

## Frequently Asked Questions

Josiah, 10

### Q: How long has Four Diamonds existed?

**A:** Charles and Irma Millard established Four Diamonds in 1972 in memory of their son, Christopher.

### Q: How did Four Diamonds get its name?

**A:** Four Diamonds is named after a story Christopher Millard wrote shortly before he lost his battle with cancer at age 14.

### Q: What does Four Diamonds mean?

**A:** In Christopher Millard's story, a knight must find the four diamonds of courage, wisdom, honesty, and strength in order to be released from captivity by an evil sorceress. These four diamonds are symbolic of the traits Christopher believed were necessary to overcome cancer.

### Q: What exactly does Four Diamonds do?

**A:** Four Diamonds covers the cost of treatment that insurance or other means do not cover. Four Diamonds also supports the medical team – expert physicians, nurses, and therapy specialists – who care for kids fighting cancer and their families. Additionally, endowments benefiting the Four Diamonds Pediatric Cancer Research Center support leading-edge research in the fields of experimental therapeutics, molecular oncology, and epigenetics. These research projects are focused on finding groundbreaking treatments and cures for childhood cancer, which will help kids today, tomorrow, and in the future.

### Q: How does a family find out about assistance provided by Four Diamonds?

**A:** Each patient is assigned to a Four Diamonds social worker who introduces the family to the programs and services provided by Four Diamonds.

### Q: How many families have been helped by Four Diamonds?

**A:** Four Diamonds has helped more than 3,600 families since 1972. Approximately 100 newly diagnosed children receive support each year, and nearly 500 patients receive continued care and support each year.

### Q: Where does Four Diamonds funding come from?

**A:** In 1977, Four Diamonds became the beneficiary of the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (THON™), the largest student-run philanthropy in the world. Since then, THON has raised more than \$127 million for our cause. Inspired by THON, more than 180 high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools hold their own Mini-THONs, now collectively contributing more than \$3 million to Four Diamonds each year. Other sources of financial support include community events, corporate donors, foundations, and individuals committed to conquering childhood cancer.

### Four Diamonds

at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital  
90 Hope Drive, A120  
P.O. Box 852, Hershey, PA 17033  
717-531-6086  
[fourdiamondsinfo@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:fourdiamondsinfo@hmc.psu.edu)  
[www.FourDiamonds.org](http://www.FourDiamonds.org)

