

## Altruistic Project

**Camp Kesem was the only altruistic project nominated.**

**Camp Kesem** is a program for children, ages 6 – 18, whose parents are in cancer treatment, are cancer survivors, or who have lost their battle with cancer. Most organizations focus on cancer research or treatment; but there are 5 million children nationwide coping with a parent’s cancer diagnosis. Kesem creates experiences and a sense of community to support these children who often feel anxiety, emotional isolation, loss of social interest, and feelings of hopelessness. This support includes its flagship program Camp Kesem, a free, fun-filled summer camp, as well as year-round support, communication, and “Friends and Family Days.” Program chapters are on college campuses where Kesem recruits student leader volunteers. With oversight and guidance from Kesem, they undergo extensive training on how to create an environment where these children will feel safe and respected as they cope with their parents’ diagnosis. The volunteers also receive leadership training as they are responsible for yearlong fundraising, organizing, hosting the camp, and being camp counselors. There are 130 nationwide chapters serving 7,000 children and 22 chapters in California including many UC campuses and state universities. It has the goal to serve at least 10,300 children by 2025. All Kesem programs are provided at no cost to families thanks to the generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporate partners, California AΔK funds will be allocated to cover costs to allow as many children as possible to attend Camp Kesem.