Foundation, with additional funding from The Suburban Collection, Kids Kicking Cancer purchased two new Ford Transit 15-seater vans to update its more than decade-old fleet. These vans have already been used hundreds of times transporting children to and from class and special events.
Kids Kicking Cancer students were invited to Camp Catch-a-Rainbow to teach a therapeutic martial arts workshop to the pediatric oncology campers. Campers and staff learned Kids Kicking Cancer’s martial arts, breathing, and meditation techniques. We look forward to returning this summer.

The children of Kids Kicking Cancer Israel joined hundreds of riders as they celebrated the centennial anniversary, reenacting the 1917 ride of the ANZACs – the Australian and New Zealand Army Corp. The ride was also a fund-raising event for Kids Kicking Cancer and integrated a host of festive and colorful events. The event was graced by the Prime Ministers of Australia and Israel as well as many other dignitaries.

Shredding Cancer? Kids Kicking Cancer never expected that winning an online contest for a free HSM shredder would turn into a long-term relationship. As HSM learned more about the program, they took on Kids Kicking Cancer as a charity partner. Since 2015, HSM has donated over $50,000 to Kids Kicking Cancer!

The Power of 20 women united to support a dedicated position of a female martial arts therapist for Kids Kicking Cancer. The 20 women each donated $1,000 towards this project. In August, a luncheon and demonstration were held to mark the completion of the group and meet Kids Kicking Cancer’s newest Sensei Lynn.

For the past three years, Glassman Subaru has chosen Kids Kicking Cancer as their local non-profit partner for the Subaru Share the Love program. For every vehicle leased or sold, Subaru makes a donation to the purchaser’s non-profit of choice. Along with the Glassman family’s multi-year support as a presenting sponsor of Cowboys Kicking Cancer, the Glassman family continues to show their generosity and dedication to Kids Kicking Cancer.

Families were treated to a day on the farm at the 3rd annual Cowboys Kicking Cancer - a cookout lunch, horseback riding, hayride, painting horses, music, and more! Thank you to Sandy Simmons for hosting the event along with her dedicated committee and the over 100 volunteers who made this program possible! Thank you to presenting sponsors Glassman Subaru and Utica Leaseco.

Thank you! With gratitude to all the partners, donors, volunteers, friends and families of Kids Kicking Cancer!
As we are continually requested to share the message of Power Peace Purpose in new locations, 2017 was a year of steady growth for Kids Kicking Cancer. Community programs began in Milwaukee, WI and Grand Rapids, MI. Hospital programs began or expanded in Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CA), Hackensack University Medical Center (NJ), Tufts Floating Hospital for Children (MA), and Boston Medical Center (MA). Training is underway for 2018 growth in our existing cities along with expansion into Chicago (IL) and internationally into South Africa, Kids Kicking Cancer’s fifth country!
Kids Kicking Cancer
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Michigan
• Children’s Hospital of Michigan
• Beaumont Children’s Hospital
• University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital
• Karmanos Cancer Center
• The Larry & Jackie Kraft Healing Arts Studio
• St. Joseph Mercy Oakland
• St. John Hospital and Medical Center
• Karmanos Cancer Institute at McLaren Macomb, Ted B. Wahby Cancer Center
• Children’s Healing Center – Grand Rapids

New York
• Maimonides Medical Center
• Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital
• Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center
• Sunshine Children’s Home & Rehab Center

California
• Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles
• Children’s Hospital of Orange County
• Dawn Barnes’ Karate Kids, Santa Monica

Florida
• Shands Hospital - University of Florida, Gainesville

Illinois
• Rush University Medical Center

Massachusetts
• Boston Children’s Hospital
• Boston Medical Center
• Esposito’s Karate Fitness Center - Newton
• Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates
• Ronald McDonald House at Boston Harbor
• Tufts Floating Hospital for Children
• MassGeneral Hospital for Children

Wisconsin
• Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin
• Wisconsin Athletic Club – Wauwatosa

New Jersey
• Hackensack University Medical Center

Canada
• Children’s Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre
• Hospice of Windsor and Essex County
• London Lightning Practice Facility
• Ronald McDonald House of Southwestern Ontario
• Thames Valley Children’s Centre

Israel
• Alyn Hospital
• Hadassah Medical Center - Ein Kerem
• Schneider Children’s Medical Center of Israel
• Shaare Zedek Medical Center
• Sheba Medical Center
• Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center (Ichilov)

Italy
• Aou (Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria), Parma
• Aouc Policlinico, Bari
• Azienda Ospedaliera Santobono-Pausilipon, Neaples
• Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza, San Giovanni Rotondo
• Ospedale Civico Armas, Palermo
• Ospedale Infermi, Rimini
• Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, Rome
• Ospedale Pediatrico Meyer, Florence
• Ospedale Regina Margherita, Turin
• Ospedale S. Chiara, Pisa
• Policlinico Gemelli, Rome
• Policlinico S. Matteo, Pavia
• Policlinico Umberto I, Rome
• Ronald McDonald House Charities, Brescia
• Ronald McDonald House Charities, Florence

South Africa
• Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital, Cape Town
• Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (Joburg General)
• Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, Johannesburg (Soweto)

Make a difference in the lives of children in pain

www.kidskickingcancer.org • 248-864-8238