

## *F'n Ca.*

Why I do it...

Cancer is one of the scariest words we can hear. We all know someone who has been diagnosed. I will never forget my life hitting the pause button when the scans presented my diagnosis. That fear, those emotions, and the diagnosis were not anticipated. I was ready to fight, and that's exactly what I did.

While my treatment has come and gone, that fire to fight is far from over. I know each day, there are approximately 8, if not more, kids, that are diagnosed each day. That's 8+ families having their lives hit the pause button. I know there are families out there who would benefit from this empowering experience.

I've spent endless hours reflecting on that diagnosis day and the quickest way to transition those emotions. What I learned is that there are so many people there for you. Friends, family, and distant individuals would do anything for you.

I want to allow these people to show their support through a shirt design. It's that physical representation, those shared pictures that say "we are here with you through these trying times".

Not only is the personally designed shirt intended to rally a community, but also for the individual that designed it. I want to provide them with a product that they can wear or just hold on to. At first sight, it should create a smile. There's a lot to be said about a smile while battling cancer.

I was fortunate to grow up in a community that created a shirt for me. I took that shirt with me wherever I went. I wore it every time I entered the hospital. It became an essential item in my strength and courage. Every time I looked at it, I knew I wasn't alone. That shirt, that physical product, created my "why". This played a huge role in my attitude, my outlook, and my reason for fighting. I know these shirts can provide the same meaning to others.