ANNUAL REPORT
Dear Compass to Care Supporter,

Bring on 2022! I think that is what we all were thinking as January 1st, 2022 rolled around. I know we were thrilled at Compass to Care that we had survived, and thrived, the previous year, despite operating during a pandemic. We were looking forward to a lot more normalcy in our lives, and a year filled with supporting more and more children on their cancer journeys.

And then 2022 started to unfold... War broke out between Ukraine and Russia in February. Food prices soared in March and April, a jump of 75% in two years. By May, the economy rocked the housing markets. Inflation hit in June, at levels not seen since the 1980s and gas prices rose to almost $6 a gallon. And this was just the first six months... We all rode on this wild roller coaster, often bracing ourselves for what was to come next.

But imagine you were a family living in poverty, or living paycheck-to-paycheck and then your child was diagnosed with cancer.

After understanding the financial climate we all faced in 2022, it likely comes at no surprise that the number of children and families being referred to Compass to Care came fast. At the same time, the prices we were paying for families to fill up their tanks with gasoline were over double what we had spent previously. Despite our fundraising success in 2021, we simply could not afford to support all of the children needing help while paying for these exceptionally high prices for travel.

As a charity, particularly as the founder, this was a heartbreaking reality but decisions had to be made. So we started putting children's applications on hold. We asked social workers to stop referring families to our program. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt, our focus was on “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

So what did we do? We supported 250 children, giving them hope on their cancer journeys. We raised enough money to move all of the children off of our waiting list and into our program and to re-open applications. In January 2023, we began enrolling new children into our program.

There is a common mantra in the childhood cancer world - NEGU - never ever give up. If 2022 showed anything, it was that Compass to Care will never ever give up in supporting the children who need us as they travel to seek a cancer cure.

We could not do any of this without you. So for all you have done, particularly in 2022, we thank you. Our families needed you more than ever and you gave them a lifeline to hope.

With sincere appreciation,
Michelle Ernsdorff-May
Founder & Childhood Cancer Survivor
While many of those children are living in poverty at the time of diagnosis, some cross into a poverty profile as a result of cancer-related financial toxicity (CRFT). CRFT refers to the detrimental effects of the excess financial strain caused by the diagnosis of cancer. For these children, financial instability is associated with higher rates of relapse and decreased overall survival.

How does financial instability impact a child's survival?
- Financial instability leads to transportation barriers.
- Transportation barriers lead to missed and delayed appointments.
- Missed and delayed appointments lead to higher rates of relapse and lower survival rates.

Compass to Care is proud to have three distinct nationwide non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) solutions. These programs directly and immediately remove the transportation barriers to access cancer treatment for children with cancer who are living in poverty. These solutions are ACCESS LIFE, CARE & BACK™, and FLIGHTS FOR HOPE.

**Access Life**
Compass to Care’s Access Life program covers 100% of all transportation expenses for our beneficiary children and families, including gasoline, parking fees, and train fare.

**Care & Back™**
Compass to Care’s Care & Back™ program utilizes the Uber and Lyft transportation networks to secure safe, reliable, and readily-available transportation for families without access to a vehicle.

**Flights for Hope**
Compass to Care’s Flights for Hope program fully funds airfare, lodging, and ground transportation so children living in poverty can access distant clinical trials or other life-saving cancer treatment.

Compass to Care is proud to be funding equitable access to childhood cancer treatment to help save lives.

Our Impact — Empowering Parents, Saving Lives
Compass to Care empowers families enrolled in our programs to make timely decisions about getting their children to cancer care by removing transportation barriers. In addition, these families:
- Do not have to spend their own money on transportation
- Do not need a bank account or credit card to fund their travel
- Do not need a vehicle to get their children to treatment
- Can eliminate missed appointments due to transportation barriers
- Can choose to enroll their child in a clinical trial at a distant medical center
- Feel empowered to make decisions about getting their children to the best cancer care available
- Keep hope of survival in the realm of possibility for their precious children

One in five children diagnosed with cancer in the United States lives in poverty.

Compass to Care has become the premier nationwide leader in removing the transportation barriers for children to access cancer treatment. The numbers below indicate how many children we have helped in each state.
Milestones

It Takes a Village

Each year, we have incredible organizations that partner with Compass to Care to help save the lives of children with cancer. This year, we were honored to work collaboratively with:

- **Silver Lining Chiropractic** hosted a Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month campaign.
- **Goldfish Swim School Park Ridge** chose Compass to Care’s kids as the beneficiary of their Block Party.
- **Olson’s Ace** held a Kid’s Flower Pot Workshop to support Compass to Care.
- **Wahlert Class of 1962** collected donations to support Compass to Care at their 60th Class Reunion.
- **CAS Candles** gave a percentage of sales during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to support our kids and created one-of-a-kind candles for our An Evening of Hope attendees.
- **Kendra Scott** hosted an in-store and online campaign.
- **Goldfish Swim School Park Ridge** hosted a 0.262 mile Micro Marathon.
- **Team Fallico, Farmer’s Insurance, and Rita’s Ice** hosted an ice cream social to raise awareness for Compass to Care.
- **Park Ridge Lions Club** hosted a 0.262 mile Micro Marathon.
- **Orange Shoe Fitness Park Ridge** held a Burpees Challenge to raise money to support children with cancer.

“*We thank you for the help you gave me in this process, we are super grateful to you because you helped us a lot. Thanks for everything.*”

New York Times

For the second year, New York Times columnist Bret Stephens helped raise awareness of the Compass to Care mission by listing us as a worthy charity to support. This awareness has helped new donors learn about our mission and reach out to offer support.

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Bubble Fun Run

What an incredible morning! Thank you to everyone who volunteered, sponsored, and participated in Compass to Care’s Bubble Fun Run on Saturday, August 6th in Park Ridge, IL. It was a hot one, but one that was filled with lots of good clean fun! Someone told me what we were doing at Compass to Care was incredible. I said, look around, everything we do for kids with cancer is because of all of these people.

There are far too many children and families who need help getting to treatment when battling a childhood cancer diagnosis. Lucky for them, there is no shortage of kind-hearted, caring, generous people willing to lend a hand. We are truly humbled by the outpouring of the community and their willingness to come out, have some bubbly fun, and support children on their cancer journeys.

"To take the financial stress of getting back and forth out of the equation has been a gift like I’ve never received." - Luke, Kaleb’s dad

Kenzi just completed her treatment at Children’s of Alabama!

"Thank you so much! Every little bit really helped us during this journey. We are also happy it is finally over and prays it stays that way." - Aslyn, Kenzi's mom

Miles on a Mission

Compass to Care received 749,288 donated Mileage Plus Miles during United Airlines’ Miles on a Mission campaign!

These miles go a long way in helping our kids travel to distant treatment centers that offer hope, when options have been exhausted locally. What a gift you all have given to these children and their families.

An Evening of Hope Gala

On November 4th, Compass to Care hosted An Evening of Hope at Maggiano’s in Chicago. A serenade of Elyse and a heartfelt speech by Orlando, both Compass to Care beneficiaries, made the night truly memorable.

Chiago Blackhawks’ Hockey Fights Cancer

We love to be involved with organizations like the Chicago Blackhawks who raise awareness of cancer and who also donate to support our children. Their generous $5,000 donation is helping us remove the travel barriers for children with cancer in Chicago.

Essy Castaneda Joins As Program Manager

Essy Castaneda joined the Compass to Care Team as Compass to Care’s Program Manager.

Throughout her career, Essy has worked to improve the wellness of disadvantaged communities and people experiencing medical barriers.

Her expertise and ability to communicate with our Spanish-speaking families have made her the perfect addition to our team!

Gold Ribbon Gala

On Friday, June 3rd, our Associate Board hosted their annual Gold Ribbon Gala! This group of young professionals has been extremely successful in raising awareness of the need for Compass to Care and motivating their friends and colleagues to get involved. The Gold Ribbon Gala was a fun night. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this truly special night, where we raised over $15,000 to support our kids.

How to Help More

Volunteer, join a committee, be part of our Associate Board, sit on our Board of Directors, or find a role that fits you on our website: compassstocare.org/volunteer

To host the most successful event we have had in 13 years, made it possible to immediately provide relief for families who were on our waiting list.

This is what hope looks like and we thank everyone who was involved in making this night so special.

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Thank You Donors

Pfianthropist

PLATINUM
Northwestern University
Dance Marathon
Abra Prentice Foundation, Inc.

SILVER
Christy & Brian Greenblatt

BRONZE
CIBC
Foundation for Health Enhancement
Pat & Susan Frangella
Pfizer Foundation

Navigator

PLATINUM
AddShoppers
The Albertsons Companies Foundation
Chicago Blackhawks
Laura & Chad Chandelle
Amy & David Duchesneau

Gold
AES Partners
All In To Fight Cancer
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Jim & Cathy Angell
Armory Capital LLC
A. Y. McDonald Mfg. Co.
Trey Bailey
David & Amy Becker
Benesch
Berkshire Hathaway Energy
Barbara R. Biscan
Borko Bozickovic & Laura Newcomb
Ellen Bristin
Sam & Jake Burbach
The CahnMax Foundation
Caterpillar
Chomp's
Kim Costello
Cottingham & Butler
Custom Quest
Bill & Wendy Daughtrey
Chad & Robin Demmer
John B Donovan
Dubuque Morning Optimist
DuTrac Community Credit Union
Echo Global Logistics
Sandi & Mike Ernold
Chip & Tiffany Flanagan
Kim Freedman
The Parker Gale Foundation
Debra Gammon
Gaume Gascon
Debbie Gutek
Goldfish Swim School - Park Ridge
Alex & Anna Golod
Guardian Auto Transport
Jackie Guzman
Mary & Curtis Hall
Handled IT
Debbie Gupte
John Tunnell Insurance
Nick & Sandie Hiestand
Chris & Alex Horschak
Ronald & Lucy Horschak
Nelson & Sarah Horschak
Michael & Carolyn Kelly
Bill Klauer
Cassandra Lems
Jonathan Levin
Life Tough Kids Boxing Club
Charles and Glenda Love
Clay Luton
Brendan Lyden
Marquette Associates, Inc.
Matthew & Michelle May
Kevin & Sheila McNemey
Deb & Mark McDonald
Brian and Nicky McMahon
Pat & Michelle McMahon
Camilla & Andrew Merrick
Mid American Water, Inc.
Kurt & Kathy Mihm
Tracy Mihm
Monroe Financial Partners, Inc.
Nakoma Products
Northwestern Medicine
Proton Center
Olson's Ace Hardware
Lyne & Kevin Oyen
Park Ridge Lions Charitable Foundation
Park Ridge Wilderness
Scouts & Princesses Fund
Kyle Peterson
Roger & Carol Peterson
PAX Card
Brad Pye
Ronald Roshbruch
Schoen Family Charitable Trust
Scott & Kraus, LLC
SeneGacGlobal, Inc.
Audrey Silva
Sisters of the Visitation
Bernard Small
Moving Station
Brad Stephens
Nicholas & Susan Jane Sutton
Christopher & Pamela Theisen
Suzanne & Tony Theisen
Libby Thulen Family, Andrew Thomas & Kristina Stone
Time Bank
Jimmy Topping
Tri State Truck Equipment
Tuner Acceptance Corp. Jennifer Villacci
Wahlert Foundation
Fonzi & Rachel Weninger
Mark & Linda Wilson
Wozniak Industries, Inc.

SILVER
Gerald Adams
Agave LLC
Andy & Kathleen Agrawal
Ash & Willow
Sabrina Bailey
Ban Capital Children's Charity, Ltd.
Beyond Smiles of Park Ridge
Steve Bloechl
Barb & Steve Bonnet
CIS Funds
Children's Dentistry
in Park Ridge
Joy Chung
Roni Cohen
Ann & Brian Cooper
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Mike & Celeste Demmer
Shawn Dunn
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Family Tree Chiropractic
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Julie Friend
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John Karle
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Jim Kepple
Kory Kessler
Kiwanis International
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John & Robin McNamara
Tom Metz
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North Shore Motor Works
Jane & Jim O'Neil
Orion Point
Megan & Bob Pierce
RealMax Properties
Northwest
River City Paving
Jaque & Chuck Rutledge
Linda & Sean Schalish

In honor of:
Adrian Abence
Audrey Beck
Zayryan Daniels
Michelle Ernestoff-May
Gracie's 50th Anniversary
Brian & Christy Greenblatt
Celeste Hall
Teddy O'Donohue
John Savil
Lette Tipton

In memory of:
Helen Ashbinder
Susan Callahan
Joyce C. Flannagan
Tayden Grohs
Steve Howard
Katie Metz
Eljon Morrissey
Tony Oldenburg
Shane Saunders
Blake and Bridget Tashnor
Libby Thulen

Dixie Schuster
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Tensam Tire & Auto Service
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Christopher & Anna Terzich
UnitedHealthGroup
Varian Medical Systems, Inc.
Robert & Kris Villari
Wahlert High School
Class of 1962
Richard & Sarah Warmath
Barb & Gary Weber
Diane & Timothy Weitzel
Cathy & Bob Wittmann
York Community Church
Lenny & Mags Young

See a full view of our audited 2022 financials online: CompassToCare.org/financials

Statement of Financial Position

Revenue
Businesses & Foundations $346,460
Endowment Income $299,918
Grant $17,411
Individuals & Others $18,948
Interest Income $1,262
Sales Income $561,462
Sales of Investments $86,950
Unrealized Gain $7,836
Total Revenue $1,064,999

Expenses
Program Expense $57,547
Funding 10% $37,927
Management & General $77,691
Total Expenses $285,299
Change in Net Assets
January 1, 2021 $141,659
December 31, 2022 $700,383

Total Liabilities
Net Assets $1,064,999
Without Donor Restrictions $700,383
With Donor Restrictions $37,927

Total Liabilities & Net Assets $1,064,999

Statement of Activities

Revenues
Program Expense $57,547
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Total Revenue $1,064,999

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With Donor Restrictions $37,927

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The mission of Compass to Care, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is to provide a free Non Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) solution to access life-saving cancer treatment and clinical trials for children fighting cancer and facing poverty or cancer-related financial toxicity. EIN 27-0885690.

On behalf of my family I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Compass to Care, to all your donors for your great contribution to our smooth treatment travel processes. We wouldn’t have made it without you, honestly. Compass to Care, what you are doing is just awesome and so so highly appreciated. It has been a pleasure and a blessing to have you by our side for all this time.”
- Areg’s mom

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