



The Mike & Sandy Ernsdorff
Childhood Cancer Foundation

TRANSFORMING LIVES,
ONE TRIP AT A TIME

2025 REPORT



COMPASS TO CARE THE MIKE AND SANDY ERNSDORFF CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION



REMI



ISAAC



AUTUMN

A LIFE-SAVING SOLUTION FOR FAMILIES FACING FINANCIAL TOXICITY

DEAR FRIENDS,

As Compass to Care celebrates 15 years, I am reminded of why this mission began.

When I was an infant battling cancer, my parents had to travel from Dubuque to the Mayo Clinic for my treatment. I was too young to understand the burden they carried, but I grew up knowing the sacrifices they made to give me the chance to survive.

That is the heart of Compass to Care.

Today, we help families who are facing that same fear and hardship. When a child has cancer, getting to treatment should never depend on whether a parent can afford gas, parking, a ride, or a flight.

Because of you, children are reaching the care they need. Parents are carrying one less burden. Families are being reminded that they are not alone.

As you read this annual report, I hope you see your impact on every page. You are part of every appointment reached, every barrier removed, and every moment of hope delivered.

AS WE LOOK TO THE NEXT 15 YEARS, OUR COMMITMENT IS CLEAR:

TO REACH EVERY CHILD WHO NEEDS US, NO MATTER HOW FAR THE ROAD TO TREATMENT MAY BE.

Thank you for believing in this mission. Thank you for standing beside our families. Thank you for helping Compass to Care continue moving children toward treatment, healing, and hope.

With heartfelt gratitude
MICHELLE ERNSDORFF-MAY
Founder & CEO

A graphic consisting of a dashed white line that curves from the bottom left towards the top right. At each end of the line is a blue location pin icon.

EVERY MILE
TRAVELED IS A STEP
TOWARD HEALING,
A MOMENT OF RELIEF
FOR FAMILIES, AND
A PROMISE THAT NO
CHILD WILL FACE
CANCER ALONE.



ISABELLA



KELLAN



RICKY

CHILDHOOD CANCER IS THE #1 CAUSE OF DEATH BY DISEASE FOR CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES.

When a child is diagnosed, a family's world changes in an instant. Alongside the fear and uncertainty comes the financial burden of getting their child to life-saving treatment.

WHY TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

1 in 5 families with a child diagnosed with cancer faces significant financial distress because of the high cost of treatment and care. For some, hardship existed before diagnosis. For others, cancer creates a crisis almost overnight. This burden is known as CancerRelated Financial Toxicity — the crushing financial strain caused by a cancer diagnosis.

For a child fighting cancer, that hardship can become dangerous. When a family cannot afford gas, parking, lodging, airfare, or a ride to the hospital, treatment becomes harder to reach. Appointments may be delayed. Critical care may be missed. And missed or delayed treatment can affect a child's chance to heal and survive.

At Compass to Care, we believe no child's access to cancer treatment should depend on their family's income, zip code, or ability to pay for travel. Every trip we fund brings a child closer to care, gives a parent one less impossible worry, and offers a family the hope they need to keep going.

A National Leader in Removing Transportation Barriers

Compass to Care is a national leader in non-emergency medical transportation for children with cancer. Through one of the most comprehensive transportation assistance programs in the country, we remove the full range of travel barriers families face — including gas, parking, rideshare, lodging, airfare, train fare, and ground transportation.

Our family-centered model meets each child's needs in real time, ensuring transportation never stands between a child and life-saving cancer treatment.

We steward every dollar with care, ensuring it directly supports families in crisis.

Our Programs

Compass to Care provides the right travel support at the right time, helping families get their children to cancer treatment whether care is across town, across the state, or across the country.

ACCESS LIFE

helps families who can drive to treatment but cannot afford the cost of getting there. By covering gasoline, parking, and train fare, this program keeps children connected to care without adding another financial burden to families already carrying so much.

CARE & BACK™

provides Uber and Lyft rides for families who do not have reliable access to a vehicle. This program gives children a safe, dependable way to get to chemotherapy, radiation, scans, and follow-up appointments.

FLIGHTS FOR HOPE

helps children travel long distances for specialized cancer treatment or clinical trials. By covering airfare, lodging, and ground transportation, this program ensures that distance and cost do not stand between a child and the care that could save their life.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Across every event this year, one theme was unmistakable: PEOPLE SHOWED UP — for children, for families, and for the belief that no child should miss cancer treatment because they cannot afford to get there.

More Precious Than Gold: Celebrating 15 Years in Dubuque

In honor of Compass to Care's 15th anniversary, we gathered in Dubuque for *More Precious Than Gold*, a celebration of the people and community who helped shape our journey. Surrounded by longtime donors, volunteers, families, and friends, we reflected on 15 years of removing transportation barriers for children with cancer. The evening was a beautiful reminder that the most precious gifts are not measured in gold, but in miles traveled, treatments reached, and hope delivered.



Honoring Mothers Breakfast Benefit

The Honoring Mothers Breakfast Benefit brought supporters together for a meaningful morning honoring mothers, caregivers, and the strength of families facing childhood cancer. 100% of the donors in the room supported our mission and helped fund vital travel assistance for children who need help getting to treatment. It was a heartfelt reminder of the love, resilience, and determination carried by so many families on the road to care.



Sharing Our Mission on Broken Not Broke

Compass to Care was honored to share our mission on the podcast *Broken Not Broke*, helping raise awareness about the transportation barriers families face after a childhood cancer diagnosis. The conversation gave us an opportunity to share the real need behind our work and explain how something as simple as a ride can make a life-changing difference for a child in treatment.

Broken NOT BROKE



An Evening of Hope: A Night of Impact

Our signature event, *An Evening of Hope*, brought together donors, sponsors, families, volunteers, and friends in Chicago for a powerful evening of purpose and generosity. Together, this community helped raise over \$200,000 to provide transportation assistance for children traveling to life-saving cancer treatment. Through sponsorships, ticket sales, auction bidding, and heartfelt giving, supporters helped raise critical funds to ensure children could reach lifesaving treatment. The night was a moving reminder of what becomes possible when a community unites around hope.



The Merry Millwork Market

Holiday spirit and generosity came together at the Merry Millwork Market, where shoppers, vendors, and community members helped raise funds and awareness for the charities of the Millwork Collective in Dubuque. Compass to Care was grateful to have three very special volunteers serving as Santa's Helpers: Maddyn May, Maddie Monroe, and Sandy Ernsdorff. Thanks to the support of our community, the joy of the season was transformed into hope for children traveling to life-saving cancer treatment.

Santa Cause 5K

The Santa Cause 5K in Platteville, Wisconsin brought festive fun and heartfelt generosity together in support of meaningful causes. Created by Jenni Ferris, a grade school friend of Michelle, and Melissa Martinez this joyful holiday run invites the community to come together for a morning of movement, kindness, and giving back. This year, Compass to Care was honored to be chosen as one of the beneficiaries, helping turn every step into hope for children traveling to cancer treatment.





Gold Ribbon Gala

Our Associate Board hosted the *Gold Ribbon Gala*, bringing together young professionals and emerging leaders for an evening of awareness, connection, and impact. The event celebrated the gold ribbon, the symbol of childhood cancer awareness, while raising funds to help children reach the treatment they need. Through their leadership, our Associate Board continues to introduce Compass to Care's mission to new supporters and the next generation of advocates.



Calories for a Cause at Orange Shoe Personal Fitness – Park Ridge

Calories for a Cause at Orange Shoe Personal Fitness – Park Ridge turned movement into mission. Participants came together for a fitness-focused fundraiser benefiting Compass to Care and the children we serve. With every workout, the Orange Shoe community helped raise funds, build awareness, and prove that impact can happen anywhere — one class, one rep, and one mile at a time.

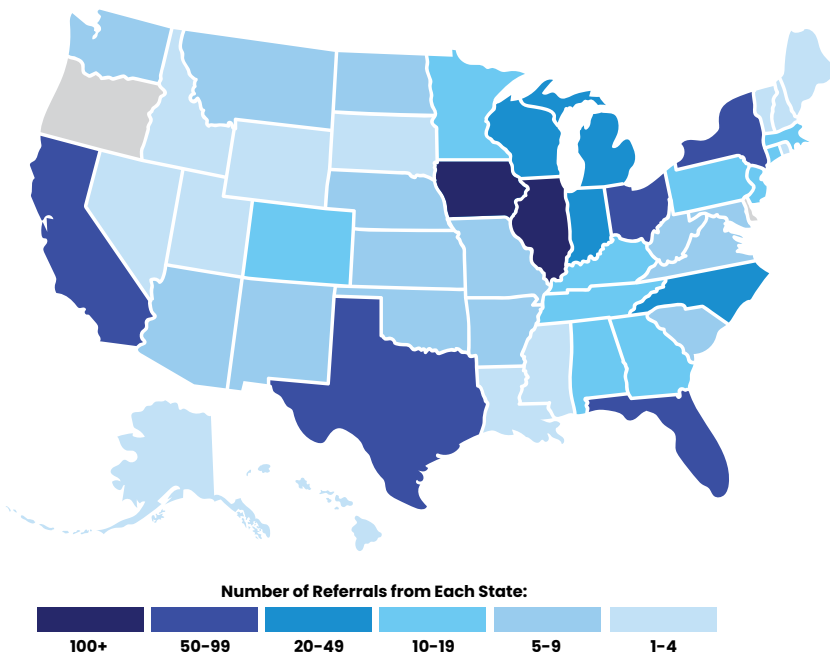
Hockey Fights Cancer

Compass to Care was proud to be part of the Chicago Blackhawks' *Hockey Fights Cancer* Night. Seeing Ricky, age 5, take the ice as an Anthem Buddy while receiving treatment for DIPG was an unforgettable reminder of the courage these children show every day.



Bingo at Edison Park Fest

Compass to Care was grateful to be part of Bingo at Edison Park Fest, a fun community event that turned games, laughter, and friendly competition into support for children with cancer. Every bingo card played helped raise awareness and funds for families who need transportation assistance to reach life-saving treatment.



OUR TOP REFERRING HOSPITALS

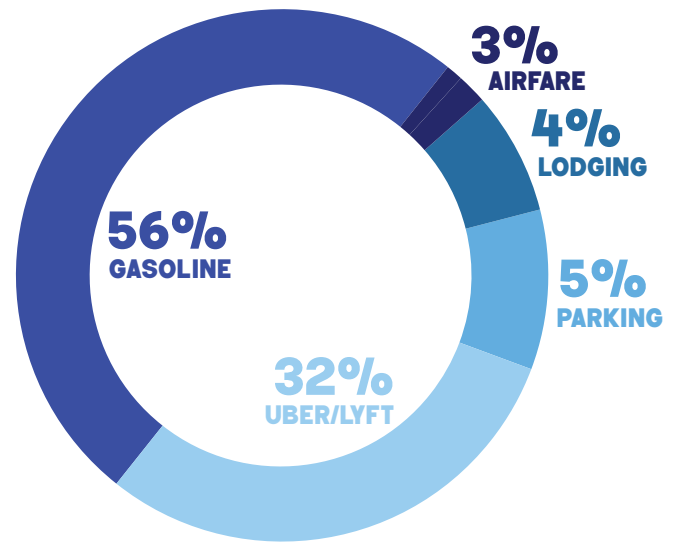
Compass to Care has become the premier nationwide leader in removing the transportation barriers for children to access cancer treatment.



HOW COMPASS TO CARE DRIVES HOPE

Every family's journey to treatment looks different. In 2025, Compass to Care provided transportation support in the ways families needed most, helping remove the practical and financial barriers that can stand between a child and life-saving cancer treatment.

- GASOLINE (56%)** – Gasoline remained the greatest need for the families we served. This support helped parents and caregivers continue driving their children to treatment, scans, follow-up appointments, and hospital visits without having to choose between care and other household expenses.
- UBER/LYFT (32%)** – For families without reliable access to a car, rideshare services provided a safe, dependable way to reach the hospital on time.
- PARKING (5%)** – Repeated hospital visits can make parking a significant expense. Covering these costs helped ease the financial strain of each appointment.
- LODGING (4%)** – When treatment required long-distance travel, lodging support gave children and caregivers a safe place to rest before, during, or after care.
- AIRFARE (3%)** – For children who needed specialized treatment far from home, airfare assistance helped make critical appointments possible when driving was not practical.



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

BEHIND EVERY PERCENTAGE IS A CHILD WHO MADE IT TO TREATMENT BECAUSE OF YOU.

GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OF:

Margaret & David Altschul	Richard Rasnid
Zayvian Daniels	Meredith Schimmel
Olivia Green	Sage Steuer
Kyle Kim	Amanda Zabel
Tenley Koger	

GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF:

Juanita Angel	Stephanie Gnutek	Molly Morris
Finley Claire Bracken	Tessie Gnutek	Doris O'Neill
Marlene Burgmeier	Tayden Grohs	Larry Oyen
Joe DiCola	Steve Howard	Randy Tesch
Tom Duff	Michael J. Mockler	

GRANTING ACCESS: SUPPORT FOR OUR KIDS

We are deeply grateful for the grant partners who stood beside Compass to Care this year. Because of their generosity, children were able to travel to chemotherapy, radiation, surgeries, scans, follow-up appointments, and clinical trials without transportation costs standing in the way. Each grant helped turn compassion into action, funding the critical trips that bring children closer to the care they need and the hope they deserve.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue

Endowment Income	\$443.00
Investment Income (Loss)	\$270.00
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	\$4,001.00
Interest Income	\$13,634.00

Total Revenue \$18,348.00

Public Support

Fundraising Income	\$346,167.00
Businesses & Foundation	\$224,272.00
Individuals & Others	\$140,234.00
Donations In Kind	\$1,231.00

Total Public Support \$711,904.00

Net Assets Released From Time Restrictions \$30,000

Total Revenue & Public Support \$760,252.00

Expenses

Program 83%	\$706,213.00
Fundraising 5%	\$41,404.00
Management & General 12%	\$94,328.00

Total Expenses \$841,945.00

Change in Net Assets (\$81,693.00)

Net Assets

January 1, 2025	\$742,086.00
December 31, 2025	\$660,393.00

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Current Assets

Cash & Equivalents	\$659,032.00
Right of Use Asset - Short Term	\$13,926.00

Total Current Assets \$672,958.00

Other Assets

Endowment Fund	\$44,067.00
Deposit	\$1,489.00
Right of Use Asset - Long Term	\$23,700.00

Total Other Assets \$69,256.00

Total Assets \$742,214.00

Current Liabilities

Capital One Credit Card	\$175.00
PRCB Visa Community Card	\$19.00
Kaizen	\$13,206.00
Uber Health	\$795.00
Operating Lease Liability - Short Term	\$13,926.00

Total Current Liabilities \$28,121.00

Long-Term Liabilities

Operating Lease Liability - Long Term	\$23,700.00
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Total Long-Term Liabilities \$23,700.00

Total Liabilities \$51,821.00

Net Assets

Without Donor Restriction	\$660,393.00
With Donor Restriction	\$30,000.00

Total Net Assets \$690,393.00

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$742,214.00

See a full view of our audited 2025 financials online:

COMPASSTOCARE.ORG/FINANCIALS

**The Abra Prentice
FOUNDATION**

 Advocate Children's Hospital

 **ALL-IN**
TO FIGHT CANCER

**Max & Sunny Howard
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

 **McDonough
Foundation**

 **NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY DANCE
MARATHON**

**Edmond & Alice Opler
FOUNDATION**

Palumbo Family Foundation

 **Schoen Family
Charitable
Trust**

TrustmarkCares

 Associates Going Beyond
Helping communities thrive

 **THE WAHLERT FOUNDATION**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SVP Controller, Echo Global Logistics

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President, Midwestos LLC

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Vice President of Sales & Marketing, Penny Plate, LLC

Stephanie Cadiz
Senior Director - Chief of Staff, Chief Digital Officer,
KMPG US

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Jalpa Patel
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Global Medical Affairs, AbbVie

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Cameron Steppe, Board Vice President
Product Marketing Intern, PolyAI

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Physician Assistant, Rural Psychiatry Associates

Meelah Harkness
Marketing Coordinator, Bartesian

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Integration Program Manager, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

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Senior Manager, Accounting, Echo Global Logistics

Alexa Torman-Ramirez
Senior Manager Talent Acquisition, Red Bull

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Dina Bright, CPA
Principal, Flexic Financial

Mike Ernsdorff
Founding Member

Sandy Ernsdorff
Founding Member

STAFF

Michelle Ernsdorff-May, MBA
Founder & CEO

Danielle Villari Swets
COO

Essy Castaneda
Program Manager

OUR MISSION

Compass to Care ensures that no child misses life-saving cancer treatment because their family cannot afford the cost of travel. We provide free transportation assistance to children with cancer whose families are facing poverty or cancer-related financial hardship. Every mile matters. Every trip brings hope.



The Mike & Sandy Ernsdorff
Childhood Cancer Foundation

WWW.COMPASSTOCARE.ORG

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