



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER




PICTURED: KLARA, MELINA, EMILIA

-MEET MELINA'S MOM-

I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself. I'm Michelle, and I am proud to say I am the mother of three beautiful baby girls, Klara, Emilea, and Melina.

I am also the president of The Melina Michelle Edenfield Foundation. I have tried to resign a few times since it began because, to be honest, it's hard, it's very hard.

But what is harder is thinking of all the families that are experiencing this pain, this loss, and the magnitude of helplessness upon hearing the most brilliant professionals say,

"Yes this is a death sentence, there is nothing that can be done, we just don't have answers."

Because of that, and because of my Melina, I invite you into my army to fight.

-MELINA'S STORY-

May of 2020, I was left with limited options for my child, in fact our hope was having maybe six months with her. This was when we knew we had to make change.

With Melina's support we started our foundation to privately fund pediatric brain tumor research. We knew families deserved hope, and we promised Melina we would make sure they could share her Joy. One way we reach this goal is by hosting a gala each year...

-MELINA'S EVENING OF JOY-

This March, we had our 4th Annual 'Evening of Joy' Gala to celebrate Melina, share her story, and bring awareness to the lack of funding for pediatric brain tumor research.

Over 400 individuals were present, full of joy, and after all expenses were paid, the foundation ended the night with a net gain of \$146,000!

The community we've made along the way is why...

-IN MAY WE GO GRAY-

Gray is the awareness color for brain tumors. May is designated as brain tumor awareness month. May is also a month that forever changed my family's lives. In May of 2020 I never had realized I was part of a problem.

But I simply was because I wasn't part of the solution. The facts of pediatric brain tumors are horrifying as a parent.

Brain tumors are the deadliest form of childhood cancer in the U.S. 1% of National funding for cancer research is spent on this devastating disease.

To stand with children and families impacted by this tragic disease, please join us in wearing gray on May 23rd in true Melina fashion.

-EVENTS COMING SOON-

-  Fifth Annual Choose Joy Softball Tournament: 5/9-5/11
-  Wear Gray Day - 5/23

GO TO OUR WEBSITE, FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA, AND FIND WAYS TO DONATE BELOW!

Donations can be made to:

The
Melina Michelle Edenfield
Foundation

P.O. Box 34
Canfield, OH 44406



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LOVE
MELINA



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Why We Went Grey in May...

The Need to fight...

"We need to find cures for other little children so it doesn't make other mommies sad."

-Emmie, Melina's sister

"We have to find a cure so no family has to go through what we did..."

It is the right thing to do, to help other people, and I know it is what Weena would have wanted...

No one should have to feel what we do." -Klara, Melina's sister

...AGAINST BRAIN TUMORS

Pediatric brain tumors are often stated to be rare. However as we battle and see the impact we have come to learn they are not rare, they are just rarely talked about.

Pediatric brain tumors are the highest cause of cancer deaths to children. Receiving less than 1 percent of any federal support is not acceptable. Therefore we had to be part of the change!

...TO CHOOSE MELINA'S JOY

This year we got to help The Brubaker family host the 5th annual Choose Joy softball tournament. This means so much to my heart since this was the only sport I was ever able to have all three of my girls on the same team! All season long Melina would say "Mommy we didn't lose right", and this is where her competitive spirit stood out!

It was so amazing to see a sold out event, but even more special to see Sunflower Saturday.

To see that truly left me speechless. This year will be the highest proceeds we have ever raised.

They are still working on final numbers but it will be over \$20,000. More importantly was knowing each player learned they were part of something much greater than softball.

I am forever grateful that on Mothers Day weekend these amazing players and coaches chose to be part of my team, and **Choose Melina's JOY.** 🌻

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5 YEARS OF CHOOSING JOY FOR MELINA



5 YEARS AGO, YOU TAUGHT ME
THAT I HAD CHOICES...

Over the last five years I have learned...

I could choose to get up. I could choose to love with all my heart. I could choose to hug again. I could choose to walk into Target again.

I could choose to trust that good things can happen. I could choose to learn that my love never lessened because you weren't here physically.

I could choose to learn that when I laughed and smiled, it didn't mean I forgot. I could choose to carry you.

I choose you five years later. I choose you every day. I am so grateful that I get to be your mommy.

I am so grateful that even death can't stop that. I am so grateful that our love is bigger than life.

Forever, I choose JOY for you Melina, today, tomorrow and always.

IT'S NEVER ENOUGH UNTIL
WE FIND A CURE

Federal funding only supports 4% for all pediatric cancer funding. Of that, brain tumors get less than 1%.

Our Kids Deserve More than 1%.

This is our why for **The 6th Annual 'Choose Joy for Melina 5K and MORE'.**

This year we are combining two of our favorite events, 'Choose Joy on the Green' and our 5K. We will have In-Person or Virtual 5k options to run, walk, cartwheel, crawl, or dance with our community.

All proceeds from this event will go directly to our foundation to further advance research to cure pediatric brain tumors. Together, we can win!

**SAVE THE DATE AND STAY
TUNED FOR SIGN UP DETAILS!**



When: Sunday, September 14th
o 2pm-6pm

5K Run/Walk Begins at 3pm

- FREE kids fun run at 5pm
- Bounce houses, face painting, hair tinsel
- Frytanic & Bartell's Take on Tokyo House
- Princesses from Castle on A Cloud Entertainment
- Live DJ and MORE

Where: Canfield High School

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**MORE fun - MORE fun
MORE JOY
ALL FOR MORE than 4!**

The
6th Annual
Choose Joy
for Melina
5K and
MORE!!

GET READY TO RUN, WALK, SKIP, DANCE...
FOR MORE, MORE, MORE!
ALL FOR MORE THAN 4!

Melina's ten besties lost their beautiful friend. As adults we struggled to process our own grief, but then you stop to look at her friends who were confused. They decided they wanted to help, and held the first 'choose joy day' in our front yard.

Then it got so big that we moved to the center of Canfield. And this year, we've to Canfield High School!

These ten besties share their friend & her JOY with all of you.



After hosting our 5k virtually for the last five years, we wanted to see everyone together. We also wanted to have our runners from all over the country!

Melina loved a big party, so we thought...
"Why not bring it all together; The fun and a run!"

Melina's joy and her besties are the why behind this event. No one knew Melina like her best friends. Together, we all get to share the joy and live life in Melina style.

☀️ **When: Sunday, September 14th**
• 2pm-6pm

☀️ **Where: Canfield High School**
• 100 Cardinal Dr, Canfield, OH 44406

☀️ **Details:**

5K Run/Walk Begins at 3:30pm

- FREE Kids-Fun-Run at 5pm
- Bounce houses 2pm-6pm
- Face painting & hair tinsel
- Frytanic & Bartell's Take on Tokyo House
- Princesses - Castle on A Cloud Entertainment
- Live DJ and MORE!

☀️ **Race Options:**

- **Come run or walk...**
Scan the QR code to register
- If you can't make the day to run, **join our virtual race - run your 5k any time between 9/14-10/14!**
- **Skip the running & come for just FUN & JOY!**



ALWAYS CHOOSE JOY



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