

WELCOME TO OPERATION: KEY WEST



Founder: James McGonigle, Entrepreneur


Co-Founder: Lt. Gen (Ret.) Ronald Blanck, Former Surgeon General of the Army

Co-Founder: VADM (Ret.) Harold Koenig Former Surgeon General of Navy

OUR MISSION: The mission of Operation: Key West is to help and support military families who have a child that is battling cancer, in recovery from cancer or, sadly, have lost a child to cancer.

“A Healthy Child Is A Gift, Not A Given”

OPERATION: KEY WEST (OKW) IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF STEVE BENDER AS OUR OFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON



We feel extremely fortunate to be able to welcome Steve into our OKW “family”. He is truly a rare individual who has excelled in business while creating a legacy of humanitarian deeds around the world. While there are too many things to mention, here are just a few: Active member of the Rotary International organization for over a decade and currently President of the Rotary Club of Newport Beach, Global Service Club; Chair of Newport Beach Host Town Committee for the Special Olympic World Games in Los Angeles; 3 term

President of his Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) chapter in Southern California; Helped develop and participated in “Team in Training” marathons and triathlons in Dublin, Ireland and Maui; LLS helped fund research on Gleevec, a landmark drug that has vastly improved the outcomes of patients with the type of blood cancer called chronic myelogenous leukemia; personally funded a computer system in 2002 and helped set up an organization to research Cancer Genomics, which is the study of the totality DNA sequence and gene expression differences between tumor cells and normal host cells; participated in The Cancer Society’s “Relay for Life” in Washington, DC where he also met with Congress to discuss additional funding for cancer research and the list goes on and on.

Perhaps Dr. Robert R. Chilcote, MD, who is emeritus at the University of California, Irvine and served as LLS’s Chief Medical Advisor said it best in describing Steve: “I admired Steve’s intuitive ability to foster teamwork. I observed Steve to be very much “hands-on” in multiple roles, steering the group through several difficult challenges, always exhibiting the highest personal and professional standard. Over these several decades I have known Steve as an outgoing, positive, conscientious, good person-and with these qualities any organization would be fortunate to have him communicate their message.”

Our Most Recent Family

Jackson diagnosed in October 2020 with Leukemia at the tender age of three...still in treatment, but is enjoying his “smile” package from OKW

For more information call Jim McGonigle at 610-322-1889
Visit our website for more info: operationkeywest.org

