



Program: PFIC Pals

Mission: To match patients/families with peer support.

Summary: To have a program driven by our PFIC children to involve everyone in the community through various activities throughout the year.

Explanation of Need: The majority of patients who are diagnosed with PFIC are young children. As these children reach school age and are able to voice their concerns, they often feel isolated, scared, sad and alone because they feel different. Having another child to connect with in their age group, whether they are itchy, have an ostomy bag, dislike taking medication every day, have had frequent hospitalizations, or are on the list for a liver transplant can facilitate the acceptance of dealing with a chronic disease at a young age. Providing opportunities for these patients to connect is important to supporting their emotional well-being.

Description of Program: A program that is driven by our PFIC children to bring families closer together. PFIC pals has a few programs including a Christmas card exchange and pen pals program. PFIC pals will also send care packages to children who are in the hospital for surgeries. PFIC pals is always welcome to new ideas to involve the community and our children.

Who can volunteer for this program: Anyone who is connected to PFIC as either a parent/patient/ family member or supporter. Those interested must be set up to communicate via email.

Approximate time commitment: Variant on the need and the program.