

helping kids fight cancer



Claran



The Mike & Sandy Ernsdorff
Childhood Cancer Foundation

COMPASS TO CARE Annual Report

2024



Nava



Faith

one trip at a time

In 2024, WE FUNDED 10,746 TRIPS, SENDING 350 CHILDREN 1,195,221 MILES ON THEIR CANCER JOURNEYS.



Samantha

EVERY MILE REPRESENTS A STEP TOWARD HEALING, A MOMENT OF RELIEF FOR A FAMILY, AND A CHILD RECEIVING CARE THEY DESPERATELY NEED. THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND PARTNERS, WE CONTINUE TO ELIMINATE TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS, ENSURING THAT NO CHILD FIGHTS CANCER ALONE.

DEAR COMPASS TO CARE SUPPORTER,

When 2024 began, we had a long list of goals for Compass to Care. We were eager to expand our impact, serve more children, and continue building on the momentum we've gained over the years.

Then, life took an unexpected turn. I was diagnosed with breast cancer.

There were certainly moments of fear and uncertainty. But I soon came to realize how fortunate I was. My cancer was caught very early, which meant I didn't need chemotherapy or radiation. Even so, I had to step away for a time to focus on medical appointments, surgery, and recovery.

During that time, one thing gave me immense peace of mind, our children were in good hands. The Compass to Care team never missed a beat. Every child continued to receive the transportation they needed to get to their own cancer treatment. Their journeys, and their hope, remained our top priority.

And that ambitious list of goals? It didn't go by the wayside. In fact, our team's strength, determination, and resilience carried us through the challenges and led us to a **record-breaking year**.

In 2024, we helped more children than ever before. We raised more funds than ever before. And we did it together, with you by our side.

We are proud to share this Annual Report, a reflection of the remarkable success we achieved together this year. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in our mission and helping make this impact possible.



Sincerely,

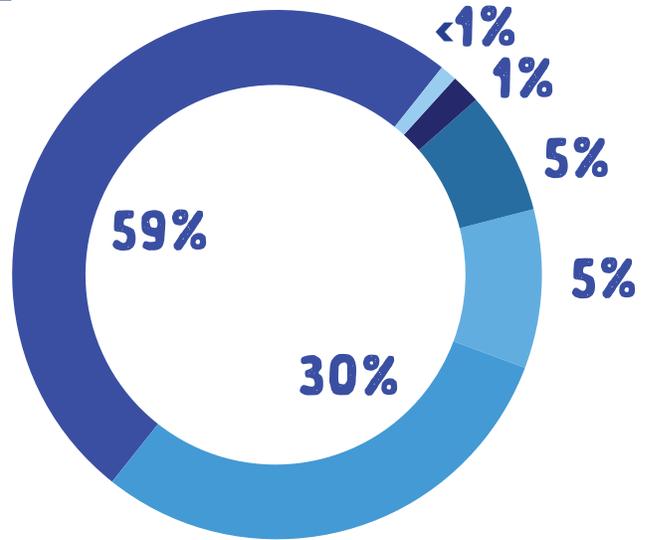
Michelle Ernsdorff-May

FOUNDER & CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVOR

EVERY DOLLAR DRIVES HOPE

Every contribution you make directly supports a family's critical need, removing transportation barriers and ensuring their child gets to the care they need.

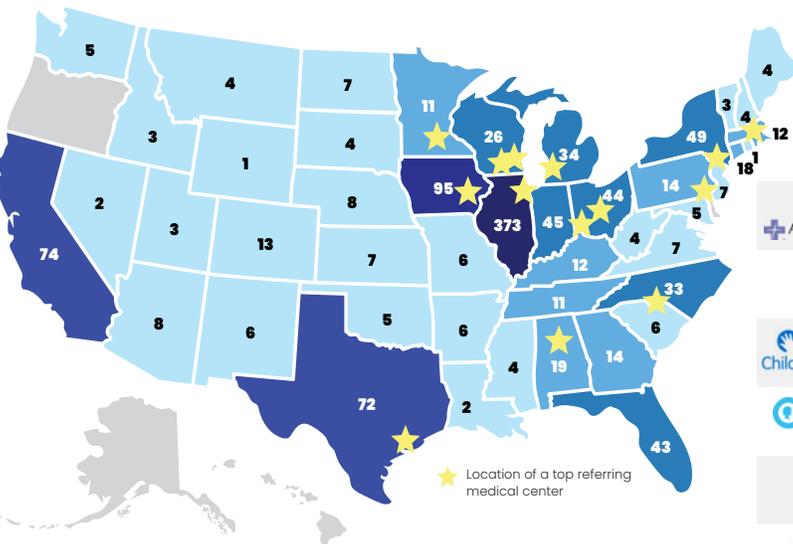
- GASOLINE (59%)** – The largest portion of our funding covered fuel costs, ensuring families could drive to and from treatment without financial burden.
- UBER/LYFT/TAXI (30%)** – Many families without personal vehicles relied on rideshare services to reach their hospital appointments safely and on time.
- LODGING (5%)** – For families traveling long distances, we provided overnight accommodations so children could rest before or after treatment.
- PARKING (5%)** – Hospital parking fees can quickly add up, and we alleviated this expense for families already facing financial strain.
- AIRFARE (1%)** – Some children required treatment far from home, and we covered flight costs to ensure they could access specialized care.
- TRAIN FARE (<1%)** – In select cases, train travel was the best transportation option, and we ensured those costs were covered as well.



Our Mission and Vision

The mission of Compass to Care 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 (CRFT).

Compass to Care will be known for its transformative travel efforts that reduce the disparities in access to childhood cancer treatment and clinical trials.



Our Top Referring Hospitals

Advocate Children's Hospital	Cincinnati Children's changing the outcome together	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
LW Health American Family Children's Hospital	SPECTRUM HEALTH Helen DeVos children's hospital	NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S Where your child needs a hospital, we're there.
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago	Atrium Health Levine Children's	Northwestern Medicine Chicago Proton Center
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL	St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Children's Wisconsin	MAYO CLINIC	AT THE FOREFRONT OF PEDIATRIC MEDICINE UChicago Medicine Comer Children's
Children's of Alabama	THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MD Anderson Cancer Center Children's Cancer Hospital	University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital

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

A LIFE-SAVING SOLUTION FOR FAMILIES FACING FINANCIAL TOXICITY



One in five families with a child diagnosed with cancer faces significant financial distress due to the high costs of treatment and care. Many of these families are already living in poverty, while others are pushed into financial hardship by **Cancer-Related Financial Toxicity (CRFT)**—the overwhelming economic burden caused by a cancer diagnosis.

FOR CHILDREN FACING FINANCIAL INSTABILITY, THE IMPACT ON SURVIVAL CAN BE SEVERE:

- Financial instability leads to transportation barriers.
- Transportation barriers lead to missed and delayed appointments.
- Missed and delayed appointments increase relapse rates and lower survival outcomes.

AS A NATIONAL LEADER IN NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (NEMT), COMPASS TO CARE IS DEDICATED TO REMOVING TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER.

Our poverty-targeted programs ensure that families facing financial hardship can access life-saving care without the burden of travel costs. Our solutions, ACCESS LIFE, CARE & BACK™, and FLIGHTS FOR HOPE, are designed to meet the unique transportation needs of each family we serve.

ACCESS LIFE covers 100% of transportation expenses, including gasoline, parking fees, and train fare, so families never have to worry about how they will reach treatment.

CARE & BACK™ leverages the Uber and Lyft networks to provide safe, reliable rides for families who don't have access to a vehicle, ensuring children never miss an essential appointment.

FLIGHTS FOR HOPE fully funds airfare, lodging, and ground transportation for children who must travel long distances for clinical trials or specialized cancer treatment.

Through these critical programs, Compass to Care is committed to making sure that every child, regardless of financial circumstances, has a chance to fight cancer and survive.

At Compass to Care, we work tirelessly to remove these barriers. By funding transportation for families in need, we ensure that children receive their essential treatments on time, giving them the best chance at survival and recovery. Thank you for being part of this life-saving mission.



Breaking Barriers—

EXPANDING ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING CARE

This year, we celebrated a major milestone—**extending our support to our first child in Rhode Island!** With this expansion, we have now helped children in **46 states** access life-saving cancer treatment, ensuring that transportation is never a barrier to care.

Every mile traveled represents **more than just a ride**—it's a step toward healing, a moment of relief for families, and a promise that no child will face cancer alone. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters, we are driving hope across the country and transforming lives, one trip at a time. Together, we are ensuring that children nationwide get the care they need, when they need it most.

EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS



AN EVENING OF HOPE: A NIGHT OF IMPACT

What a night! Thanks to the generosity of our donors, families, committee, volunteers, and community, An Evening of Hope at River Roast in Chicago was an unforgettable success. Together, we raised an incredible \$224,000—funds that will directly support children in need of transportation to life-saving cancer treatments.

DUBUQUE BREAKFAST BENEFIT: A MORNING OF HOPE

Our Dubuque Breakfast Benefit was a powerful reminder of the impact we make together. With the support of our generous community, we came together to raise critical funds to ensure no child battling cancer faces transportation barriers. We were especially honored to hear from Natalie Steuer, mother of Sage, who bravely shared their journey through Sage's rhabdomyosarcoma treatment. Her words highlighted the profound difference Compass to Care made in ensuring their family could travel to life-saving care without worry. Thanks to our supporters, we continue to drive hope and provide access to treatment for children like Sage—one trip at a time.



ALL-IN TO FIGHT CANCER PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to Board Member Andy Agrawal, Compass to Care was named a beneficiary of ALL-In to Fight Cancer's annual Texas Hold'em fundraiser in Charlotte. With over 700 attendees enjoying poker, music, food, and fun, the grassroots nonprofit exceeded its fundraising goal, donating \$15,000 to support our kids' access to cancer treatment. We're deeply grateful to the organizers, sponsors, and attendees for their incredible support!



ASSOCIATION OF PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY SOCIAL WORKERS (APOSW)



The APOSW unites dedicated professionals improving the lives of children with cancer and their families. Social workers, vital lifelines, connect families to resources like Compass to Care. Exhibiting at APOSW this year allowed us to meet referrers in person, strengthening our shared mission to remove transportation barriers to treatment.



HONORING MOTHERS BREAKFAST BENEFIT

Park Ridge's support shone at our first annual Honoring Mothers Breakfast Benefit. Tina Eisman, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Social Worker at Advocate Children's Hospital, highlighted the impact of our donors on referred children. Thanks to all who attended, donated, and sponsored this event celebrating mothers, featuring vendor pop-ups and a delicious meal from The Harp & Fiddle.

PARTNERING WITH OPEN HEALTH TO DRIVE HOPE



We were honored to share our mission at the ISPOR Annual Meeting as a guest of OPEN Health. Their generosity and commitment to making a difference were evident through their \$3,000 gift, which will help remove transportation barriers that stand between children and their cancer treatment.





SHARING OUR MISSION ON THE BRANDBUILDERS PODCAST

Our journey to Charlotte's All-In to Fight Cancer event in March led to an incredible opportunity—connecting with the BrandBuilders Podcast and The Dunstan Group.

Through this platform, we were able to share the vital role non-emergency medical transportation plays in ensuring children with cancer can access life-saving treatment. We are deeply grateful for every individual and organization that joins us in advocating for these children and their families.

A heartfelt thank you to Scott, Brian, The Dunstan Group, well-run media + marketing, and Yash Mistry for helping us spread this important message. Together, we are driving hope and making a difference. Visit <https://dunstangroup.blubbry.net/2024/05> to hear the podcast!

GOLDFISH BLOCK PARTY: COMMUNITY MAKING WAVES FOR KIDS WITH CANCER



We are incredibly grateful to Goldfish Swim School - Park Ridge for choosing Compass to Care as the charity recipient of their annual block party. Community partnerships like this make a profound impact, helping us provide life-saving transportation for children fighting cancer.

EDISON PARK BINGO: PLAYING FOR A PURPOSE



A huge thank you to the Edison Park Chamber of Commerce for selecting Compass to Care as the beneficiary of BINGO at Edison Park Fest! With the incredible support of the chamber, our dedicated volunteers, and generous BINGO players, we raised over \$2,000 to help children access the cancer treatment they need.

A NIGHT OF IMPACT: THE 2024 GOLD RIBBON GALA

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible Associate Board Members for your passion, dedication, and hard work in executing the 2024 Gold Ribbon Gala. Together they raised over \$18,000 to ensure children battling cancer can access the life-saving treatment they need. Their commitment is truly inspiring and fuels our mission every day.



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:

compasstocare.org/volunteer

Gifts made in honor of:

- Jill Alberts
- Frankie J. Armstrong
- Riley Cadiz
- Michelle Ernsdorff-May
- Priscilla Krol
- Teddy O'Donoghue
- Sage Steuer
- Herbie Taylor

Gifts made in memory of:

- Harvey Biddick
- Ellie Cuiching
- Jenessy Dissell
- Clete Driscoll
- Jeff Faulhaber
- Kim Hackett
- Annie Kelly
- Michael Jerome Kelly
- Angel Martinez
- Michael J. Mockler
- Tracy Nelson
- Betty & Frank Niwa
- Pete Roth
- Brody Schumacher
- Fred Schuster Family Members
- Kiki Sigle
- Nick Toutsch
- Suzi Voelkner
- Liam Willis

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue	
Endowment Income	\$300.00
Investment Income (Loss)	\$ 2,182.00
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	(\$379.00)
Sales Income	\$28,323.00
Interest Income	\$12,130.00
Total Revenue	\$42,556.00
Public Support	
Fundraising Income	\$297,197.00
Businesses & Foundation	\$283,696.00
Individuals & Others	\$179,353.00
Donations In Kind	\$3,380.00
Total Public Support	\$763,626.00
Net Assets Released From Time Restrictions	-
Total Revenue & Public Support	\$806,182.00
Expenses	
Program 83%	\$623,547.00
Fundraising 5%	\$37,316.00
Management & General 12%	\$88,776.00
Total Expenses	\$749,639.00
Change in Net Assets	\$56,543.00
Net Assets	
January 1, 2024	\$715,543.00
December 31, 2024	\$772,086.00

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Current Assets	
Cash & Equivalents	\$734,166.00
Right of Use Asset – Short Term	\$13,401.00
Inventory	-
Total Current Assets	\$747,567.00
Other Assets	
Endowment Fund	\$40,329.00
Deposit	\$1,489.00
Right of Use Asset – Long Term	-
Total Other Assets	\$41,818.00
Total Assets	\$789,385.00
Current Liabilities	
Capital One Credit Card	\$73.00
PRCB Visa Community Card	\$163.00
Kaizen	\$3,035.00
Uber Health	\$627.00
Operating Lease Liability – Short Term	\$13,401.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$17,299.00
Long-Term Liabilities	
Operating Lease Liability – Long Term	-
Total Long-Term Liabilities	-
Total Liabilities	\$17,299.00
Net Assets	
Without Donor Restriction	\$742,086.00
With Donor Restriction	\$30,000.00
Total Net Assets	\$772,086.00
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$789,385.00

See a full view of our audited 2024 financials online:
COMPASSTOCARE.ORG/FINANCIALS

GRANTING ACCESS: SUPPORT FOR OUR KIDS

We're immensely grateful for the unwavering generosity of our grant partners in 2024, whose contributions have been vital in breaking down transportation barriers for children battling cancer. These grants are the heartbeat of our mission, driving us forward to deliver hope and access to care—one critical trip at a time.

The Abra Prentice
FOUNDATION



The Gee Family
FUND



Max & Sunny Howard
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Your Impact

A young girl with terminal cancer, referred to Compass to Care, undergoes daily radiation and twice-weekly chemo. Living with her family in a one-room shelter, she lost transportation benefits when her state-funded insurance changed, eliminating travel support. An alternative city program was available, but the \$3 daily fee was more than her mom could afford. As a result, she, her mom, and her 1½-year-old sibling walked to the hospital each day.

After a Friday call from her social worker, Compass to Care stepped in by Monday, thanks to your support. **Your generosity is making the hard days a little easier.**



Peter



Sigifredo



The Mike & Sandy Ernsdorff
Childhood Cancer Foundation

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COO

Essy Castaneda
Program Manager

Danielle Goffi
Event Manager

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.