

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2023  
CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN SUNBURY**

**Whereas**, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children, and;

**Whereas**, 1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed by their 20th birthday, and;

**Whereas**, 46 children per day or 16,790 children per year are diagnosed with cancer in the U.S., and;

**Whereas**, the average age of diagnosis is 6 years old, and;

**Whereas**, 80% of childhood cancer patients are diagnosed late and with metastatic disease, and;

Whereas, on average there's been a 0.6 percent increase in incidence per year since the mid 1970's resulting in an overall incidence increase of 24 percent over the last 40 years, and;

**Whereas**, two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with one quarter being classified as severe to life-threatening, and;

**Whereas**, approximately one half of childhood cancer families rate the associated financial toxicity due to out-of-pocket expenses as considerable to severe, and;

**Whereas**, in the last 30 years only six new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer, and;

**Whereas**, the National Cancer Institute recognizes the unique research needs of childhood cancer and the associated need for increased funding to carry this out;

**Whereas**, hundreds of non-profit organizations at the local and national level including the American Childhood Cancer Organization are helping children with cancer and their families cope through educational, emotional and financial support, and;

**Whereas**, researchers and healthcare professionals work diligently dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer, and;

**Whereas**, too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure.

**Now therefore**, I, Joe St. John, Mayor of the City of Sunbury, do hereby proclaim September 2023 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. I encourage all Americans to observe Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and support this cause that so deeply impacts families in every community across our country, including our own.

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**Joseph St. John**  
**Mayor**

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