

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE
SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 AS
RUNWAY TO HOPE DAY
IN SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children. Across the United States, 46 children per day, or 16,790 children per year, are diagnosed with cancer, and 1 in 285 children will be diagnosed with cancer by their 20th birthday; and

WHEREAS, the financial burden of medical expenses and other bills can overwhelm parents and children alike, exacerbating the stress and hardships faced by these families, where 1 in 5 families are living in poverty at the time of their child's diagnosis, and 1 in 3 families experience work disruption, often requiring a parent to quit their job to become a full-time caregiver, dramatically reducing the family's income; and

WHEREAS, when a child is diagnosed with cancer, the entire family suffers, oftentimes leading to poorly developed interpersonal skills, feelings of isolation, and low self-esteem for the child diagnosed, and anxiety, depression, symptoms of PTSD, and distress for the parents and siblings; and

WHEREAS, Runway to Hope's efforts of offering direct emergency financial assistance for basic necessity expenses to families in our community is incredibly impactful; and

WHEREAS, Runway to Hope has implemented its Total Wellness Program, a comprehensive support system designed to address the holistic needs of families, in addition to the financial needs that come along with a pediatric cancer diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, throughout the year, Runway to Hope offers volunteer opportunities and collaborates with local businesses, sponsors, and donors to foster partnerships within the community, creating a network of ongoing support and engagement; and

WHEREAS, through these initiatives, Runway to Hope significantly enhances the well-being of pediatric cancer patients and their families, while fostering a supportive, engaged, and compassionate community; and

WHEREAS, Seminole County recognizes and commends Runway to Hope for its unwavering commitment to supporting families and children in our region affected by pediatric cancer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we, the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners do hereby proclaim September 10, 2025 as

RUNWAY TO HOPE DAY

in Seminole County, Florida.

ADOPTED this 26th day of August 2025



Jay Zembower, Chairman
Seminole County, Board of County Commissioners