

The cause needs a champion,  
the Children need a hero...  
and we choose you.

## What Is MLD?

Leukodystrophy is an inherited, progressive disorder of the central nervous system and the peripheral nervous system.

Metachromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD) is a disease in which fatty substances build up in the white matter part of the brain and spinal cord, affecting mental development and the ability to move in a coordinated way. Most forms of MLD appear in early childhood, but can also affect adults. It usually leads to progressive paralysis, and in children, early death.

Scientists have traced the development of MLD to a defect in the gene that tells the body how to make an enzyme called Arylsulfatase A (ASA). This enzyme is responsible for breaking down sulfatide into smaller, harmless chemicals that can be eliminated or reused by the body. The lack of proper ASA enzyme leads to a buildup of sulfatide which in turn causes a process called demyelination. This causes the symptoms of MLD by affecting communication between nerves in the brain.

## Our Mission

Bethanys Hope Foundation is committed to:

- Conducting research into the cause, control and cure of MLD.
- Undertake public education and publication about MLD.
- Continue to give "Hope" to children and their families who suffer with the devastation of Leukodystrophy.



For more information please contact:

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Time To  
Make A  
Difference



Partners in Hope

