

The F.I.G.H.T. logo

What is the meaning behind the F.I.G.H.T. Logo?

FIGHT - Family Inspires Great Hope Together

Webster's defines Family as: 1) a group of persons of common ancestry (clan); and 2) a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation (Fellowship).

Family is not restricted simply to those who are blood relatives. Family is a fellowship of individuals which inspire great hope when joined together to FIGHT a common enemy.

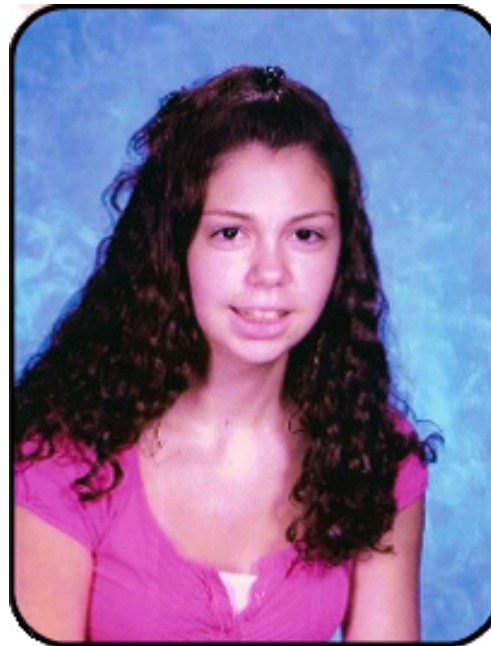
The Phoenix - It is a mythical bird with a tail of beautiful gold and red plumage (or purple and blue, by some sources). It has a 500 year life-cycle, near the end of which it builds itself a nest of cinnamon twigs that it then ignites; both nest and bird burn fiercely and are reduced to ashes, from which a new, young phoenix or phoenix egg arises, reborn anew to live again. The new phoenix is destined to live as long as its old self.

When put together the logo represents the power of your thoughts and words - the ability to rise from the ashes of despair and truly believe that miracles can happen.

The FIGHT will continue at our CaitlynsFight.org website.

Our Mission

Caitlyn's F.I.G.H.T. was formed in loving memory of Caitlyn Bagnato, for the purpose of providing emotional support and financial assistance to families of children diagnosed with rare forms of pediatric cancer and associated blood disorders.



January 24, 1994 – October 12, 2009

Caitlyn's F.I.G.H.T.

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Understanding cancer...

Cancer is the direct result of either a mutation of the cellular DNA or some sort of damage to the cellular DNA. For the cancerous cell to actually develop into a tumor, it must be able to grow and to replicate itself. If it cannot do this, it will die or lie dormant for an extended period.

What actually causes genetic mutations or DNA damage is not yet completely understood, but several significant factors that encourage cancer development have been identified.

Caitlyn's F.I.G.H.T.

"Family Inspires Great Hope Together – "FIGHT" - 1/6/2009

Little did I know how important those words would become after a routine test performed on Dec 27th 2008 showed a large mass in my daughters liver. It is now the early morning hours of day 20 in the fight of my 14 year old daughters battle against advanced Fibrolamellar Hepatocellular Carcinoma (FHC with mets), an extremely rare form of liver cancer of which no protocol in terms of a cure has been established." –Blog entry by Joe Bagnato, at www.afathersperspective.com

From that day forward, until she passed away ten months later, Caitlyn's father would ask her what she needed to do. She would reply, "FIGHT." When asked how she would fight, she said, "By being strong."

The FIGHT continues...

The Caitlyn's F.I.G.H.T. organization was formed with the intent of giving back to those who helped Caitlyn during her battle with cancer, as well as giving to those who are in need of assistance in similar battles.

Our Programs...

- **Family Financial Benefit Program**
Financial assistance for families that have a child diagnosed with a rare form of pediatric cancer or an associated blood disorder.
- **F.I.G.H.T. Scholarship Program**
A scholarship awarded each year to a Putnam Valley High School Senior in honor of Caitlyn's dedication to education.
- **Donations to Organizations**
Giving back through donations of money, goods and services to organizations that align with our mission.
- **Caring & Sharing Program**
Connects families with services and other families to assist in coping with challenges associated with their FIGHT.
- **F.I.G.H.T. Resource Center**
An online informational center for clinical and non-clinical resources on the Caitlyn's FIGHT website.

The Reason We FIGHT...

There is nothing more terrifying or mind-numbing than discovering a monster is lurking inside of your child's body. A monster you cannot make go away with a simple flip of the light switch and a kiss on the head. It is even worse when you are told the monster can't be stopped.

Your whole life changes from that moment on and will never be the same again. Every waking moment is solely focused on caring for your child and protecting them in every way for as long as possible.

Families of children diagnosed with pediatric cancer not only need emotional support, usually they need financial support too. Help in dealing with day to day quality of life issues for their children is as vital as medical treatment.

The Bagnatos know better than anyone. They lived it firsthand. Most available resources require filling out lengthy forms and submitting financial records in order to receive help. Ultimately when the community 'family' came together; they found it was more supportive and effective than the organizations were in a time of need.

Please donate and support the Caitlyn's F.I.G.H.T. mission.

"Helping Families Inspire Great Hope Together"