



FROM THE FOUNDER: The K-Step 4 Kids Story

I created K-Step 4 Kids after one of my grand-daughters was treated at Nationwide Children's Hospital for pneumonia in February, 2015. I witnessed medicine practiced in a way I had never seen before, with more love, patience and skill than I would have thought possible. Our prayers were answered, Sophia's health restored. As a result, I felt an obligation to say "thank you" in some significant way to those extraordinary medical professionals.

AT FIRST, JUST A SINGLE EVENT: My wife and I teach several Line Dance classes each week. We felt we could stage a line dance event that might raise perhaps \$5,000. I contacted the Nationwide Children's Hospital Foundation with our concept. On August 4th, 2015 they approved K-Step 4 Kids as a fundraising organization. My pledge: 100% of donations will reach the Foundation. I will find sponsors for any administrative costs, or pay them from my pocket.

THINK BIG: A small voice kept whispering in my ear. "Think bigger." I listened. After 25 years of military service and nearly 20 years of commercial and public school teaching, I was comfortable organizing large events. I began a global Facebook conversation about K-Step 4 Kids on September 7th, 2015.

GLOBAL SERVICE DESERVES GLOBAL SUPPORT: Why global? Last year, Nationwide Children's Hospital treated children from all 88 Ohio Counties, 49 total US States, and 41 other Countries. To make our Campaign even more applicable to the global community, we chose The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital as the specific recipient of all K-Step 4 Kids donations. Their mission: "Seeking answers on behalf of children everywhere." Every child on the Planet receives medical care that in some degree has been shaped by the extraordinary efforts of The Research Institute. (Read more at <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/research>)

AND SO IT BEGAN: In the first 45 days of public Facebook conversation, we identified 8 more Champions, volunteer line dance instructors & choreographers who stepped forward to join me in planning K-Step 4 Kids events. Line dance benefit events were being planned in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Delaware, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Tennessee. Conversations with other locations grew daily. The K-Step 4 Kids concept has also grown beyond line dance events. There are many other ways to participate: private dinner parties, sports tailgates, restaurant events, individual donations and corporate matching, to name just a few.

K-STEP FOR KIDS IN HIGH SCHOOLS: A most exciting idea has emerged! I taught high school computer science and robotics for a dozen years. I contacted one of my former high school Principals, and discovered an amazing coincidence. Their Homecoming Dance had just occurred the previous weekend. The dance floor had been largely empty, since the school had banned adult club-style "dirty dancing." Then the DJ put on Cupid Shuffle. My friend showed me a photograph. The dance floor was packed with smiling teenagers. (JUST A GUESS ON MY PART: Partnerless dancing limits the peer pressure to be a "couple" and engage in "suggestive" dance styles that even many kids find embarrassing and offensive.) We are moving forward with that high school to organize a student-led K-Step 4 Kids Community Line Dance Party. They organize, and we teach.

ABOUT DONATIONS: All donations must be in the form of checks made payable to: Nationwide Children's Hospital Foundation. (NO CASH. Combine cash donations into a single check.) Please write "K-Step 4 Kids" in the Memo space. This is your assurance that 100% of your donation will reach the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Tax receipts will be mailed to the address on the check. Where possible, please include an email address, carefully printed, for each donation. (We understand all donors don't use email. Just do your best. We want to be able to send a personal "thank you" and there is no budget for snail mail.)

INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM DONATIONS: Individual donations are always welcome! Please include an email address if possible. For Team/Event donations, please add a Team Name, details about the event(s), a roster of names/email addresses (where possible). All donations should be mailed to: **K-Step 4 Kids, PO Box 224, Amlin OH (USA) 43002**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact us at kstep4kids@gmail.com, or join the Facebook conversation at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kstep4kids>

