Dear Editor,

September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. A gold Ribbon in September stands for kids with cancer. An opportunity is available to you to raise awareness and support these special kids.
On September 18, an event called CureSearch Walk is being held in Columbus to raise funds for an organization called CureSearch. This is a nonprofit organization that funds life saving research through the Children's Oncology Group (COG). There are more than 200 children's cancer centers across the U.S. Some of these centers include Nationwide Children's in Columbus, Toledo Children's Hospital and St. Jude's Hospital. CureSearch is a research organization that is strictly dedicated to research of children's cancers. Ninety-six percent of all money raised goes directly to research. Several individuals who partner with CureSearch are the Jeff Gordon Children's Foundation and major league baseball player Craig Breslow's Strike 3 Foundation. The CureSearch spring 2011 newsletter contained the following information: "We just learned, however, that this year's federal budget cuts to the COG will total nearly 10%. We must recognize that the resources needed to advance children's cancer research will come largely from private fund raising."
I will be attending the CureSearch Walk in Columbus on 9/18 in memory of my granddaughter, Alivia. She passed this year in May at the age of 3 from cancer. I have formed a team called Beanie's Bunch. Please visit www.curesearch.org to register to walk or to donate. All walkers aged 16 and up sign up with a $10 registration fee. You can walk in person or be a "Virtual Walker." I invite you to join my team or you can form your own.
The walk is at Franklin Park, 1755 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43203. Registration is from 10-11 a.m. with the opening ceremony and walk to follow from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.
One of Alivia's frequent statements to me was "I will help you." In her memory, "I will help you" by raising money and by raising awareness for the need to find cures for children's cancers.
Sincerely, Betty Shobe