



Wish Upon a Cure® was founded in 2001 following the death that year of David Campbell, a charming three and a half year old little boy from southern California (David's mother, Cathy Barham Campbell, is an Alpha Xi Delta, Beta Eta alumni). David suffered from a mitochondrial disease called Leigh's Syndrome, one of 40 types of known mitochondrial diseases. Wish Upon a Cure® exists to fight mitochondrial disease in children and adults. The organization works to raise awareness and educate others about these little-known diseases that are nearly as common as some types of childhood cancer. It recently funded the nation's first clinical Fellowship in Mitochondrial Medicine at UCSD School of Medicine, La Jolla, CA.

*The mission of the foundation is to build an **A R C**:  
Raise **Awareness** of mitochondrial diseases to  
Generate **Research** into treatments for the children and adults afflicted,  
With the hope of one day finding a **Cure** for all.*

### A Few Facts

#### Mitochondrial Disease

- Approximately 1 in every 2,000 to 3,000 children is born each year with a mitochondrial disease.
- At the moment, proper diagnostic methods for these diseases are not widely available, so the number of children afflicted may be even higher.
- There are more than 40 types of mitochondrial disease identified, including Leigh's Syndrome, the disease that took David Campbell's life.
- Mitochondrial disease has been identified as the underlying factor for both Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Diseases.
- Mitochondrial Medicine is a relatively new field of medicine (less than 50 years old), but growing rapidly.

#### Wish Upon a Cure™

- 1,400 donors from 27 states across the U.S.
- \$200,000 raised in less than three years, when charity fund was formed
- \$140,000 gift given to UCSD School of Medicine to establish the nation's first clinical Fellowship in Mitochondrial Medicine (2005)
- \$35,000 in grants also issued to address potential avenues for treating certain mitochondrial diseases (2003)
- Wish Upon a Cure operates as a donor-advised fund of the Orange County Community Foundation (with full 501c3 nonprofit charity status)
- *All-volunteer staff – no paid employees; low overhead keeps expense ratio below six percent*

#### For more information

[www.wishuponacure.org](http://www.wishuponacure.org)  
[www.biochemgen.ucsd.edu/mmdc](http://www.biochemgen.ucsd.edu/mmdc)  
[www.oc-cf.org](http://www.oc-cf.org)

#### **Advisory Board for Wish Upon a Cure**

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