



**CURESEARCH**

FOR CHILDREN'S CANCER



# IMPACT REPORT

Published Nov. 2024

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Powered by hope. Fueled by research.



## LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Your support is changing the future of childhood cancer. At CureSearch, we're dedicated to accelerating the search for childhood cancer cures because kids with cancer can't wait. In 2024 alone, we've invested over \$4.4 million in lifesaving research funding — over \$3.9 million of that supporting pre-clinical research and clinical trials. With the majority of young cancer patients treated in a clinical trial setting, this type of funding is changing the odds for the 42 children diagnosed with cancer each day. Together, our efforts offer new hope to them and their families as they navigate the harsh realities of toxic and outdated childhood cancer treatments. Your support has made all of this possible!

This giving season, when I reflect on how grateful I am, I think of all the patients, families and advocates who's dedication to our mission is changing the future of childhood cancer. This change requires support from many

places – academia, industry, advocacy, donors and foundations, to name a few. Supporters like you are vital in making a difference.

In the coming year, we will continue expanding partnerships, investing in new technologies to achieve a future without childhood cancer, and stretching every dollar to fund the highest quality research projects, both nationally and internationally. Looking ahead, we are more determined than ever to achieve our vision of a world where no child has to face the uncertainty and pain of a cancer diagnosis.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our vision! I look forward to what we will accomplish together.

Until there are cures,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Koehler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kay Koehler, President & CEO

# COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP BOARDS LAUNCH

This year, we launched Community Leadership Boards across the country to amplify the CureSearch mission farther and wider than ever before. Board members foster strategic relationships within their communities, driving fundraising, event participation and increased awareness of the need for pediatric cancer research funding.



## Our Community Leadership Boards are growing.

Contribute your skills and passion to support our mission and help drive our initiatives forward — in your own backyard and beyond! To learn more about board opportunities in your area, please reach out to [communityengagement@curesearch.org](mailto:communityengagement@curesearch.org) and a local board member or CureSearch staff member will contact you.

Learn more at [curesearch.org/community-leadership-board](http://curesearch.org/community-leadership-board)



# YOUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Since 2012

46

RESEARCH PROJECTS  
FUNDED, AT...

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34

INSTITUTIONS AROUND  
THE WORLD,  
INCLUDING...

---

16

PRE-CLINICAL PROJECTS  
AND CLINICAL TRIALS  
ACROSS...

---

20

SUBTYPES, MANY OF  
THEM HIGH-RISK.



Dr. Mohamed Shebl Abdelbaki,  
Washington University School of  
Medicine, St. Louis, Catapult Awardee

## CURESEARCH'S 2024 CATAPULT AWARDEE

### **This Clinical Trial Aims to Find Safer Treatments for Pediatric Brain Tumors**

Despite advances in treatment, outcomes for children with recurrent brain tumors remain poor. Dr. Abdelbaki is leading a trial aimed at finding a more effective, less toxic approach to treatment using Natural Killer (NK) cell therapy, where enhanced NK cells are infused directly into the tumor site after surgery. This approach is designed to help the NK cells target the cancer more effectively by concentrating them at the tumor site. This trial, conducted through the Pacific Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Consortium, will enroll 24 children and young adults at sites across the country beginning this year.

*Read more at [curesearch.org/clinical-trial-funding](https://curesearch.org/clinical-trial-funding)*

# SPOTLIGHT: Our Acceleration Initiative Grants Move New Treatments Into Clinical Trials

# 60%

of pre-clinical research projects funded through our Acceleration Initiative (AI) **advance to clinical trials**, compared to a less than 8% average rate of translation for drugs into clinical cancer trials. Our AI projects are highly innovative, driving translational research to the clinic within three years.



CureSearch Acceleration Initiative Award

**\$1.73 million**

**Dr. Mary Beckerle, Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah**

Project: A novel epigenetic strategy to treat Ewing sarcoma

The CureSearch Acceleration Initiative Award provided crucial funding for researchers to conduct thorough preclinical testing of an LSD1 inhibitor, which led to a clinical trial for Ewing sarcoma that showed promising results, including clinical benefit in some patients.

**IMPACT:** Ewing sarcoma is the second most common bone cancer in children, and the disease is typically aggressive and difficult to treat. This drug holds the potential to offer a novel treatment option for children with Ewing sarcoma.



CureSearch Acceleration Initiative Award

**\$1.26 million**

**Dr. Andrew Kung, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**

Project: Integrative analysis to identify new therapies for pediatric sarcomas

Survival of children with high-risk sarcomas has remained unchanged for the last 20 years.

**IMPACT:** The CureSearch Acceleration Initiative Award provided crucial funding that allowed Dr. Kung's team to establish one of the largest portfolios of patient-derived xenograft models, over half of which are specific to sarcomas. Their preclinical work led to an ongoing clinical trial for children with sarcomas as young as 12 months old.



## SPOTLIGHT: These recently-announced projects are advancing cutting-edge research

### CureSearch Acceleration Initiative Award Ewing sarcoma

**Dr. John Lee**, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Dr. Lee's team is enhancing CAR T-cell therapy by adding Interleukin-18 (IL-18) to boost its effectiveness, aiming to improve outcomes for children with metastatic cancer.



### CureSearch Acceleration Initiative Award Pediatric glioma

**Dr. Joshua Breunig**, Cedars-Sinai

Dr. Breunig has developed a new modeling platform and tumor cell lines to test a targeted therapy called ADI-PEG 20. This, combined with standard treatments, may effectively combat aggressive G34R-mutant pediatric glioma.





### CureSearch Young Investigator Award Acute myeloid leukemia (AML)

**Dr. Babak Moghimi**, Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Dr. Moghimi's team at CHLA has created advanced CAR T-cells to improve patient survival for relapsed/refractory AML, a disease with poor outcomes.



### CureSearch Young Investigator Award Pediatric neuroblastoma

**Dr. Hunter Jonus**, Emory University School of Medicine

Dr. Hunter Jonus is using gamma delta T cells from healthy donors to target high-risk neuroblastoma and other tumors. Her research supports a clinical trial at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta that combines these cells with chemoimmunotherapy.



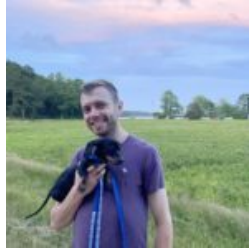


# CURESEARCH LEGACY FUNDS

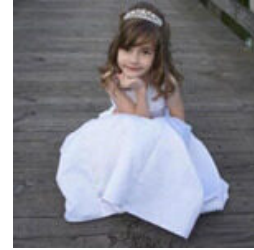
CureSearch Legacy Funds are established by families in honor of their child's cancer journey, furthering their personal commitment to accelerating the development of new, better childhood cancer treatments.



**The Amy Miller  
Champion Fund**



**The Beau Swallow  
Legacy Fund**



**Danielle's Roses**



**The Eloise Dodge Gould  
Legacy Fund**



**Garret and I: The Garret  
Collins Legacy Fund**



**The Jacob Koenigs  
"Jakefest" Memorial Fund**



**The Joey Keller  
Legacy Fund**



**The Luke McGuire  
Legacy Fund**



**The Nick Currey Fund**



**The Sam Schneider  
Legacy**



**Team Steve: The Steven  
Crowe Legacy Fund**



**Violet's Village: The Violet  
Kenney Legacy Fund**

# SPOTLIGHT: HONORING STEVEN CROWE'S LEGACY

## Team Steve: The Steven Crowe Legacy Fund

**The Crowe family keeps their son Steve's fighting spirit alive, raising more than \$380,000 for critical research funding.**

Funds raised by The Steven Crowe Legacy Fund are supporting CureSearch Young Investigator Dr. Elvin Wagenblast at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai. Dr. Wagenblast's research focuses on understanding the earliest stages of childhood leukemia initiation. His team is developing innovative therapies to intervene in the development of preleukemic and leukemic cancer cells, helping researchers understand the disease like never before. This support honors Steve's legacy and helps advance critical pediatric cancer research.

“Our family has chosen to partner with CureSearch because of their focus on driving targeted and innovative research to end childhood cancer. Supporting high-potential pediatric cancer research is needed today as much as it ever has been.”

-Mike Crowe, Steve's Dad



Mike and Ellen Crowe with Dr. Wagenblast

# SPOTLIGHT: HONORING SAM SCHNEIDER'S LEGACY

## The Sam Schneider Legacy

**The Sam Schneider Legacy stands as a powerful testament to the resilience and spirit of a community united by a shared mission.**

Established in honor of Sam Schneider, whose brave battle with cancer inspired countless others, this legacy fund is driven by a commitment to advancing research and support for children and adolescents with Ewing sarcoma. Through events like the Sam Schneider Cornhole Toss and SAMDURO bike race in Colorado, the community rallies together to raise funds and awareness. Each event not only celebrates Sam's courageous journey, but contributes to a larger fight against childhood cancer, ensuring his legacy continues to impact and inspire future generations.



Honor a loved one and make a lasting impact by creating a Legacy Fund with CureSearch. Your personalized fund supports critical childhood cancer research while celebrating the life and legacy of someone special. Legacy Funds are driving the progress that brings us closer to cures for all children. [curesearch.org/legacy-funds](https://curesearch.org/legacy-funds)



# CURESEARCH

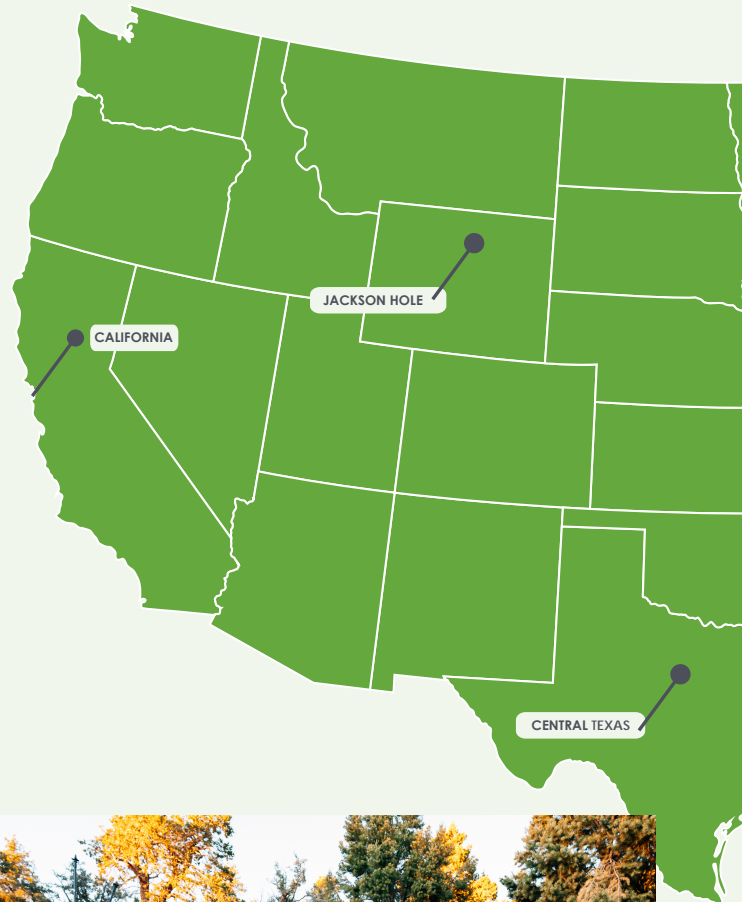
# ULTIMATE HIKE

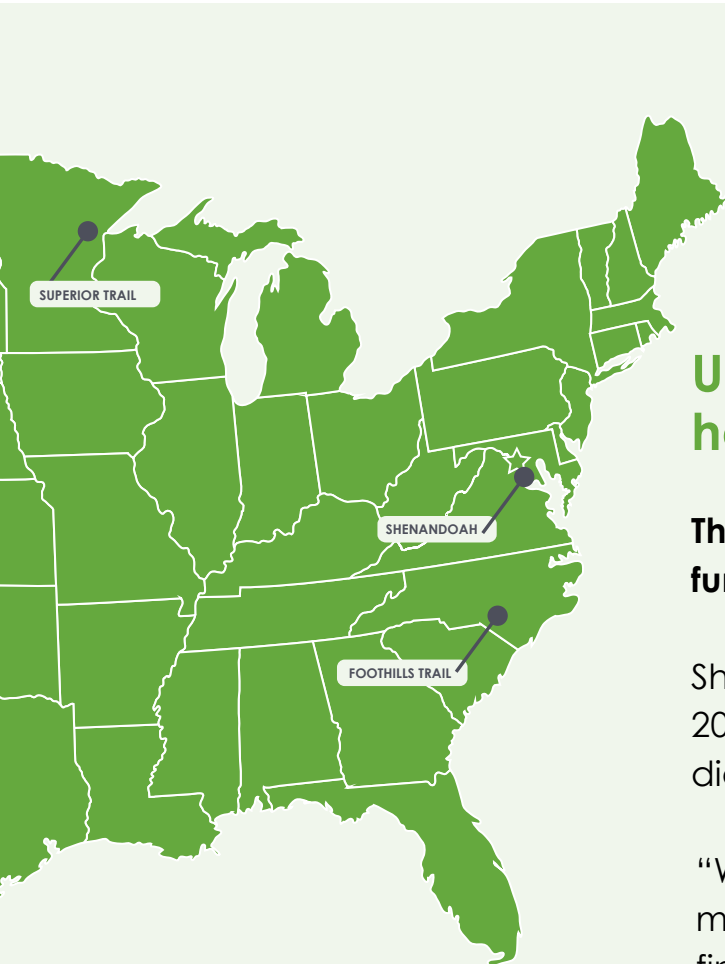
## The Impact of Ultimate Hike

Ultimate Hike is more than just a challenging trek; it's a life-changing, lifesaving adventure that directly impacts the fight against pediatric cancer. Ultimate Hike unites passionate supporters and survivors, all committed to making a tangible difference in the lives of children and their families facing cancer. Hikers travel up to 30 miles in one day, all to help fund critical research aimed at finding cures.

In 2024 alone, **426 hikers** laced up their boots to hit the trails nationwide! In total, they **hiked over 10,444 miles** and raised nearly **\$1 million for childhood cancer research**.

Join us at [ultimatehike.org](https://ultimatehike.org).





## Ultimate Hiker, Frank Gioscia, 73, has raised an incredible \$500,000!

**This milestone makes him Ultimate Hike's top fundraiser of all time.**

Shortly after Frank got started with Ultimate Hike in 2011, a family friend's young son, Gavin, was diagnosed with cancer at just 6 years old.

"With CureSearch, my hiking took on new meaning. I've been hiking for Gavin for years. As I finish an Ultimate Hike, I see all of the pictures of the kids who are fighting cancer and those who lost their battle. I am so thankful that I can do this for them. **It is the most rewarding thing I have ever done,**" Frank shared.

# 2024 CORPORATE PARTNER SUPPORT IN NUMBERS



## \$1m+

raised by Kiewit's annual corporate golf outing, Jakefest, remembering Jake Koenigs and his battle with rhabdomyosarcoma.

## 3,000+

Brave Barbies distributed to children impacted by cancer, in partnership with Mattel.

## 12

Pimiento Tea Room Supper Club dinners, featuring exciting menus, all benefiting CureSearch.

## 14

Busy Bee convenience stores raising money for CureSearch at the register.

## 19

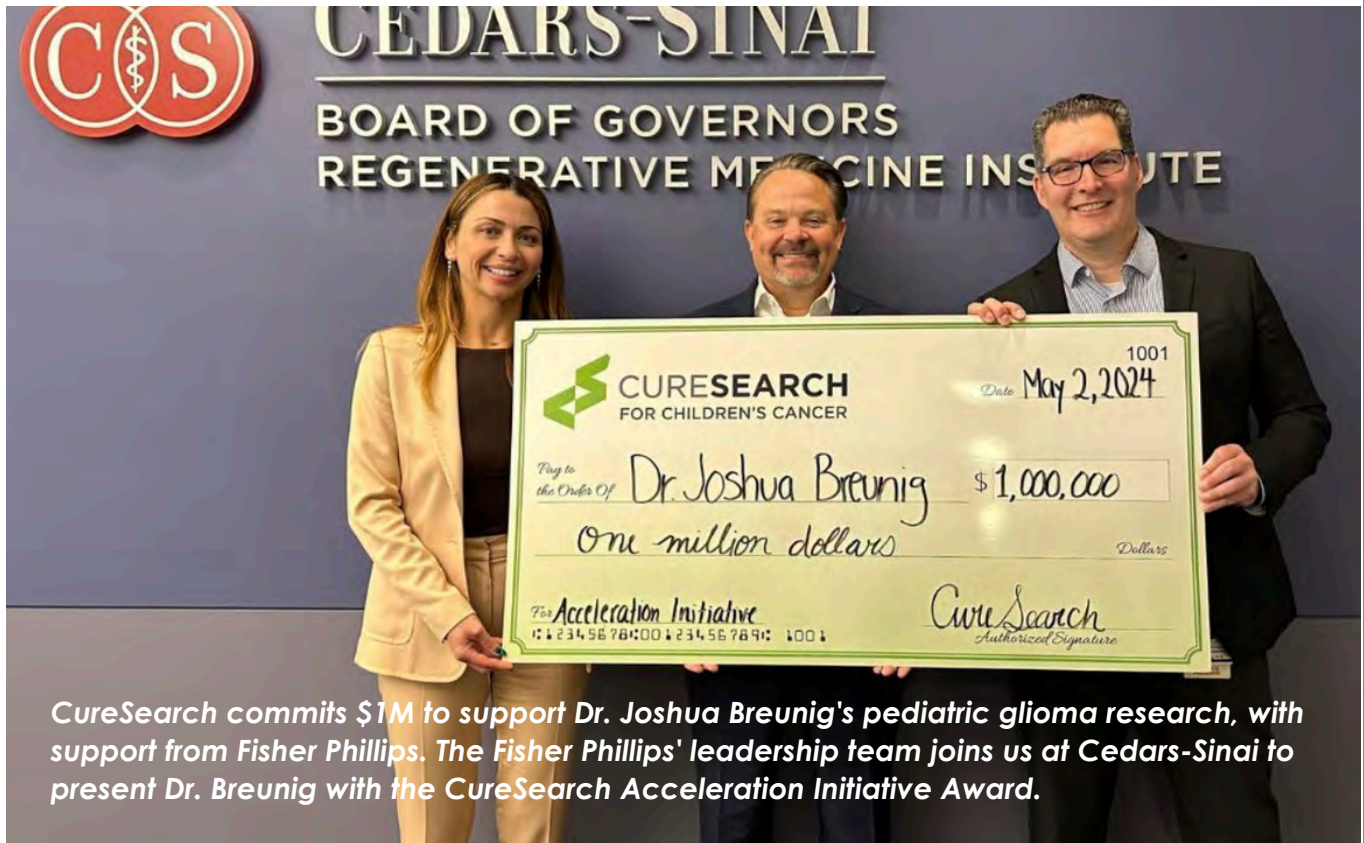
Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant locations donating a portion of dessert sales back to CureSearch.

## 24

event sponsors making our Ultimate Hike, CureSearch Walk and other fundraising events a success!



# OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS MAKE A BIG IMPACT!



## Partnering for Progress: Fisher Phillips' Impact on Advancing Cures



Support from corporate partners, like Fisher Phillips, is vital to ensuring we have the resources we need to fund innovative research. The Fisher Phillips team joined us at a recent lab tour to see, firsthand, how their support is helping drive breakthrough research. The team helped us present Dr. Breunig with a \$1 million "big check" in honor of his CureSearch Acceleration Initiative Award.

Fisher Phillips added a very impactful element to its 2024 employee retreat — a silent auction benefiting CureSearch that raised \$200,000! Employees also participated in a "Notes of Hope" campaign where they created handwritten letters of encouragement for kids in the hospital, offering a meaningful way to connect directly to the mission.

**Consider adding a fundraising element to your next corporate event.**

# OUR SUPPORTERS

Our critical work is made possible by donors and partners who believe in our mission to end childhood cancer. Thank you!

## CORPORATE PARTNERS



## RESEARCH FUNDING PARTNERS





## STRATEGIC SUPPORTERS



We invite your company or foundation to join us in ending children's cancer. Email us today at [info@curesearch.org](mailto:info@curesearch.org) to get started creating your custom partnership. We look forward to working with you!



# DONOR HONOR ROLL

## Transformational Giving (\$1M+)

Norcross Family Foundation

## \$500,000 to \$999,999

LifeArc

## \$100,000 to \$499,999

Grant Thornton Invitational  
Linda Austin

Rally Foundation  
Scott Carter Foundation

SebastianStrong Foundation  
Thermo Fisher Scientific

## \$50,000 to \$99,999

Bayer Pharmaceuticals  
Brancazio Wealth Management

Champions 4 Children  
Fisher Phillips  
Google, Inc.

Kiewit Corporation  
Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough  
LLP

## \$25,000 to \$49,999

Amazon Service, LLC  
Day One Biopharmaceuticals  
Gilbert Memorial Fund  
Invest in Others Charitable  
Foundation, Inc.

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant  
Irving J. Gonzalez, P.A.  
Johnson & Johnson dba Busy Bee  
Less+More  
Maravai LifeSciences Foundation

Peter P. Gao  
Reed Schiess and Patti Stivaletta-  
Sherman  
Sexton Family Foundation  
The Eddie Sutton Foundation

## \$10,000 to \$24,999

Abbott Rapid Diagnostics  
Informatics Inc  
ABC 4 Maddy  
Alison Bushman  
Amy Southern  
AstraZeneca Pharmaceutical, LP  
Barbara Michalik  
Beth Codner Adams and Henry E  
Adams Family Foundation  
BrAva Fight  
Brooklyne's Beacons Inc.  
Bushman Family Foundation  
Chelsea Ellsworth  
Christmas City Classic For A Cure  
Christopher and Tammy Loeffler  
Danielle Barnes  
David Vocaturo  
David Whan  
Deems Family Foundation

Harry and Robin Koenigs  
Hewlett Packard  
Ian Cook  
Joe Bertoldi  
June Shelton School & Evaluation  
Center  
Kathy Wanner  
Laser Works of East Tennessee, LLC  
Lisa Cara-Donna  
Mark and Katy Simpson  
Mattel Children's Foundation  
Merck & Co., Inc.  
Michael and Ellen Crowe  
Nadeem Mir  
National Christian Foundation North  
Texas  
Ned Gilhuly  
Patrick and Susan Nola  
Project Recreate LLC

Randy Lamons  
Richard Carter  
Samuel Allen Pampel Foundation  
Samuel C. Blackman  
Stephanie Hannon  
Stephen Peacock and Family  
Steven Gillett  
Suzanne Finnegan  
The Howe Foundation  
Tony Jones  
Trent Demulling  
Virginia L. Harrod  
Wagner Equipment Co.  
Ward Foundation  
Wesley and Quaker Grubbs  
William Gadd  
Wilson Family Foundation  
World Bank Group

## \$5,000 to \$9,999

AFCO Steel	Emily Koenigs	Mike Ethier
Ahalya Wise	Fowler, Schimberg, Flanagan, & McLetchie, P.C.	Mitchell Cassels
Airgas Central Accounting Group	Frank and Mary Erlain	Neretta Thompson
Alberici Constructors	Frank Breitman	Nino Corsetti
Albert Ribeiro	Frels Family Foundation	Nolan Family Foundation
Alexandria Klug	Gartner Group Charitable Fund	North Carolina Community Foundation, Inc
Allison Harris	Gary Ran	Old Mill Homes
AmazonSmile Foundation	GCCOM Construction Company	Patricia A. Rice
Amy Fossum	Genentech Foundation	Paul Wachter
Amy McKelvey	Green Development, LLC	Pedro Aguilar
Amy Southern	Greg Hill	Phil Dorroll
Andrew Mlynarski	Haynie Family Foundation	Redlands Community Hospital
Annie Gould	Holcim-ACM Management, Inc	Renee Picciotto-Haubner
Anthony Maracic	IBEW Local Union 99	Reyes Group Ltd.
Ascension Quality Materials, LLC	James Bushnell	Roger Gamble
Bailey Herrera	Jeffrey M. Skolnik	Rosella Duitsman
BCBM LLC	Jen Gillett	Sarah Johnson
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	Jennifer Formato	Schoelzel Family Foundation
Build America Mutual Assurance Co	Jerry Hoover	Scott Aschermann
Cassandra Hornback	John Moody	Segmental Partnership
Cathy Hernandez	Johnson Charitable Fund	Sewer & Tunnel Miners Union Laborers' Local 2
Central Carolina Community Foundation	Joshua Glenn	SJBB, LLC
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Chelsy Olsen	Kelly and Beth Schneider	Stephen and Tana Gerster
CHPE LLC	Kevin Miedreich	Steven Braley
Christopher J. Berman	Kirby Stumpf	Steven Wieczorek
Cindy Valent	Kovitz Investment Group Partners, LLC	Sun Valley Steel & Fabrication, Inc.
COPT Defense Properties	Krumwiede Charitable Fund	Tasha Badding
Dana Lopez	Laurie Bond	The Walsh Company, LLC
Daniel Crowe	Leslie Irvin	Tim Crowe
Davis Sibbersen	Life's Rich Pageant Fund	Toni Waybright
Debbie Pauls	Lisa Cassone Fenimore	Tony Forsythe
Derek Wallace	Liz Larmore	Tony Safoian
Diane Crowe	Lynn Lamons	United Rentals
Diane Meissner	Mark and Helene Honeybone	USAA
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Donald and Joan Aaberg	Matthew Pery	Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald, L.L.P.
Dr. Ken Means and Dr. Annie Lin	Matthew Skidmore	Will White
Dwight Wilcox	Michael Day	Zachary Drapeau
Edward Russnow	Michael Dell Isola	Zachary Judge
Elizabeth Genualdi	Michael Feeney's Best Day Ever, Inc.	Zegar Family Fund
Elizabeth Hensley	Michelle Tameling	Zegar Family Fund

## MONTHLY DONORS

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Aimee Kroneberger  
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Trudy McDaniel  
William Jenner  
Yi-Yin Ko

## PLANNED GIVING SOCIETY

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Hammond Family Fund  
Robert T. Ridley  
Jean Michael  
Dorothy Winkey

Robert I. Fendrich Family Trust  
Jan Bryan  
The Estate of Walter Hanger  
Alma & James I. Lewis

Dr. Ronald R. Louie  
Dr. and Mrs. Howard B. Emery  
Kathryn and Robert Vest  
Kay R. Koehler



**CURESEARCH**  
FOR CHILDREN'S CANCER

**Become a Champion for Cures by  
starting a monthly gift today!**

You'll provide ongoing support of our research funding and offer real hope to the 15,000 families who'll hear the words, "*your child has cancer*" each year. Visit [curesearch.org/monthlygiving](https://curesearch.org/monthlygiving).

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Jared Brancazio**

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**CureSearch Strategy Oversight Committee**  
Operating Partner at Abundant  
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**Kathy Wanner**

**CureSearch Strategy Oversight Committee**  
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**Trent Demulling**

CFO at Kiewit

# STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## 2023 EXPENSES

<b>FY2023 Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,124,878.00</b>
Program.....	\$3,605,077.00
Fundraising.....	\$929,461.00
Administrative.....	\$590,340.00

### We're proud to be a top-rated charity!

We are committed to stewarding every dollar raised toward the greatest impact on the children, adolescents and young adults who are depending on us.

[curesearch.org/about-us/financials](https://curesearch.org/about-us/financials)



Follow us on social media to stay up to date on the latest CureSearch news, events, stories from childhood cancer patients and donor highlights.



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