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Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation Funds Four Important Cancer Projects in Vince Lombardi's Honor

MILWAUKEE, WIS. – It's been nearly 54 years since NFL coach Vince Lombardi died of cancer in 1970. In his honor, Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation has awarded funding to four organizations fighting the disease: Aurora Health Care, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care, Children's of Alabama and Johns Hopkins University.

The Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation has raised over \$24 million since its inception in 1971 and awards annual research grants for all types of adult and pediatric cancer.

"We are proud to fund institutions across the country that are advancing our mission to prevent cancer, provide the best care to those fighting it, and find a cure in memory of Coach Lombardi," said David Kriete, Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation board president. "These grants will help save lives."

Aurora Health Care in Wisconsin received funding to support its Team Phoenix program, a 14-week fitness class that helps cancer survivors regain their endurance and strength after treatment by training for a sprint-distance triathlon.

Friends of CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Foundation in Texas received funding to provide free 3D mammograms to women without health care coverage or financial capacity. Mammograms are used to scan for early signs of breast cancer.

"The Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation's donation will provide mammograms to women that would otherwise not have the ability to have a mammogram. Their generosity and our mammograms will save lives," said Lisa Lopez, mammography program coordinator at Christus Santa Rosa Westover Hills.

Through the Starr Children's Fund, a childhood cancer research organization established by legendary NFL quarterback Bart Starr and his wife Cherry Starr, Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation also awarded funding to Children's of Alabama and Johns Hopkins University.

Children's of Alabama will use the funding to establish the Bart and Cherry Starr Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Fund. This fellowship program will focus on blood and marrow transplants for children, which treat and can sometimes even cure blood cancers, like leukemia, and other serious diseases.

Johns Hopkins University's research funded by the Starr Children's Fund will focus on defeating a type of pediatric brain tumor called glioblastomas by leaving no cancer cell behind.

"The main problem is not how to get the drug at the brain tumor, but how to spread it within the tumor. We have a strategy that spreads a powerful therapeutic over the entire tumor to help eradicate cancer cells," said Stavroula Sofou, professor at Johns Hopkins University.

To learn more about the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation and Starr Children's Fund selection process or to apply for a grant, visit lombardifoundation.org/grant-funding.

About Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation

Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation was established in 1971, in memory of five-time National Football League Championship Green Bay Packers Coach Vince Lombardi. His spirit, enthusiasm and commitment to excellence touched countless lives. On September 3, 1970, he lost a battle to colon cancer, dying at only 57. In his honor, the foundation is dedicated to preventing cancer, caring for those who are battling it and finding a cure. For more information on Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation, visit lombardifoundation.org and follow the foundation on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Starr Children's Fund

Bart Starr's legacy on the football field matched his charitable legacy. After Coach Vince Lombardi passed away from colon cancer in 1970, Bart and Cherry Starr graciously accepted the role of honorary chairpersons of the first annual Vince Lombardi Memorial Golf Classic and served the foundation for 44 years. They contributed to raising more than \$16 million to help fight cancer. In 2017, in collaboration with the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation, they introduced the Starr Children's Fund, which is dedicated to raising funds to support pediatric cancer research and treatment. For more information, visit starrchildrensfund.org.

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