



## Credit Unions Kids at Heart® and the Team Jack Foundation Team Up to Fight Pediatric Brain Cancer

**Boston (October 3, 2018)** –Credit Unions Kids at Heart, a collaborative charitable organization of the credit union community, and the Team Jack Foundation, a non-profit foundation chaired by New England Patriots running back Rex Burkhead, announced jointly today that they have teamed up in the fight against pediatric brain cancer.

Over the past thirty years, pediatric brain cancer (tumors) has surpassed leukemia as the leading cancer cause of death in children. In the last several years, both the Massachusetts-based Credit Unions Kids at Heart and the Nebraska-based Team Jack Foundation have separately directed funds to research projects aimed at the prevention and treatment of pediatric brain tumors. This year, the two organizations have teamed up in this fight; Credit Unions Kids at Heart will donate \$30,000 to the Team Jack Foundation earmarked toward their funding of specific pediatric brain cancer clinical trials.

“We are thrilled to have the Team Jack Foundation, whose vision is akin to our own, as a collaborative partner this year,” said Jane C. Melchionda, President/CEO of EasCorp and founder of Credit Unions Kids at Heart. “Credit Unions Kids at Heart believes in the remarkable resilience of children, and we believe that medical research provides the promise of a future where every child can enjoy good health. The Team Jack Foundation shares this outlook. The Team Jack Foundation’s financial support of these clinical trials for pediatric brain cancer, a disease for which research is largely underfunded, will have an immediate impact in making kinder and gentler treatment options available to these children and brings that bright future nearer to us. We are so happy to make a contribution to the Team Jack Foundation in support of this effort.”

These clinical trials, led by research investigators at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, are testing the efficacy of two promising targeted agents, MEK162 and TAK580, to stop disease progression, and will allow for critical analysis of tumor material generated by these trials. The goal of these clinical trials is, ultimately, to support the development of chemically engineered smart drugs that target common mutations which drive brain tumor growth. Hopefully, these targeted agents will be more successful than those treatment protocols currently available, and cause less adverse effects.

“It is an honor to be partnering with Credit Unions Kids at Heart to further the mission of The Team Jack Foundation, a cause that is so dear to my heart. Their donation will have a direct impact on pediatric brain cancer right here in Boston,” said Rex Burkhead, New England Patriots running back and Team Jack Foundation Board Member. “By not only providing dollars, but also increasing awareness of the disease, they are helping make pediatric brain cancer a national priority. These kids need our support, and I am excited to help both organizations tackle this horrific disease.”

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### **About Credit Unions Kids at Heart® :**

Credit Unions Kids at Heart® was founded in 1996 by Eastern Corporate Federal Credit Union (EasCorp) of Burlington, Massachusetts, and small group of Massachusetts credit unions. Since that time, the program has expanded nationally to include dozens of participating credit unions and corporate sponsors. The program and its team of dedicated supporters are presently committed to funding research activities aimed at the prevention, treatment, and/or cure of pediatric neurological diseases. Learn more at [www.cukidsatheart.org](http://www.cukidsatheart.org).

The 2018-2019 season collaboration between Credit Unions Kids at Heart and the Team Jack Foundation is supported by: Digital Federal Credit Union, Granite State Credit Union, Hanscom Federal Credit Union, Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union, MIT Federal Credit Union, Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union, Rockland Federal Credit Union, RTN Federal Credit Union, St. Anne's Credit Union, and Vertifi Software, LLC.

### **About the Team Jack Foundation:**

The Team Jack Foundation was founded in 2013 with the mission to raise impactful funds for pediatric brain cancer research and work to raise national awareness for the disease. The predecessors to the Team Jack Foundation were the family and friends of Jack Hoffman, who was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Since the Foundation's inception, Team Jack has raised over \$5 million for pediatric brain cancer research and is currently funding six research projects nation-wide. The Team Jack Foundation is working with world renowned researchers, directly, to develop relevant and impactful research initiatives not only to find a cure, but to find better treatments for children diagnosed with brain tumors. For more information on The Team Jack Foundation, please visit the website: [www.TeamJackFoundation.org](http://www.TeamJackFoundation.org).