

# Dear Friends,

Thank you for keeping your promise. Together, we are all Pinky Swear Foundation.

We'll remember 2021 as a year that Pinky Swear Foundation again achieved its vision of saying 'YES!' to every family who asked for help. You enabled us to give more than \$1 million in direct financial support!

Donors, corporate partners, family foundations, fundraisers, and volunteers came together in incredible ways to help Pinky Swear All-Stars in the fight against childhood cancer. Pinky Swear supported families from each of the 50 United States.

We plan to spend 2022 deepening relationships even further, while staying laser focused on our values and strategic goals. We invite you to read about your impact and know you have made a lasting effect on children with cancer and their families!

Pinkies up!

Erica and Bruce



Erica M. Campbell
Erica Campbell
Executive Director



Bruce O'Brien
Chair of the Board



# THE ORIGINAL PINKY SWEAR PROMISE

In 2002, there was a 9-year-old boy named Mitch who was diagnosed with terminal bone cancer. One night, he was in the hospital with his father when he overheard the family next door talk about how they couldn't afford holiday gifts because of expensive treatments. The next day, Mitch and his father stuffed the money from Mitch's savings account in envelopes and secretly went around the childhood cancer floor of Mitch's hospital, passing them to the other families after signing them all, "XOXO, Mitchell."

Mitch had so much fun and wanted to do it again the next year! Steve looked at his son and honestly shared, "Mitch, I'm not sure you are going to be here next year."

Mitch responded, "Well, dad, if I'm not here next year, then you have to 'Pinky

> Swear' promise me you will always help kids with cancer... even after I'm gone."

You are helping to keep Mitch's original Pinky Swear promise.

Our 2021 theme was "We are Pinky Swear Foundation" or "#WeArePSF." Within the theme was you. You, along with thousands of others across the country, are keeping Mitch and his father's original promise. Thank you.



## **MISSION**

Helping kids with cancer and their families with financial and emotional support

## **VISION**

To say **yes** to every family with a child battling cancer

## **VALUES**

Compassion, Collaboration and Celebration

# KIDS HELPING KIDS

Pinky Swear Foundation is built on the inspiration of kids helping kids. Today's programs include:

- The Charles M. Harper Youth Leadership Council builds awareness with their middle and high school peers, fundraises and spreads a national movement.
- The PACK (Pinky Swear Ambassadors on College Campuses to Help Kids with Cancer) Program connects college students with childhood cancer patients and exists at over 80 colleges.
- A Student Scholarship Program celebrates student leaders supporting kids with cancer. The 21 recipients in 2021 received more than \$25,000 in scholarships.

# PINKY SWEAR PROGRAMS



## Orange Envelope Program

A message of love and support, plus gift cards, mailed to families when a child is diagnosed



### All-Star Fund

Direct payments and gift cards that put meals on the table, keep the rent and mortgage paid, and fill the gas tank for trips to the doctor



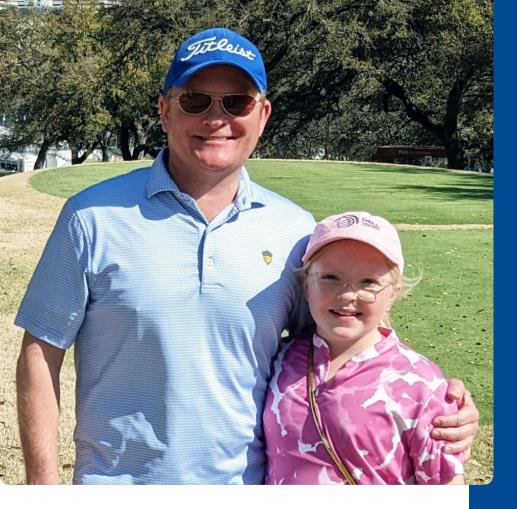
### All-Star Experiences

Giving children battling cancer a chance to be a kid again and find reasons to celebrate - even in stressful times



## Pinky Swear Pantry

On-site food pantries at children's hospitals so that families can keep nourished without having to leave their child's bedside during cancer treatment



# THE FELLABAUM FAMILY

# Supporter Feature

When Zac Fellabaum attended a golf tournament benefiting Pinky Swear hosted by KLN Family Brands, he was hooked. He knew he cared about the cause—he and his wife Michelle both have personal connections to cancer. But, after the tournament he became particularly impressed with the organization's leadership, responsible financial management and direct impact. As the Chief Financial Officer of Nulo, Inc., an Austin, Texas-based pet food company, Zac knows good financial management when he sees it.

Zac soon learned that Pinky Swear Foundation receives a large number of requests for help from families living in his home state of Texas. He and Michelle wanted to ensure that Pinky Swear could say "Yes!" to all families today and forever. They became Pinky Partners (monthly donors) and endowment donors. They continue to share their passion for the mission. Thank you, Fellabaum Family!

#### YOUTH FUNDRAISERS

- 1. Jessica Nigbur
- 2. Lauren Uihlein
- 3. Brooke Goddard
- 4. Owen Howard
- 5. Alex Moyer
- 6. Maiya Roelofs
- 7. Hannah Chorske
- 8. Sophie Ratcliff
- 9. Isabel Seibers
- 10. Alivia Regan

#### **ADULT FUNDRAISERS**

- l. Sandy Lederfine
- 2. Chris McArdle
- 3. Jesse Montgomery
- 4. Jason Ehrreich
- 5. Henry Oswald
- 6. Jake Blixt
- 7. Jordan Hauke
- 8. Eric Johnson
- 9. Melinda Mellenbruch
- 10. Karla Vehrs

#### **PACK FUNDRAISERS**

- 1. MNSU Mankato
- 2. Lackawanna College
- 3. SUNY Univ. at Buffalo
- 4. UMN Twin Cities
- 5. Temple Univ.
- 6. Central Washington Univ.
- 7. Sacred Heart Univ.
- 8. UW Green Bay
- 9. Miami Univ. (OH)
- 10. Northeastern Univ.

## **TEAM FUNDRAISERS**

- Northwestern Mutual Twin Cities, MN
- Golfing for Good Mooresville, NC
- 3. Little Hands Big Hearts
- 4. Destiny & Taylor's Warriors
- 5. Theta Xi Gamma
  Gustavus Adolphus
- 6. Team Rockets
- 7. Minnesota YLC
- 8. Medal Chasers
- TEAM SUPER CAL
   Devin's Pride



# **ALL-STAR CHARLIE'S STORY**

Charlie is a lively kid who loves soccer and football. One day he complained that his chest was hurting from running at practice. His parents, Chris and Beth, thought it was an unusual complaint from their very active son, so they made a doctor's appointment. The night before the appointment, Charlie struggled so much at his soccer game that he kept lying down on the field.

The childhood cancer diagnosis was devastating. Soon, Charlie and his family were at rock bottom.

At one point he was so engulfed in pain, the eight-year-old completely broke down, telling his parents, "This medicine doesn't work! It hurts! I want my old life back."

But Charlie persevered. While he was in the hospital, pandemic precautions had Charlie's parents stuck in his tiny hospital room most of the time. The only time they left was to travel a short distance down the hall to the Pinky Swear Pantry for snacks and a cup of coffee, courtesy of Pinky Swear donors. That small kindness meant a lot to Charlie's mom and dad during a period of such intense grief and isolation.

Chris recalls the two most difficult moments. "When the pediatrician said, 'you'll be seeing an oncologist,' my body shut down. I don't recall anything about the next several minutes. The second time was in the hospital when Charlie had jaw pain, a reaction to the chemo. He said, 'Dad, this is too hard. I want to give up.'" Heartbroken and unable to find the right words, Chris could only hug his son.



One bright spot was when Pinky Swear donors paid a mortgage payment for the family. With so many hidden medical expenses at the beginning, that mortgage assistance made a big difference and gave the family peace of mind. When he was well enough to be at home, Charlie's spirits were raised. According to Chris and Beth, "Charlie is a big-time feeler and a big-time extrovert." He wanted to see friends and family, but he was immunocompromised, and the risk of COVID-19 was too great. The family decided to host a socially distanced lemonade stand to raise money for Pinky Swear Foundation.

Masses of friends, family, and neighbors came out to wave to Charlie and buy lemonade. They raised \$1,200 for Pinky Swear Foundation families!

Charlie was so proud of his work. "His cup got filled," his parents say. "He was able to laugh, smile and feel 'normal.' At a time when he felt crummy and rather useless, he held on to the fact that he was useful. He loved the opportunity to help someone else in the same boat."

They also shared, "It was wonderful for our whole family to look outward for a bit when we had spent so much time circling our own wagons. It's exciting to think that we helped, even in a small way, another family that just got their world turned upside down."

Charlie is on the road to recovery, but he has a long way to go. His family is so grateful that Pinky Swear donors have been with them along this challenging road. His parents write: "I don't know how we would've survived without that stocked kitchenette at the hospital. All those small things become really big when the entirety of your brain and thoughts are in survival mode. Removing those burdens (from basic needs to mortgage payments) means it doesn't draw energy from where it was needed."



# PACK GETS CREATIVE!

The PACK is a nationwide college program with a vision of developing young leaders and creating lifetime ambassadors for kids battling cancer. College students in this program are not only advocates, but philanthropists for children with cancer. This year, PACKs raised money with various fundraising efforts including selling candy grams and hosting on-campus banquets!

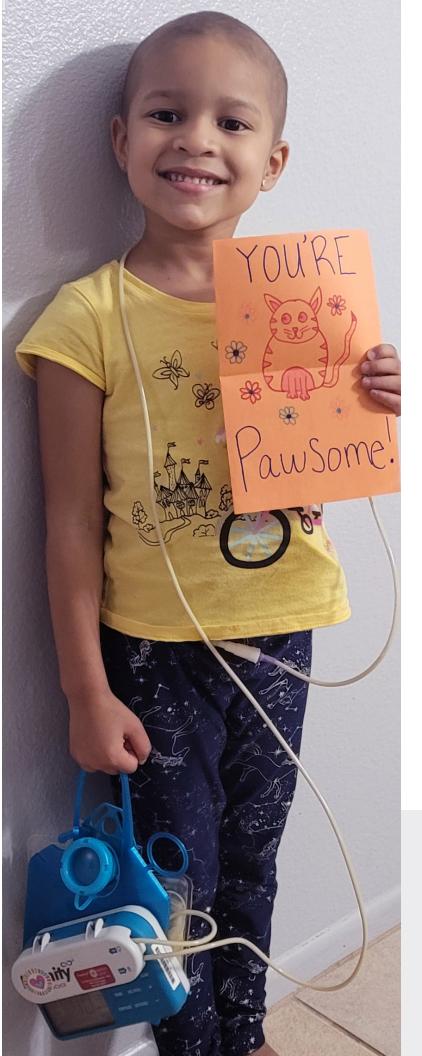
Ally Romano is a Biology student who transferred from Sacred Heart University to Stonehill College. She said she loved being able to build connections and friendships while furthering the mission of Pinky Swear on her campus. When Ally arrived at Stonehill College, she realized there wasn't an established PACK and made it her personal mission to start one on campus. Within weeks she already formed her school's executive board! Students like Ally help further the mission and vision of saying 'yes' to every child battling cancer.

# YLC: GROWING YOUNG LEADERS

The Charles M. Harper Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is a youth program for middle school and high school students.

Our vision for YLC is to be a place where young people can become leaders through service (philanthropy, fundraising and empathy) and feel a sense of belonging. Student leaders have opportunities to connect with others in their community and across the nation to volunteer and raise money for kids with cancer and their families.

In the coming years, our leaders will be connected to YLC coaches, professionals, and college-aged students to learn key concepts of leadership!



# 1,000,000 D O L L A R S

More than 1 million dollars in direct support was given to families in need.

# **1,519** F A M I L I E S

1,519 families across the nation received financial support from your donations.

# **100** PERCENT

100 percent of eligible All-Star Fund requests were fulfilled for families in need.

# **53** PERCENT

53 percent of the people Pinky Swear served identified as people of color.

# **7,000** F A M I L I E S

Nearly 7,000 families were served through Pinky Swear Pantries.



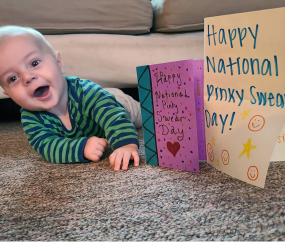
52%
HOME



**24%**GAS AND











# 2021 #WEAREPSF





















































# MILLION DOLLAR MILESTONES

# Corporate partners answer the call to help kids with cancer

Partnerships with businesses both large and small have been vital to Pinky Swear Foundation for years. Through cash gifts, event sponsorship, expert pro-bono assistance, and more, business partners help us thrive, which means saying 'YES!' to more families facing the financial burden of childhood cancer. In 2021, three partners reached an exciting milestone in their journey to help families facing childhood cancer: \$1 million in donations given!!

KLN Family Brands, a third-generation family-owned business based in Perham, MN, provides crucial funds to Pinky Swear Foundation through Wiley Wallaby Licorice sales, NutriSource Pet Foods retail partners, event sponsorships and more. In September 2016, KLN Family Brands announced a commitment of \$1 million to Pinky Swear over the next five years. The new partnership was sealed with an official licorice cutting. In 2021, the million-dollar mark was achieved!

Founded in 2012 by two entrepreneurship students at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, Love Your Melon is an mission-driven lifestyle brand that began with the simple idea of donating a hat to every child battling cancer in America. In 2021, Love Your Melon's lifetime giving to Pinky Swear Foundation reached \$1 million—all used to provide immediate support for families of children battling cancer.

Since 2015, Des Moines, Iowa radio station NEWSRADIO 1040 WHO has hosted an annual radiothon on behalf of Pinky Swear Foundation. This energetic and emotional day garners donations from thousands of Midwest radio listeners in support of families facing a child's cancer diagnosis. The 2021 NEWSRADIO 1040 WHO Radiothon tipped the scales – in seven years, listeners have donated more than \$1 million to ease the emotional and financial strain caused by childhood cancer.

Congratulations and thank you to these outstanding business partners!



# **ENDOWMENT FUND NEARS \$7 MILLION**

"If a cause is worth funding today, it's worth funding forever..."

The Pinky Swear Endowment is part of our strategy to keep helping families until childhood cancer no longer exists. A gift to our endowment gets invested with other gifts. As the fund grows, investment earnings grow. Those earnings then become available to help families right now, while the original gift continues to grow in perpetuity.

In 2017, the Pinky Swear Endowment kicked off with a generous donation from an anonymous foundation that saw the long-term need for family support. This foundation trusted Pinky Swear to steward its vision. The recent endowment growth is due to a transformational, matching gift in memory of Cal Reinhardt from the David and Janis Larson Foundation.

The late David Larson firmly believed that if a cause is worth funding today, it's worth funding forever. His sons, Lance and Reid, continue their father's vision.

Today, endowment donors give large and small gifts. They give cash gifts, gifts of stock, and even estate gifts. When including Pinky Swear Foundation in their will or estate plan, many "Keeper Society" donors like to direct their future gift to our endowment fund, knowing their life's work will be invested, helping families forever. Those who make gifts of \$25,000 or greater can even have their own forever named fund within Pinky Swear's Endowment.

Pinky Swear Foundation is grateful to all of the donors listed on page 18 for having the foresight and passion to help families facing childhood cancer now and forever.



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## **ASSETS**

Total Assets	\$0.490.09E
Property and Equipment, Net	\$8,323
Endowment Funds	\$6,998,555
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	\$54,221
Pledges Receivable	\$134,800
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,993,186

## **LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$9.189.085
Total Net Assets	\$9,122,416
Net Assets Held in Perpetuity	\$6,457,404
Net Assets Restricted for Time or Purpose	\$1,193,919
With Donor Restrictions	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,471,093
Total Liabilities	\$66,669
Accrued Expenses	\$32,335 
Deferred Revenue	\$0
Accounts Payable	\$34,334

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Support and Revenues	\$6,122,049
Program Services	\$2,033,086
Fundraising	\$448,616
Management & General	\$161,310
Total Expenses	\$2,643,012
Change in Net Assets	\$3,479,037

# MISSION PARTNERS

Pinky Swear Foundation is grateful for our strong partnership with forward-thinking businesses, organizations, and foundations that understand the importance of supporting families battling childhood cancer.

The David & Janis **Larson Foundation** 









Jack & Glenna **Wylie Foundation** 



The McDonnell **Foundation** 















The Johnson **Foundation** 



SurviveALL

# **CORPORATE AND ORGANIZATION DONORS**

\$100k-\$1m+

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#### \$25k-\$99,999

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