

2024 donor impact report



A photograph of a male doctor with glasses and a mustache, wearing a white lab coat, smiling and looking down at a young girl and a baby. The girl is looking up at the doctor, and the baby is also looking up. They are in a hospital setting, with a blue patterned surface in the foreground. The image is partially covered by a blue diagonal overlay on the right side.

generations of giving

**“Don’t judge each
day by the harvest
you reap but by
the seed you plant.”**

— Robert Louis Stevenson

I've often heard that philanthropy is planting a seed you may never see bloom. One generation caring for the next, ensuring vital resources will be available to all who need them.

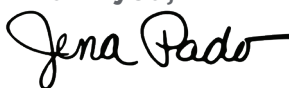
Over the last year, our donors have responded in abundance to the very real need for expert pediatric care in our community. The theme of "generations of giving" has resonated as we heard story after story of families banding together to give back, to pay it forward, and to take care of our community.

When I think of generations of giving, I think of my own family — from military service to careers in non-profit organizations, donations to charities we are passionate about, and even my kids volunteering through school... I'm so very proud that we are living by example and teaching our children the value of giving back. And I see that mirrored in so many of our incredible donors, who, year after year, have built strong relationships with Dayton Children's and helped make our hospital an incredible resource for children.

This year, our Donor Impact Report shares stories of families who passed on a legacy of giving and caring for our community's children. I cannot imagine a more meaningful gift to give to the future — a seed planted in a garden that will grow and thrive long after we're gone.

I hope you will feel as inspired as I do when you read through this report, and I hope you'll take a moment to share YOUR giving story with us! Whether you come from a long line of supporters, or you are the first — we are so grateful you chose to join us in doing more so all kids thrive.

Thank you,

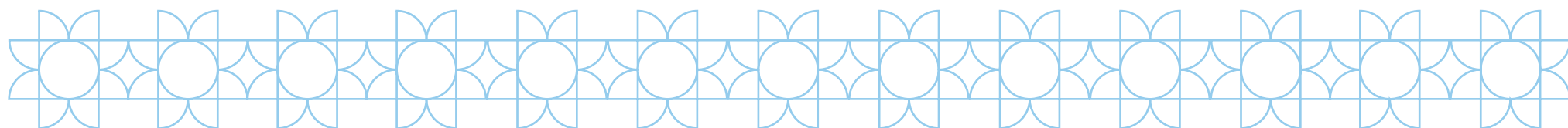


Jena Pado, CFRE

Vice President,
Chief Development Officer
Dayton Children's Hospital



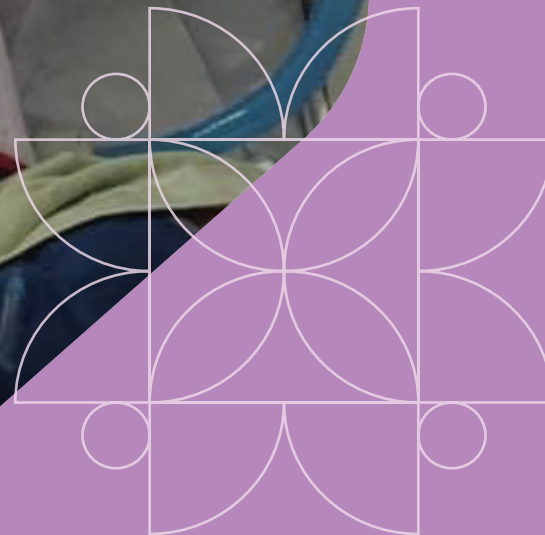
**Share your
giving story**





the Krempasky family had an “eye-opening” experience

Until you are faced with a life-changing injury, you might not know the importance of having a children’s hospital close to home. That’s how the Krempasky family says their eyes were opened to the need that Dayton Children’s fills.



Ten years ago, Max Krempasky was involved in a terrible ATV accident. The 1,200-pound vehicle landed on top of him, fracturing his jaw and spine – he suffered what’s known as “internal decapitation” at just 8 years old.

Today, Max is a survivor, and not only that – his whole family walked away from the experience with a mission to help kids. “The accident made me realize how much Dayton Children’s does for everybody, and it opened my eyes to giving to people in need,” says Max.

Max was transported to Dayton Children’s and was in a medically induced coma for five days. It would be five weeks before he could go home. During that time, his close-knit community kept him motivated.

“It was around the holidays and people were donating toys and giving to support the hospital in honor of him. We didn’t realize that need before we needed it ourselves,” says Max’s dad, Drew.

Max’s grandmother, Merry, recalls noticing other kids who were in the ICU and didn’t have as many visitors or gifts – so Max would share with them. It stuck with her.

In 2018, the Krempasky family decided to host a golf outing benefiting Dayton Children’s. The Robert W. Whitmer Golf Outing is named in memory of Max’s great-grandfather. This year’s event is in September. Overall, they’ve raised more than \$30,000 to support kids like Max.

Drew says what surprised him most was the amount of people in the community who came out to support their family. “We didn’t know them; they didn’t know us, but they were willing to help with anything we needed,” he says. “I never felt like we had a chance to say thank you to every one of them. This golf outing is our way of continuing to say thank you and hope the money we raise reaches someone who needs it.”

Fundraising was new to the Krempasky family, says Max’s mom, Michelle. “We want to give back to the place that saved our son’s life so other kids can have the same experience as

we did. When you have had such a great experience during a horrible time in your life, it’s easy to want to give back in any way you can.”

Max says, “It makes our whole family feel better to tell people thank you and to show gratitude for all they’ve done for us.”

From Max’s great-grandparents, Patsy and Robert, to his grandmother Merry, his mom and dad, and himself – four generations are working together to say “thank you” to their community, and to support the next child who will need Dayton Children’s.



TWIG mom & daughter duos!



Belinda and Paige Ferrara

Paige has been in TWIG 24 for four years and Belinda has been in TWIG 24 for 19 years. Says Belinda, “I used to attend the Heart in Hand Luncheon through a friend that was part of TWIG 24 and then she said I might as well just join and I did just that!” After graduating college, Paige moved to Cleveland and finally came back to Dayton in 2021. “So now we get to spend more time together sharing something I’ve been telling her about for years!” says Belinda.



Melanie and Meg Whyte

Melanie has been a TWIG for 30 years, and Meg has been a TWIG for nine years. “The best part about being a mother/daughter duo is that you always have a built-in partner at events, and it is a shared interest,” says Melanie. Meg says, “Since Mom has been a TWIG almost my whole life, I’ve always gone to events as a guest or an unofficial worker, but now that I am a TWIG myself it is just more time we get to spend together.”



Diana Neely and Betsy Snyder

Diana joined TWIG 18 in 1974, and Betsy joined TWIG 18 in 2000, but she has been active at many TWIG events since she was young. Betsy says, "Mom and I have enjoyed being a part of such a special group of ladies. Not only are the volunteers of TWIG 18 friends of ours, but many are like family!"



Debbie Bowers and Meredith Curtis

Debbie has been a TWIG 24 member for about 30 years and helps host the Heart in Hand Luncheon every February. Meredith joined TWIGs in 2008. Meredith and her sister started helping with the luncheon about 20 years ago. "They fell in love with my TWIG friends and were very impressed with how much money we raised for Dayton Children's," Debbie says. "I love sharing this sense of accomplishment with them, as I am so proud of what TWIG 24 has been able to donate over the years."



Peggy Neff and Tracy Brown

Peggy has been a TWIG since 1992, and Tracy joined TWIGs in 2004. "Being a mother / daughter TWIG duo has been very special to us," Tracy says. It has given them the opportunity to work together for a special cause. "We complement each other," says Peggy. Peggy bakes and crafts, and Tracy collects the donations. "We work as a duo as it all comes together."



**Learn more about
becoming a TWIG!**

“a family united forever”

The Mathiles give from the heart



Clayton and MaryAnn Mathile instilled in their children and grandchildren a commitment to serving others. That legacy continues to flourish at the Mathile Family Foundation. Since 1987, they have donated more than \$500 million to nonprofits to improve the lives of children and families in Dayton.

In 2022, the Mathiles began to learn more about the mental health crisis among children and teens in Dayton. As long-time supporters of Dayton Children's, they knew the hospital was leading the way in addressing this crisis in our region. The more they learned, the more they wanted to help.

Conversations between moms, dads, siblings and cousins pointed to one big idea: making a significant, multigenerational donation to support mental health initiatives at Dayton Children's. Together, they decided to make a significant leadership gift to the *Do. More. so all kids thrive* campaign.

"My parents were always grounded in their faith and instilled in us the value of supporting people in need," says Tim Mathile, board chair of the Mathile Family Foundation. "It's not about us; it's about helping others."

Tim says the family is passionate about helping children who are struggling with mental health issues. "We see how these issues affect families—they've affected our family as well. We hope to inspire others to support (the campaign) to ensure every child and family has access to high-quality mental health care."

This gift was the first time all three generations have united behind a common cause. All of the adults in the family made commitments in support of Dayton Children's.

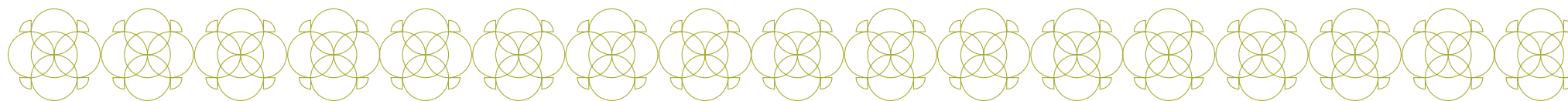
Jenna Steffan, shares her grandmother MaryAnn's passion for helping others. "As a child, I saw how my mom and Mimi and other people in my family cared about keeping children healthy and happy," she says. "When the older generations in our family approached us about being part of this gift, we rallied behind the idea."

The *Do. More.* campaign provides funding to elevate mental health services at Dayton Children's. Many of those services will be available in a new facility, now known as the Mathile Center for Mental Health and Wellness, opening this summer.

"I'm excited for new opportunities this building will bring, from crisis care to outpatient therapy and social work services," says Michelle Mathile, Jenna's mom. "So many of us struggle alone and we don't talk about it. I hope Dayton Children's can reduce the stigma of mental health so families will seek help and talk about things that are hidden in shadows."

"When Clay and I started the foundation, it was always our hope that future generations of our family would take an active leadership role in the foundation's giving," says MaryAnn, founder of the Mathile Family Foundation.

MaryAnn says she's particularly proud of her 15 grandchildren and their spouses for their commitment. "The third generation stepped up financially," she says. "This is our first big gift together, and it feels good. This multigenerational gift is a realization of our family's vision, which is 'A Family United Forever'."



dancing for a day, changing lives for a lifetime

Dance Marathons are known for changing lives of sick kids. But they can also change the lives of the college students who participate in this annual fundraiser.

Jessica Salem followed her passion for helping kids and turned it into a lifelong career. She helped start the University of Dayton's Dance Marathon – now called UD Miracle – in 1999. 26 years later, Jessica is the executive director of the Center for Health Equity at Dayton Children's Hospital. She's been with Dayton Children's for 17 years, supporting injury and illness prevention, community health, advocacy and health equity.

"The creativity and leadership skills I learned through Dance Marathon, putting the puzzle pieces together – that led to my career," says Jessica. "Those experiences were invaluable in showing me what path I wanted to take in my life."

Jessica was a member of the planning committee for the very first UD Dance Marathon in 1999 and served as co-chair in 2000. She recalls when she first heard about the new partnership between UD and Dayton Children's. "I thought - of course we should do this for our local children's hospital."

Seeing how a group of college kids could come together to do something incredible for a local nonprofit was intriguing, she says. At the time, Dance Marathon was a TRUE marathon – participants were expected to dance (in shifts) for 24 hours! Now, it's a 6-hour event with fundraising throughout the year to achieve the monetary goal.

Jessica says of the experience, "It was exhausting! But I remember feeling like 'look at what we accomplished!' It was overwhelming in a good way."

In its first year, the event raised \$6,000. The next year they doubled that amount. In 2024, UD Miracle raised more than \$71,000. In

total, UD students have raised more than \$869,000 for kids at Dayton Children's!

Jessica is now a mom who takes her kids to Dance Marathon to get a taste of the fun and excitement. She hopes they'll see the impact that young people can make in their community.

"When you work on something in the early years and see it not only sustain, but grow in new directions, there are a lot of pieces that make it successful. It has grown over the last 26 years because it makes a difference for everyone involved."

One generation dancing for the next – that's the spirit of Dance Marathons that is so meaningful to everyone involved. It's not just about raising funds; it's about changing lives.



great acts of kindness



Brandon Watts rang the cancer bell on February 28 of this year, announcing to the world he is cancer-free! It was an emotional day for his family, as well as his Dayton Children's "family."

Brandon injured his knee playing soccer last year. Two months later he was still in pain, so his parents took him to Dayton Children's.

The news was what no parent ever wants to hear. Brandon had osteosarcoma, which would require chemotherapy and surgery to remove the cancerous bone in his knee and replace it with a metal joint.

"Brandon is resilient," says his mom, Jodi. "He took it all in stride like a much older person. I was the one who was scared and crying, and he comforted me."

Although his cancer diagnosis was life-changing, Brandon's family knew he was exactly where he needed to be. You see, his family has a long history with Dayton Children's. Jodi has spina bifida and spent the first six weeks of her life in our newborn intensive care unit (NICU).

"Before Jodi was born, I never thought about the hardships other families were going through," says Jodi's mom, Cindy Pretekin. "But when people show you great acts of kindness, you have a real need to return that kindness."

Cindy began volunteering with the TWIGs and the Women's Board to raise money for kids and families at Dayton Children's. She wasn't the only one who felt the call to help. Her late husband Ron was one of the first chairs of the Foundation Board and a member of the hospital's Board of Trustees. Cindy's brother, Mike Shane, later served as Board of Trustees chair. As a family, they have generously donated to support the

NICU and hematology/oncology in honor of all the care they've received.

Cindy says they're just paying it forward. "The kindness we experienced made us want to get involved even more in an organization we believe in," she says.

"When Brandon was diagnosed, he was 18 and we asked if we should go to an adult hospital," recalls Jodi. "The doctor told us, 'He's exactly where he needs to be.' We knew we belonged here."

Brandon found ways to give back too – he was known for making "rounds" to visit other kids in the hem/onc unit, tell a joke, play a game, even order pizza late at night after the parents had left. He was inpatient during Christmas last year and dressed up his crutches with electric holiday lights to make everyone laugh.

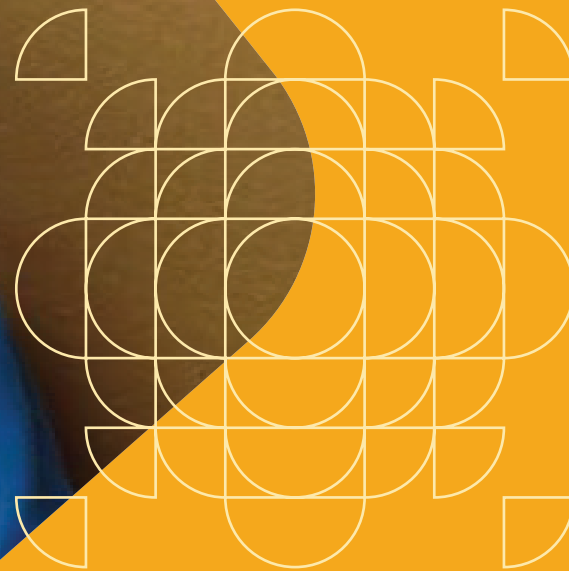
Right now, he's in physical therapy and he's hoping to walk without crutches when he goes back to school next fall. In the meantime, he hopes to spend the summer volunteering at the hospital. "This experience made a difference in my outlook," he says. "I just want to make a difference for other kids."

His family knows that giving isn't always about money. It's about time and it's about caring. That's the tradition they will continue to pass down to the next generations.



racing for Ezra

Ezra Hartke loved trains, cars, and superheroes. In 2017, at the age of three, Ezra was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a malignant brain tumor. After fighting the disease for 13 months, Ezra passed away.



“Ezra was a shining light to all who knew him – he never met a stranger and never once complained about the difficulties thrown his way,” says his mom, Courtney.

Ezra was born with a rare genetic disorder which made gross motor activities difficult; things like eating, crawling and walking were hard-won milestones, but Ezra never let these difficulties slow him down. Playing with his friends and little brother, Isaac, were some of Ezra’s favorite activities.

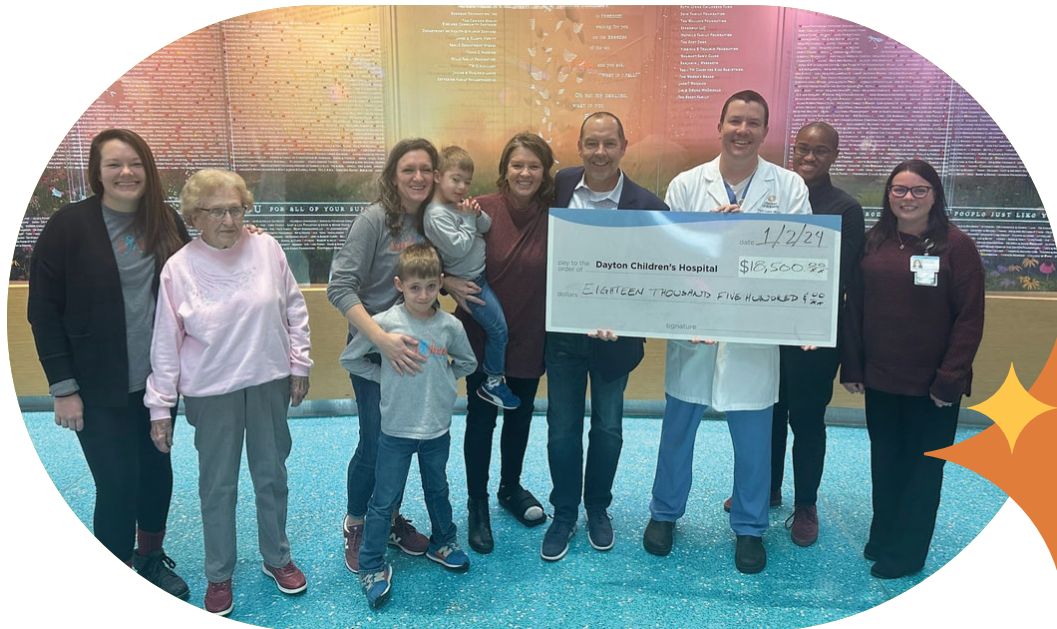
During his illness, Ezra and his family were humbled by the care he received in the hospital and the support they received from so many people. While he was sick, Ezra loved to play and never turned down a chance to race; even if it was from his hospital bed to the nurse’s station down the hall. Each time Ezra was home between chemotherapy treatments, his first request was to go on a bike ride around the neighborhood – he needed to make sure he was still faster than his parents and little brother.

To honor his memory and continue Ezra’s legacy, his family launched the Ezra J. Hartke Race for Hope in 2019, to provide support to Dayton Children’s. “It is our sincerest hope that honoring Ezra in this way provides a space for those he loved most to relive their favorite ‘Ezra Moments’ each year,” said Courtney. “We also want to provide those going through their own struggles a beacon of hope and a moment of reflection on what is good in the world.”

The Race for Hope supports pediatric brain tumor research and the Living Biobank at Dayton Children’s. Over the past six years, the event has raised \$109,500. Ezra’s legacy continues to touch future generations.

“Ezra’s fight against cancer taught us that above all else, there is hope,” says his father, Philip. “So much support was provided during Ezra’s illness, we want to honor Ezra’s legacy by raising money in support of childhood cancer research and care.”

Sometimes, older generations inspire younger ones to give back. In Ezra’s case, a little boy inspired his parents and grandparents, and all those who participate in the Race for Hope, to keep moving forward in the quest to end brain cancer. Just like Ezra, they will keep racing.



by the numbers

\$23,322,683

total fundraising
revenue in 2024

7,491

donors in
2024

31

planned gifts pledged to leave a
legacy for the next generation

\$15.8 million

raised for pediatric
mental health

985

Circle of Care
sustaining donors

\$1.6 million

raised by the TWIGs and
Women's Board

\$594,510.47

raised through "round up" and change jars through
Children's Miracle Network

\$362,872

raised through
third-party fundraisers

863

employee donors going
above & beyond for kids

\$1- \$24:
66% of gifts

\$25-\$99:
18% of gifts

\$100-\$999:
12% of gifts

\$1,000-\$9,999:
2% of gifts

\$10,000-\$999,999:
0.45% of gifts

\$1M or more:
0.01% of gifts

**Every dollar
matters!**

How many
donations were
made by dollar
amount?

**Do. More.
so all kids thrive!**

In 2024, we launched our campaign to:



elevate
mental health



advance
care



remove barriers
for kids

**Thank you to everyone who
have supported this effort!**

learn more:
childrensdayton.org/domore

hospital stats in 2024

- **Total patient visits:** 694,004
- **Doctors and advanced providers:** 412
- **Top inpatient diagnosis:** respiratory infection
- **Emergency department visits:** 99,948
- **Kids Express visits:** 38,034
- **Psychology and psychiatry visits:** 31,751
- **Child Life encounters:** 20,029*
- **Surgeries:** 13,732
- **Music therapy sessions:** 2,792*
- **Hospital volunteers:** 580



** funded primarily through donations,
grants and community partnerships*

Dayton Children's Hospital foundation board

officers

Heidi Hennessy, chair

Vice President of Human Resources,
Hartzell Propeller

Mike Bevis, vice chair

Senior Partner, Strategic Sales &
Marketing Partners

Amy Reilly, secretary

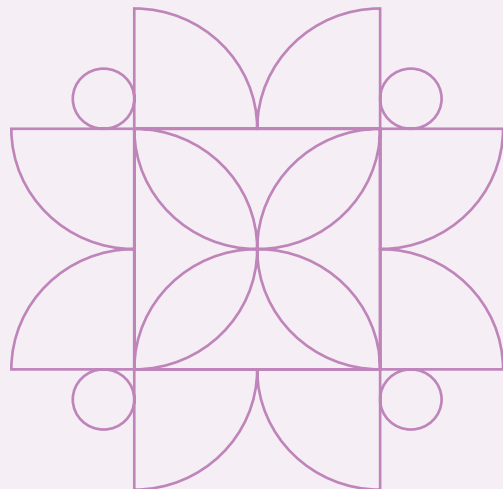
Chief Administrative Officer,
Wright-Patt Credit Union

Janel Barnett, treasurer

Owner, Synergy Building Systems

Jeff Klank, immediate past chair

Partner, Canal Capital Holdings, LLC



members

The Honorable Bill Beagle

Executive Director, Ohio Housing Finance
Agency & Former State Senator

Chris Bergman

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer,
Dayton Children's Hospital

Peter Duffey

Vice President, Park National Bank

Gregory Eberhart, MD

Medical Director, Cornerstone Pediatrics

Jonathan Faulkner

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Webber

Deborah Feldman

President & Chief Executive Officer,
Dayton Children's Hospital

Jeff Hoagland

President, Dayton Development Coalition

Art Hung

Financial Advisor,
Principal Financial Group

Lindsay Johnson

Partner, Reminger Co., LPA, and
Women's Board Representative

Peggy Lehner

Mayor, City of Kettering

Robert Lober, MD

Pediatric Neurosurgeon,
Dayton Children's Hospital

Scott Markovich

Executive Vice President,
Markets & Products, CareSource

Lesley Ott

COO and CCO, James Investment
Research

Jena Pado

Vice President and Chief Development
Officer, Dayton Children's Hospital

Matt Price

Chief Operating Officer,
PeopleFirst Staffing

Sharmila Rao

Consultant, Bridgewater
Consulting Group

John Slaughenhaupt

Owner, ThreeWitt Enterprises Inc.

Matthew Yoder

Vice President, 7-Eleven

