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On behalf of the University of Florida Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Program, it is my pleasure to support the Betabel Road Project.

I have known Rider and Tori McDowell for almost 5 years. In 2015, I had the honor of being the research coordinator for their amazing son Errol. When Errol had a reoccurrence of his brain tumor, Ride searched the entire country for the best options for his son. They left no option on the table and became knowledgeable advocates for not only our program but for pediatric cancer. Errol fought his battle from every aspect in a way that benefitted everyone around him. Tori and Rider now carry on that fight and have never stopped. They are dedicating their time, effort and personal finances to finding a cure for this horrible disease.

Pediatric cancer is now the number one disease killer of children in the United States. In 2020 over 15,000 children will receive this devastating diagnosis. It is well known that only research, collaboration of multiple physicians, scientist and institutions will change the landscape of this devastating disease.

The effort to turn the tide on pediatric cancer will take private philanthropy in the most monumental way. Pediatrics only receives 4% of the federal funding for cancer research, which is a totally inadequate for the needs of these children. Therefore, programs of every size including an academic medical center like the University of Florida rely heavily on private funds for our research program and new protocols.

The Betabel Road project is the out of the box, quality, and sustainable project that our entire team is excited to support. This project would bring ongoing funds while supporting a community. For these reasons, we support the Betabel project and the efforts of Rider and Tori McDowell.

Sincerely,

Marcia Hodik, RN, BSHS, CCRC
Pediatric Research Nurse Coordinator
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