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# Steven Spielberg Contributes \$25,000 to Van Der Beek's GoFundMe

## Description

Steven Spielberg and his wife, Kate Capshaw, have contributed to James Van Der Beek's GoFundMe page, set up to support the late actor's family. Spielberg donated \$25,000 to help Van Der Beek's wife, Kimberly, and their six children. The fundraising campaign aims to alleviate financial strain caused by high medical expenses.

Van Der Beek, 48, died on Wednesday morning after battling colorectal cancer. He publicly revealed his diagnosis in November 2024, stating that he had been secretly dealing with it since August 2023.

As of Thursday at 3 p.m. PT, donations had exceeded \$1.8 million, surpassing the initial goal of \$1.5 million. The target had initially started at \$550,000, but as donations surged, organisers raised it. Less than a day after the page was launched, contributions had already topped \$1 million.

Though Spielberg and Van Der Beek never collaborated directly on any projects, the actor's character in *Dawson's Creek* admired the filmmaker and decorated his room with several of Spielberg's movie posters. At a recent reunion event for the series in New York, Spielberg surprised fans with a video message, commenting on the show's impact.

Other notable figures from Hollywood have also donated, including *Wicked: For Good* director Jon M. Chu, who gave \$10,000, and Oscar-winner Zoe Saldana, who pledged \$2,500 monthly.

The GoFundMe page emphasizes the challenges Kimberly and her children face following this loss, stating that the support will help them manage living expenses and ensure the children's education continues as they navigate this difficult period.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Contributed** /kən'trɪb.juː.tɪd/ (verb): To give (money help etc.) to a common supply fund or cause.
2. **Alleviate** /ə'liː.vi.ɛɪt/ (verb): To make sufferings deficiency or a problem less severe.
3. **Exceed** /ɪk'siːd/ (verb): To be greater in number or size than (a quantity number or other measurable thing).
4. **Surged** /sɜːrdʒd/ (verb): To increase suddenly and powerfully.
5. **Navigate** /'næv.ɪ.geɪt/ (verb): To plan and direct the course of something often used in the context of navigating challenges.
6. **Emphasizes** /'em.fə.saɪzɪz/ (verb): To give special importance or prominence to something in speaking or writing.



## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. Who contributed to James Van Der Beek's GoFundMe page?  
Option: Steven Spielberg and Kate Capshaw  
Option: Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson  
Option: Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie  
Option: George Clooney and Amal Clooney
2. How much did Steven Spielberg donate to help Van Der Beek's family?  
Option: \$10,000  
Option: \$25,000  
Option: \$50,000  
Option: \$100,000
3. When did Van Der Beek publicly reveal his colorectal cancer diagnosis?  
Option: November 2023  
Option: August 2023  
Option: January 2024  
Option: March 2024
4. How much did Jon M. Chu donate to the GoFundMe page?  
Option: \$1,000  
Option: \$5,000  
Option: \$10,000  
Option: \$20,000
5. Who pledged \$2,500 monthly to the GoFundMe page?  
Option: Leonardo DiCaprio  
Option: Zoe Saldana  
Option: Jennifer Lawrence  
Option: Dwayne Johnson
6. What was the initial fundraising goal set for the GoFundMe page?  
Option: \$500,000



- Option: \$750,000
- Option: \$1,000,000
- Option: \$1,500,000

### True-False

- 7. James Van Der Beek passed away at the age of 48.
- 8. Steven Spielberg and James Van Der Beek collaborated on multiple projects together.
- 9. The GoFundMe page exceeded its initial goal of \$1.5 million.
- 10. Kimberly and her children are not facing any financial challenges following the loss of Van Der Beek.
- 11. Zoe Saldana is an Oscar-winner.
- 12. Jon M. Chu directed a movie titled "Wicked: For Good".

### Gap-Fill

- 15. The fundraising campaign aims to alleviate financial strain caused by high \_\_\_\_\_ expenses.
- 16. Kimberly and her children need support to manage living expenses and ensure the children's \_\_\_\_\_ continues.
- 17. Van Der Beek revealed his cancer diagnosis in \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.
- 18. The GoFundMe page initially started with a goal of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Steven Spielberg and Kate Capshaw 2. \$25,000 3. November 2024 4. \$10,000 5. Zoe Saldana 6. \$550,000  
**True-False:** 7. True 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False  
**Gap-Fill:** 15. medical 16. education 17. November 18. 550,000



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## CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL5

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2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. james van der beek
5. Level 5
6. steven spielberg

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## Date Created

2026/02/13

## Author

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