Silver Lake Elementary students and staff help others
Assembly about research on the body’s immune system inspires helping others and generates close to $6,000 in donations

On Nov. 19 Silver Lake Elementary launched a coin drive for the Ben Towne Foundation (BTF) after learning about BTF from founder Jeff Towne. Towne shared Ben’s story and a video called The Mighty T.

Students learned how the BFT is harnessing the power of reprogrammed T-cells to reduce and even eliminate the need for surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation treatments for students with cancer.

“I love donating to the Ben Towne Foundation because it allows me to help other children.”

“Surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and bone marrow transplants are all treatments that kill fast growing cancer cells. But in a child, healthy cells in the bone, brain, and other organs, are growing fast, too. Treatment can damage these cells and keep them from growing and developing the way they should,” according to the American Cancer Society.”

Students at Silver Lake looked under furniture, between the seats in family cars and came up with other creative ways to fill their coin boxes. Together, the Silver Lake Community raised $2,984.00! Even better, during the month of December, every dollar raised for the foundation is matched by an anonymous donor. This means students at Silver Lake Elementary raised $5,968.00.

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The Ben Towne Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation is unique in that 100 percent of donations go directly toward cutting edge research accomplished at the Ben Towne Center for Childhood Cancer Research at Seattle Children’s Research Institute.

Want to see more examples of students helping students? Check out the philanthropy – #KidsHelpingKids #RippleEffect #TwiceAsNice #StrongAgainstCancer #btf

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Ben Towne Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation was founded in 2010 in honor of Ben Towne, a fiercely determined, passionate, and loving little boy, who died of neuroblastoma at the age of three.

According to the National Cancer Institute, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among U.S. children. Ben Towne Foundation’s mission is to accelerate research for childhood cancer – changing the way pediatric cancers are treated and cured.

In 2012, Seattle Children’s Research Institute honored Ben Towne Foundation by renaming its cancer research center: Ben Towne Center for Childhood Cancer Research.

Dr. Michael Jensen, the director at the Center, has developed a method of reprogramming the body’s own defense system to kill cancer. This technique of genetically re-engineering an individual’s T cells has proven to be safe and effective in the laboratory. Dr. Jensen’s research promises a future of cancer cures without the devastating side effects of radiation and chemotherapy. For more information, please visit www.bentownefoundation.org.