

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.



#### KESEM AT KU FY 2023 STATISTICS

**92** children attended camp

Funds raised on Giving Tuesday: **\$32,000**

+ Funds raised at  
Make the Magic charity gala: **\$72,000**

Total fundraised: **\$104,000**



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 AT KU

- [kesem.ku](#)
- [Kesem at University of Kansas](#)

#### 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**  
AT UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

# 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.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**December 12, 2023:** Returning camper applications open

**January 23, 2024:** New camper applications open

**May 26, 2024 - May 31, 2024:** Camp Kesem at KU's summer camp located at Camp Wood YMCA in Elmdale, KS

## YEAR ROUND SERVICES

### KESEM FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAYS

These fall and spring events are opportunities for campers to do planned activities together and reunite with other campers and counselors! These are also a great introduction to Kesem for new families.



### KESEM CONNECTIONS

Stay connected with our organization and other camper families through our newsletter and Facebook group.

### KESEM SPECIAL DELIVERIES

On their birthday, campers receive birthday cards signed by Kesem at KU members.



### KESEM BY YOUR SIDE

During particularly difficult times, Kesem provides grief support.

**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.

**WHAT HAPPENS AT CAMP?** During camp, children can participate in activities such as boating, horseback riding, archery, crafts, and more. Camp also includes our signature Empowerment Ceremony. The Empowerment Ceremony gives children the opportunity to discuss their experiences with a parent's cancer. During camp, nurses and mental health professionals are present to provide support for the children.