

Jack Skowronnek is founder of his namesake event, Jack's Chattanooga, which raises awareness and funds for pediatric cancer through an annual head-shaving event.

At 10 years old, Jack read a book called *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick, which tells the story of four year-old Jeffrey, who has been diagnosed with leukemia. The book, told from the perspective of Jeffrey's 14 year-old brother Steven, details the financial and social impact of Jeffrey's condition on the family and community. As Jeffrey begins to lose his hair due to chemotherapy, Steven decides to shave his own head in solidarity.

Immediately after reading the book, Jack decided he had to shave his head "...to show kids it's okay to be bald." At the time, Jack didn't know anyone with cancer, but, still, he was motivated to bring attention to children's cancer by shaving his head. The first year, Jack raised \$1,200 on his own, which he donated to St. Baldrick's, an organization which endeavors to help fill the funding gap for children's cancer research.

In the second year, 14 people joined Jack in his efforts, shaved their heads and raised nearly \$3,200 for St. Baldrick's. It was after this head-shaving event when Jack partnered with the Children's Hospital Foundation in Chattanooga to raise awareness and funds for the Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders department of Children's Hospital at Erlanger...and Jack's Chattanooga was born.

In 2011, Jack's Chattanooga inaugural year, almost 50 men, women and children shaved their heads to raise over \$18,000. In just three events, Jack's Chattanooga has shaved over 300 heads, and has raised almost \$100,000 for the Children's Hospital Foundation.

When Jack's not trying to change the world, he's a normal teenager who is passionate about films, particularly Spaghetti Westerns and Quentin Tarantino films, Xbox and antagonizing his younger sister who, deep down inside, he truly loves.

- 2009 - Nominated for the Mayor's Award, Wauconda, IL
- 2009 - Wauconda School District - Certificate of Appreciation for Volunteerism and Community Service
- 2013 - Thiel Fellows Fireside Talks Presenter, Chattanooga, TN
- 2013 - Jack's Chattanooga plaque unveiled in the Children's Hospital oncology clinic
- 2014 - Named a global teen leader for Three Dot Dash, part of the We Are Family Foundation.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Dawn Skowronnek (423) 994-7680

[charmedbydawn@gmail.com](mailto:charmedbydawn@gmail.com)