



Helping others leave a legacy for the kids of St. Jude



St. Jude supporter **Alex Varela** (second from left) with her husband and three children.



A personal experience inspires attorney Alex Varela to help others create their own legacies.

As a Cuban American bilingual attorney, Alex helps many people in the Hispanic community in and around North Orange County, California, learn how they can protect their families and establish a legacy by creating a will.

Alex said, “My grandmother, who immigrated to the U.S. from Cuba, did not have a will. I remember the stress my father and his sister went through trying to make decisions that could have been avoided if she had a will.”

Having experienced the importance of estate planning in her own family, Alex understands its impact. “People want a plan to ensure that their family will be taken care of and that they will be able to remain in their homes throughout their lives. Having a good estate plan in place is very important to achieve those goals.”

Many people also ask Alex about establishing a legacy of giving to a meaningful mission and being a part of something greater than themselves, as an example to their children.

As a mother of 3 healthy children, Alex is creating her own legacy with St. Jude and says, “It seems so unfair that a child would

have to go through cancer. I started giving monthly by becoming a member of the Partners In Hope program.”

Alex says many people who express a desire to make a difference want help when choosing a reputable charity, like St. Jude.

Being able to support, protect and care for children, parents and grandparents should be the most important financial goal for families. Beyond that, Alex says, **“Helping the children of St. Jude is a noble legacy for anyone to have.”**

Planning your estate is a great way to ensure that your assets will go to your loved ones according to your wishes, and you can leave a legacy that helps ensure that families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food—so they can focus on helping their child live.

This material is for informational purposes only. Please consult a professional advisor to determine if this type of gift is right for you.

Art by St. Jude patients
Coraliz, Hazelle and McKenzie



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

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For more information, you can call or email us, complete and return the enclosed card or visit our website at stjude.org/legacy.

Please write to us if you do not wish to receive further fundraising materials from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that your request is honored.



Liliana's Story

St. Jude patient **Liliana**, liver cancer

"When they told me it was cancer, I felt like my world had fallen apart. Liliana is my life," said Vilma, Liliana's mom.

It all started with a fever that wouldn't go away. Then, Liliana started experiencing nose bleeds and severe stomach pain.

When her mom noticed that Liliana's stomach seemed swollen, she immediately took her to their local hospital, where test results revealed a devastating diagnosis: Liliana had liver cancer.

She was referred to St. Jude, where our doctors placed her on a treatment plan that included radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

"If St. Jude didn't exist, I don't think I would have her with me anymore," Vilma said. "The cancer she had was already spreading."

Liliana bravely endured tough days during her treatment, but is now home



A legacy gift that is simple and effective

Another way to leave a legacy gift for St. Jude is through a beneficiary designation. **It costs you nothing now** to designate the funds in your accounts, like checking, savings, CDs, or IRAs, to pass to St. Jude after your lifetime. This is called Transfer on Death (TOD) or Payable on Death (POD), and whoever you name as the beneficiary will automatically receive any assets in your account.

A beneficiary designation does not have to be included in your will. Simply ask your financial institution for a form to name your beneficiary and sign your name. You may also need the St. Jude federal tax identification number: **62-0646012**.

Please check with a professional advisor to determine if this kind of gift is right for you.



Please scan the QR code or visit **stjude.org/legacy** to learn more.

with her parents and siblings and back to her active self. Vilma said, "Liliana is doing very well today, thanks to St. Jude."

Children like Liliana have hope for a future because of friends like you who support our lifesaving mission.



stjude.org/legacy