

Kesem is a community that believes every child affected by a parent's cancer deserves the chance to fully experience their childhood and be their best self. Volunteer college student leaders are the heart of our community. They model the emotional leadership and passion critical to providing these children with a fun, inclusive, and transformative experience where they can process, connect, heal, and thrive.

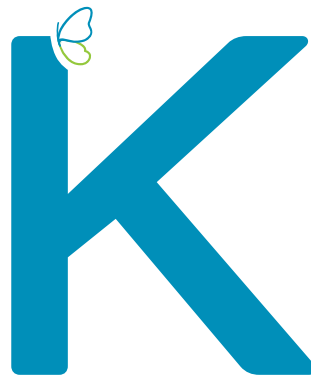


99%

of parents would recommend Kesem programs to other families affected by cancer

97%

of parents agree that Kesem had a positive impact on their family



Kesem's mission of supporting children through and beyond a parent's cancer, and our vision of ensuring that every child impacted by a parent's cancer is never alone, can only be realized through an ongoing, steadfast commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in every part of our organization.

Camp Kesem applications open in January each year. [Read more, sign up to be notified when applications open, or register your child at KESEM.ORG](#)



FOLLOW KESEM



GET IN TOUCH

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A child's friend through and beyond a parent's cancer, Kesem offers support at no cost to families.

kesem 

Why we do what we do.

The number of children who have lost a parent from or have a parent with a cancer diagnosis is over 5 million. This is a staggering number of children who may be facing:

- isolation from peers
- low academic performance
- loss of social interest
- taking on adult roles

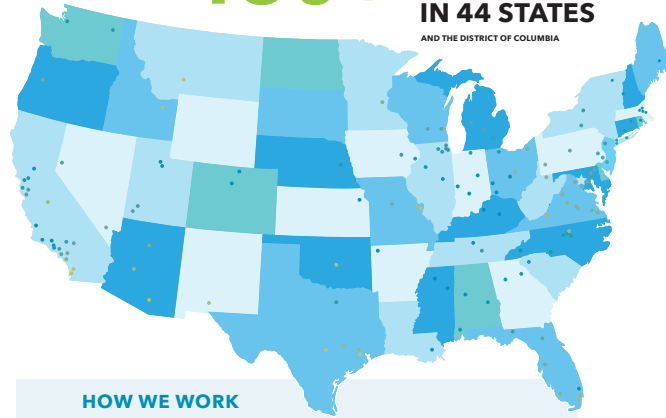
Kesem can help.

ABOUT KESEM AND CAMP KESEM

Kesem is the leading national nonprofit that supports children affected by a parent's cancer. Founded in 2000, Kesem's community of more than 4,000 volunteer college student leaders at more than 130 college campus chapters across the country provides year-round programs and services to support children ages 6-18 at no cost to families. Its flagship program, [Camp Kesem](#), is a week-long, sleep-away summer camp. At camp, kids have fun and build connections with each other and counselors who understand and are trained to support their needs. Beyond camp, year-round services such as care packages, personalized greetings, birthday cards, local gatherings, leadership groups, and affinity groups provide a continuum of touchpoints for campers and their families.

130+ UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE CHAPTERS IN 44 STATES

AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



HOW WE WORK

MOBILIZE EMPATHETIC AND PASSIONATE COLLEGE STUDENT LEADERS FROM ALL IDENTITIES AND BACKGROUNDS TO COMMIT TO VOLUNTEER IN SERVICE OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY A PARENT'S CANCER.



FOSTER STUDENT LEADERS' SKILLS, TALENTS, AND COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL DELIVERY OF THE FLAGSHIP PROGRAM, CAMP KESEM, AND OTHER FUN, CREATIVE, AND INCLUSIVE YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT ALLOW EVERY CHILD TO FEEL SAFE, LOVED, AND RESPECTED.



EMPOWER CHILDREN TO FIND THEIR VOICE, ESTABLISH SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS, AND BUILD RESILIENCE, TRANSFORMING THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH A PARENT'S CANCER AND ITS IMPACT ON THEIR LIFE.



CULTIVATE AND STRENGTHEN ENDURING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS THAT LAST THROUGH AND BEYOND A PARENT'S CANCER.



WHO CAN ATTEND? Camp Kesem serves children 6 to 18 years old who have lost a parent to cancer, have a parent currently undergoing cancer treatment, or whose parent is a cancer survivor—an estimated population of over 5 million children in the United States.

HOW LONG ARE THE CAMPS?

The camps are typically one week in length.

HOW MUCH DOES CAMP COST? Camp Kesem is completely **free** to all children who attend.

WHO RUNS THE CAMPS? Our camps are staffed by highly trained college student leaders. These students are carefully screened through a competitive interview process and undergo extensive training prior to camp. Our student leaders work year-round to raise funds, conduct outreach in their communities, and plan programming to make camp a truly unique and unforgettable experience. Each camp is also staffed with nursing and mental health professionals.

CAN CHILDREN RETURN TO CAMP KESEM MORE THAN ONCE? Yes! Kesem campers are part of our family for life and they love the bonds they form with friends who return year after year.

DOES CAMP KESEM PROVIDE THERAPY? No. Our student leaders provide a warm and loving environment where children are free to share their feelings with one another. Our model focuses on providing a strong peer-based support network where children can find strength, hope, compassion, and fun.

WHERE DO I FIND A LOCAL CAMP?

Visit [kesem.org](#).

HOW DO I APPLY? Applications open in January of each year and are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. All applications are submitted online at [kesem.force.com](#).