

*In the*  
***Ring***  
Fall 2017 ***Review***





Get in the ring with Gold In Fight president

# Thank you for continued support

By Mike G.  
*GIF President*

As we enter into September, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, we reflect on the year we have been together as a foundation. September marks our one year anniversary as a foundation, and so much has happened the past year. We have met some amazing people throughout the year.

As a new organization, we are still working on how we want to shape the future of Gold in Fight. In October we plan on sitting down and reflecting on the year's activities and what went well or what didn't go so well.

We are a group of people who are new to running a foundation and we are working through it. But, we do know we want to help those families in need.

Since our inception September 2016, we have raised \$28,700, helping 30 families. In the coming months, we will be refining the group roles and will put together roles for folks who want to start volunteering and perhaps at one point become a board member. So look out for that and if you are interested in volunteering and helping in shaping our organization we welcome you.

So far, as you may know, the hardest part about being a part of this foundation, besides the tragedies of those Gold Fighters who received their Gold Wings, is raising money. While we are learning a lot we are still working



**Mike G.**

to figure out how to break into the corporate world especially our local corporate folks.

It's understandable we are a small new nonprofit and most corporate companies give to the larger foundations, but we hope to get the word out about us and our values as far as giving as much funds as possible to families in need.

Most of the logistics costs incurred we either work to get donated or we use our personal funding for small items such as baskets for events. We have several families right now who are in need and we hope our annual September Birthday Bash event will raise enough money to take care of these families.

We would like to thank all those who support us right now. We have received amazing support from our local area right here in Baltimore.

Thank you for your continued donations, attending our events and just spreading the word about us. We hope to be your local charity of choice.

Please continue to share what we do and please continue to support us and our Gold families.

If you have any ideas for us, want to volunteer or know folks who can help us in forming the best foundation, please let us know.

LOVE

~ Mike Griffith



## Gold in Fight Board



We are a 501(c)3 organization. Our goal is to raise money to help relieve some of the hardships and stresses local families face due to their child's fight or their loss to pediatric cancer.

Gold in Fight is committed to being transparent and 99 percent of all proceeds go to helping local families.

We are all volunteers who have in one way or another been affected by this terrible thing known as pediatric cancer.

We do not pay ourselves. Our board members are retired military or business owners.

Please consider helping us in our fight for our local families.

Get in the Ring, and K.O. Childhood Cancer.

Follow us on social media:  
@GoldinFight or on our web site at [goldinfight.org](http://goldinfight.org).

**Gold in Fight**  
P.O. Box 1005  
Fort George G.Meade, MD 20755



## Meet Gold Fighter

**Justin**  
*Medullablastoma*

By Bryan Gatewood  
*GIF Board member*

Justin B. was diagnosed with Medullablastoma, brain cancer, when he was 12 years old.

“He was suffering from headaches daily,” said his mom Adrianna. “I finally took him to the neurologist at University of Maryland on Jan. 26, 2015.”

The neurologist sent Justin to get an MRI and that is when they found out he had a brain tumor.

“Within minutes, university had us in an ambulance taking us to Johns Hopkins,” said Adrianna. “Our world was changed forever!”

Justin underwent his first brain surgery Jan. 27, 2015, where the doctors removed a little over a half of the tumor. Three days later Justin had his second brain surgery where the doctors were able to remove the rest of it.

After the surgery, his mom said Justin lost all ability to walk, talk and even eat.

“I thought the worst was behind us,”



she said. “Little did I know this was just the beginning!”

Feb. 2, Adrianna sat at his bedside when there was a knock at the door and in came the oncology doctors.

“I felt time stand still,” she said. “They were there giving me the news no parent should ever have to hear let alone a child. I just looked at them and said, ‘he has cancer?’”

This began the first of many long hospital stays.

On May 2, 2016, after many rounds of radiation therapy and chemotherapy, Justin was in remission and doing well.

Adrianna said, other than a few complications and weight loss he seemed to be doing great. “He is a fighter and like he told me, ‘We will get thru this’”

See Justin, Page 8

<b>Gold Fighters</b>			
<b>Angel</b> <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i>			<b>Mya</b> <i>Acute Myeloid leukemia</i>
<b>Austin</b> <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i>	<b>Emma</b> <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i>	<b>Josiah</b> <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i>	<b>Mo</b> <i>Cancer</i>
<b>Brad</b> <i>Medulloblastoma</i>	<b>Grant</b> <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i>	<b>Justin</b> <i>Medullablastoma</i>	<b>Nae</b> <i>Leukemia</i>
<b>Brooke</b> <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i>	<b>Jack</b> <i>Leukemia</i>	<b>Keith</b> <i>Neuroblastoma</i>	<b>Sarah</b> <i>Brain Cancer</i>
<b>Cole</b> <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i>	<b>Jessalyn</b> <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i>	<b>Mason</b> <i>Neuroblastoma</i>	<b>Trey</b> <i>Cancer</i>
<b>Emma D.</b> <i>Acute Myeloid leukemia</i>	<b>Jordan</b> <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i>	<b>Megan</b> <i>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</i>	<b>Tyler</b> <i>Aveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma</i>



# Golfing for Gold

By Bryan Gatewood  
*GIF Board member*

Gold in Fight hosted a Golfing for Gold event May 26 at Patuxent Greens Golf Club to raise funds for families of children battling cancer.

Sixteen Gold in Fight supporters braved the rain to play 18-holes of golf to support Gold in Fight's cause.

"It started out a little wet," said Mike Griffith, Gold in Fight president. "But got better as the day went on."

As the weather cleared up, Gold Fighter Emma and her mom, Rachel Maxwell, came out to visit with the players and thank them for their support.

Rachel was also the guest speaker at the dinner, explaining to the participants Emma's journey throughout her terrible disease.

"A special thank you to Rachel Maxwell and Emma for coming out and sharing their story," said Griffith.

As always Gold in Fight would not be successful without sponsors.

"We would also like to thank those who sponsored us such as Norris Ford of Dundalk, TRANE, Nelson & Pelura LLC and Creekside Clothing and Apparel," said Griffith. "It really means the world to us."



Gold Fighter Emma thanks a group of golfers for supporting Gold in Fight at this year's Golfing for Gold event May 26 at Patuxent Greens Golf Club.



Golfers commemorate this year's Golfing for Gold event with a group photo May 26 at Patuxent Greens Golf Club. After a full day of golfing supporting Gold in Fight, players were treated to a buffet and drawing for great door prizes.



# Play-Doh Wars

By Bryan Gatewood  
GIF Board member

Social workers and nurses from Johns Hopkins Hospital pediatric oncology ward decided to have a war ... a Play-Doh War with the other departments at the hospital.

Beth Wheeler, Gold in Fight board member, shared a post from Hopkins social media site and Gold in Fight supporters jumped to the challenge to ensure the pediatric oncology ward would win the war.

Linda Felts of Cummings & Co. Realtors sent out a request to her fellow colleagues and they helped put the oncology department over their goal.

In March, Felts and her nephew, Gold Fighter Cole, delivered 6,442 cans of Play-Doh. This doesn't count the couple thousand cans that were mailed directly to the oncology department, delivered by Gold in Fight members or other individuals.

"We are amazed and so thankful by the success of this event for the kids, Said Wheeler. "Cole is an amazing young man, who even though going through his own challenge, loves to give back and help others"

According to the pediatric oncology social works, this put them over their goal and not needing Play-Doh for the next couple of years. Plus, the other floors were no where close to beating them.

**Above:** Gold Fighter Cole pushes a wheelchair full of Play-Doh that Gold in Fight Board Member Beth Wheeler loaded up. The Play-Doh was delivered to the Johns Hopkins Hospital pediatric oncology floor.  
**Below:** Cole shows off all the Play-Doh his Aunt, Linda Felts, and her colleagues collected for the Johns Hopkins Hospital Play-Doh War.





### Goalie scores with Gold Fighters

Baltimore Blast Goalie William Vanzela visits Gold Fighter Megan Aug. 9 at Johns Hopkins Hospital on the pediatric oncology floor. Megan was diagnosed with B-cell Lymphoma this year.

Vanzela also meet other Gold Fighters and played FIFA, a soccer video game, with some of them.



# Whom shall I send: *Here I am send me*

By Joseph Coslett  
*GIF Vice President*

People go a lifetime wondering about their purpose and seek to make a difference. Asking questions, “What is my divine purpose?”

“When will I make my mark on the world?”

“What is my destiny?”

For a lot of my life I had the same questions. When I grew up I had two role models who influenced my life. One was my dad. He guided me with philosophy, developing plans and using my imagination. My second role model was my step-dad. He told me jokingly, “my generation messed up this world, it is up to your generation to fix it.”

Growing up, I thought I had to change the world and would think of a 10-step process to solve it. I was fortunate to make a difference in several people’s

lives through the military.

The military instilled the core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. I still had the drive to make a large difference.

In the Bible are two great verses about finding purpose and serving others.

First in Isaiah 6:8: Then I hear the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I say, “Here am I. Send me.”

Couple this verse with one from Matthew 25:35-40, teaching me we need to care for the hungry, thirsty, homeless, sick and imprisoned.

Finally, Matthew 25:40 brought it all together: “... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Wow, this altered my

thinking significantly. My purpose to help others should be applied locally. Then came the opportunity to help children with cancer and their families, along with Mike, Liane, Beth, Bryan and Glenda. One year ago, we started on an epic journey with so many other family and friends to help our Gold Fighters.

Heroes of ancient stories and comics are Odysseus, Achilles, Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman.

The heroes of our story are our Gold Angels and Fighters with the names Matsie, Brandon, Becca, Nick, Jack, Angel, Mya, Austin, Jessalyn, Brad, Nae, Cole, Jordan, Nick, Emma D., Josiah, Emma, Justin, Trey, Grant, Mason, Tyler, Megan, Sarah, Brooke,

Keith and Mo.

However, we know no hero can do it alone. There are so many Gold Partners and members of our Gold in Fight family who make their journey possible. There is no words to thank those who are in the ring fighting with our families.

Please remember life is more about determination and less about destiny. We will keep fighting every day to help those in need. I have a Be Awesome Challenge. I continue to pray daily for these Gold Fighters and help their families. Who will join me, or whom shall I send?

If you are up to the challenge to help by volunteering, sharing their story, joining our foundation, helping the families or praying for the Gold Fighters and their families, send me a personal message through Facebook.

Come join us in the ring and let’s KO childhood cancer!



# Gold in Fight BirthDay BaSh

UAW Hall – East Baltimore  
1010 Oldham St  
Baltimore, MD 21224

Sunday  
September 24



Shrimp Feast & Bull Roast  
1 to 5 p.m.

Ticket Prices:

Adults – \$40

Children 10 & under – \$20

**Food | DJ Diamond Dave | 50/50 | Raffles | Silent Auction | Princesses**

Gold in Fight is celebrating 1 year in the ring with our Gold Fighters and their families. Funds raised go to help relieve some of the hardships and stresses local families face due to their child's fight or their loss to pediatric cancer. Gold in Fight is committed to being transparent and 100% of all proceeds go to helping local families.

Follow us on Facebook | Twitter | Instagram @GoldinFight

For tickets contact:

Baltimore/Dundalk area  
Mike G.  
443.834.4456

White Marsh area  
Beth  
410.428.7738

Pasadena/Glen Burnie area  
Bryan  
813.523.3627

Fort Meade/Odenton area  
Cos  
907.887.9430

*Get in the Ring*

*Fight for Families*

*K.O. Childhood Cancer*



## Project 'Kids being Kids'

*Gold in Fight was on location at a local park working on a secret project with 12 Gold Fighters.*

*Stand by for more details and how this project will help families with children battling cancer.*

### Justin, from Page 3

However in November Justin's scans showed the cancer had come back.

"I had to tell him of the relapse and he cried," said Adrianna. "This completely killed me. However he will continue to fight."

In December, Justin had his third brain surgery. He went through more chemotherapy and stem cell rescue for his trial. During this time, Justin encountered complications that put him in the pediatric intensive

care unit.

"Having your child look you in the eyes and ask you if he is going to die is the worst feeling in the world," said Adrianna.

Justin once again fought hard and is now in remis-

sion for the second time.

"Justin is doing amazing!" said Adrianna. "His hair is coming in full force and in just a few short weeks he will be back in school. Time is just flying, but we're loving all of it!"

# Sponsors in the ring

*Thank you to this quarters sponsors*

