



# Press Release

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## **St. Baldrick's Foundation Awards \$35,300 Grant to Mountain States Tumor Institute**

*Grant is part of more than \$2.4 million awarded in grants in Fall 2008.*

BOISE, ID (January 23, 2009) – [St. Baldrick's Foundation](http://www.stbaldricks.org), a non-profit organization dedicated to raising money for childhood cancer research, awarded a grant of \$35,300 to St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute. These grants are designated to either help institutions treat more kids on clinical trials (their best hope for a cure), or provide resources to make more research possible.

St. Baldrick's began as a challenge between friends and has exploded into the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising program for childhood cancer research. St. Baldrick's donors and volunteers made possible over \$15 million in funding for childhood cancer research in 2008 alone; Mountain States Tumor Institute (MSTI) is one of 28 institutions to receive funding as part of St. Baldrick's fall grants which totaled over \$2.4 million.

Funding will be used at MSTI to help offset some of the costs to hire an additional research regulatory assistant and research pharmacist. The additional staffing will help improve access for Idaho children seeking to participate in cancer clinical trials. Existing staffing limitations have diminished the number of clinical trials available at St. Luke's, forcing Idaho patients to travel out-of-state to enroll in clinical trials.

“Unfortunately traveling out-of-state is often an overwhelming burden for Idaho children and their families, so many children are missing the opportunity to participate in trials that are at the forefront of cancer treatment,” said Dr. Eugenia Chang, staff pediatric hematologist/oncologist and principal investigator at MSTI for Children's Oncology Group. “The generous grant from St. Baldrick's Foundation will improve our ability to offer patients in our region greater access to clinical trials, which in turn exposes our patients to a wider-range of potentially life-saving treatment options.”

St. Baldrick's awards grants to institutions that meet stringent criteria and share the foundation's commitment to fiscal responsibility and emphasis on research. St. Baldrick's volunteer event organizers led the way to raising over \$17 million in 2008 alone and St. Baldrick's also considers these efforts in local communities to assist in determining grant recipients.

“Our volunteers and donors give hope to children and families touched by this dreadful disease,” says Kathleen Ruddy, Executive Director for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation. “Their passion and dedication to the cause turn that hope into reality and have helped make grants like these possible.”

### **About St. Luke’s Mountain States Tumor Institute**

Founded in 1969, St. Luke’s Mountain States Tumor Institute (MSTI) has treated nearly 60,000 patients and has become one of the Northwest’s most respected cancer care centers providing the region’s most advanced cancer care therapies with the added benefit of allowing most patients to remain close to home.

In 1970, MSTI began treating children through a pediatric center at St. Luke’s Children’s Hospital. The center treats an average of 170 new pediatric hematology/oncology patients yearly. The center serves nearly all of Idaho and into portions of northern Nevada and eastern Oregon. For more information about MSTI and St. Luke’s Children’s Hospital visit [www.stlukesonline.org](http://www.stlukesonline.org).

### **About The St. Baldrick’s Foundation**

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation coordinates worldwide head-shaving events, with volunteer “shavees” raising money to support childhood cancer research. Since 2000, head-shavings have taken place in 18 countries and 48 U.S. states, raising more than \$51 million, and shaving more than 73,000 heads.

The St. Baldrick’s Foundation makes grants to research institutions to find new cures for childhood cancer, and to find treatments to ensure a better quality of life for patients and survivors. The Foundation funds research projects conducted by established pediatric cancer experts, as well as younger professionals who will be the experts of tomorrow. Funds also enable hundreds of local institutions to participate in national pediatric cancer clinical trials, offering the best available care for every child. The St. Baldrick’s Foundation is grateful to its many volunteers (bald or not!) and donors, including HeadBlade Ultimate Headcare, PartnerRe, elope and QBE for making life-saving childhood cancer research possible. For more information about St. Baldrick’s, please call 1-888-899-BALD or visit [www.StBaldricks.org](http://www.StBaldricks.org).

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