



16 Years of Supporting Families Battling Cancer Here in the Heartland

angels
amongus



2022 Annual Report

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Angel Among Us Stakeholder,



As I complete my final year as Chairman of the Board for Angels Among Us, I cannot help but look back at all that has been accomplished for pediatric cancer families in our area. The mission of Angels Among Us is to provide financial and emotional support to families battling pediatric cancer who live-in or are being treated in Nebraska. Our vision is to bring greater financial support for children with cancer and their families for as long as they need it.

When you look at that vision, it could cause you to pause. What is the issue of pediatric cancer in our area?

Well, I can tell you first-hand that there are many who are experiencing financial toxicity due to their diagnosis, and I can tell you that in Nebraska, pediatric cancer is not rare. In fact, 70-90 new families are diagnosed every year in Nebraska, the most in all of the Midwest. And Angels Among Us has grown to meet that need.

In 2022, we introduced a two-tier funding program to provide more relief to families experiencing hardship. The result was a net gain to families of over \$200,000 in financial support. In addition, we established 11 new emotional support programs to help families feel supported and stay connected. In the inaugural year, Angels Among Us reached over 500 people as part of the emotional support programming. And we are not finished yet.

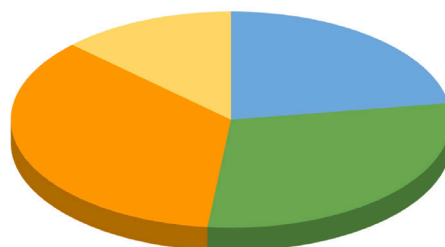
In this annual report, you will not only learn about what has happened in the 2022 fiscal year, you will also get a glimpse into our growth and our need to expand programming even more. We know that none of this would be possible without the support of generous people like you.

Let me thank you on behalf of the Board of Angels Among Us for your continued support and commitment. No pediatric cancer family should walk alone, and thanks to you, no one will.

Most Sincerely,

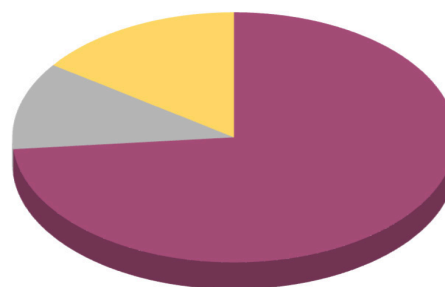
John Grose
Chairman of the Board, 2022

INCOME & EXPENSES



2022 Sources of Income

Special Events	\$489,040
In Kind	\$176,740
Individual & Corporate Donations	\$401,693
Grants	\$311,000
Gain/Loss on Investment	(\$55,198)



2022 Expenses

Program	\$1,001,230
Administrative	\$154,165
Fundraising	\$207,001

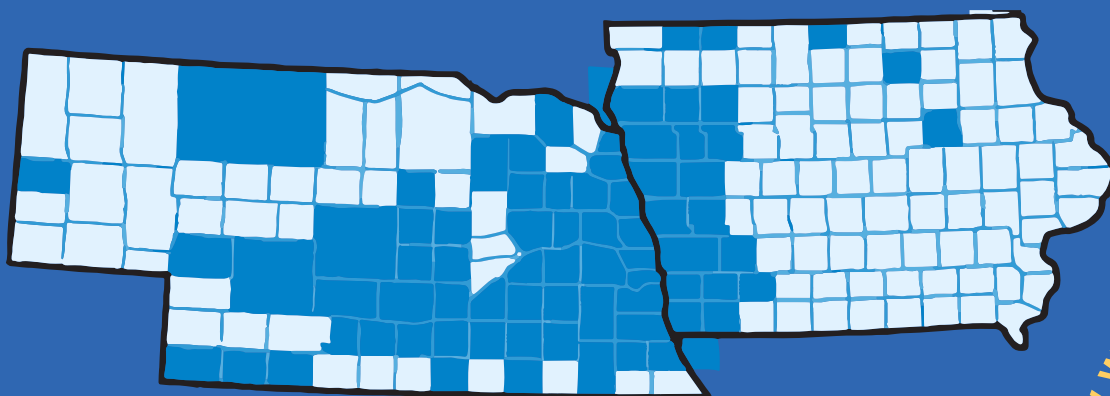
WHERE YOUR GIFTS HELPED IN 2022 . . .

NEBRASKA

Adams – 3	Dakota – 2	Hall – 7	Otoe – 1
Antelope – 1	Dawson – 1	Howard – 1	Platte – 6
Buffalo – 1	Dodge – 3	Johnson – 1	Red Willow – 1
Burt – 2	Douglas – 40	Kearney – 1	Sarpy – 9
Butler – 1	Dundy – 1	Lancaster – 12	Scottsbluff – 1
Cass – 3	Fillmore – 1	Lincoln – 2	Valley – 1
Colfax – 3	Gosper – 1	Madison – 1	Webster – 1

IOWA

Buena Vista – 1
Crawford – 3
Mills – 2
Page – 1
Pottawattamie – 8
Sac – 1
Woodbury – 2



HOW YOUR GIFTS HELPED IN 2022 . . .

\$659,000
Support Given



127
Families



HOW WE STEWARD YOUR GIFTS

We ensure that your donations go to families in the most need of help.

Bills are paid directly to the creditor identified by the family so you can be sure your gifts are used responsibly.

Some things we fund include rent, mortgage, auto payments, medical bills, utilities, loan payments, etc.

94
Mortgage & Rent
Bills Paid

1
Medical Bill
Paid

13
Different Utility
Bills Paid

18
Auto Payments
Made

7
Loan Payments
Made

11
Insurance Bills
Paid

1
Daycare
Bill Paid

65%
of Families Qualified
for \$750/Month

32%
of Families Qualified
for \$500/Month

A YEAR IN REVIEW



Birds & Beer

The 3rd annual Birds & Beer bash was back – warehouse style!

Our gracious hosts Patriot Services cleared out their storage facility for their cranes and heavy equipment leaving us ample space for over 15 different beer and food vendors, along with various games, a raffle station, and DJ.

Roughly 250 young professionals and others participated and had a great time!

A special thank you goes to our sponsors: Fusion Medical Staffing, Faith Technologies, Patriot Services, Interstates, Buildertrend, Ellerbrock Norris, Dreamscape Homes, NFM, Soul & Swag and the Nebraska Craft Brewers Guild.

Thank you also to all the breweries and local restaurants that donated their product and time to make this event a success: Kros Strain, Upstream, Brickway, Site-1 Brewing, Juke's Ale Works, Bottle Rocket Brewing Co., Saro Cider, Zipline Brewing, Kinkaidier Brewing Company, Sideshow Spirits, Nebraska Brewing Company, Skyybox, Hilton of Omaha, Clancy's, Oscars, Best Bison, Pat & Mike's and Caddyshack.





Bland Cares/AAU Golf Outing Sells Out Again

The 12th annual Bland Cares/AAU Golf Outing was another sell-out event with 144 golfers participating while raising nearly \$80,000!

Participants were treated to lunch on the course, eighteen holes of golf and dinner following the event. Over fifteen items were raffled off during the day and winners were announced at dinner.

Thank you to our beverage cart sponsor Reditech, golf cart sponsors Anchor Roofing and Truck Center Companies, Lunch Sponsor PILLAR Restaurant Group, Hole-in-One sponsor Gregg Young Automotive Group and our corporate sponsors: Fusion Medical Staffing, KLC Logistics, Pinnacle Bank, Feltz Wealthplan Partners, Mainelli Mechanical, All Makes, Koley Jessen, Midlands Carrier Transcold and Christo Financial Planning.



We can't wait for the event in 2023 and are grateful for the continued support of Bland Cares and Bland & Associates.

Visit our events page on the website for sponsorship information and event details.





We Raised the Odds for Pediatric Cancer Families at the 2022 Casino Night Gala

An Evening Among Angels: High Roller Casino Night was held on October 14, 2022 this year. Honorary chairs were Gregg & Ashley Young with Gregg Young Automotive Group, who also served as our presenting sponsors.

Over 600 guests attended the event which raised nearly \$400,000 toward our family assistance fund. The night included casino games during the cocktail hour, a VIP lounge, food stations, an interactive program and stand-up comedy provided by local attorney and comedian, Kris Covi. The casino games featured four prizes for winners valued at a minimum of \$2,000 each. In addition, we gave the inaugural Guardian Angel Award to Kevin and Jane Cuvelier. The Guardian Angel Award recognized an individual couple or business that goes above and beyond to help us meet the needs of pediatric cancer families.

Special thanks also goes to: Fusion Medical Staffing as our Cocktail Hour Sponsor, OneSource as our High Roller Casino Sponsor, Nick Mazjag as our Honored Family Sponsor, Firesprint as our Signage Sponsor, Truck Center Companies as our Parking Sponsor and our Premier Level Sponsors: Pinnacle Bank, Veterans United Foundation, Midlands Carrier Transicold, Aflac and Tavern on Q.

GREGG YOUNG
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP





Fusion Christmas Celebrates Fourth Year

For the fourth year in a row, Fusion Medical Staffing gave our families much-needed holiday cheer! This year they hosted a Holiday Extravaganza party for pediatric cancer families. The event was themed “The Polar Express” and families and staff enjoyed attending the event in their jammies. The Fusion staff dressed up in their holiday best to welcome families for a hot cocoa bar, crafts and games, dinner and cookie decorating. The highlight of the evening is always a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus to share their Christmas dreams and to take a special photo.

“This partnership is an important one for us”, said Susie Nelson, Executive Director. “It is a special night where families can forget about their cancer for a while and just enjoy a night out. We are so thankful for the relationship we have with Fusion and for ALL they do for our families.”

Gifts were purchased by different Fusion Medical Staffing departments and special elves delivered the packages to the back of the cars for families to enjoy on Christmas. “Our partnership with Angels Among Us is beyond special to the entire Fusion team. Departments look forward to rallying for these amazing families all year round, and we’re always happy to put on a night of fun for the kiddos,” said Andrew Ives, Director of Culture and Talent Development.

“We feel lucky to be able to help fulfill our core purpose of ensuring everyone we touch has a better life by supporting Angels Among Us and the families they impact.”

Fusion



EMOTIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Families who have children battling pediatric cancer can often feel alone, isolated and have higher stress levels.

In fact, over 60.5% of caregivers indicate clinically significant distress with PTSD-like symptoms, and those with lower socioeconomic status with less education have even higher stress levels.

Cancer causes a heavy financial and emotional burden on families, and Angels Among Us has built a comprehensive emotional support program for the patient, their siblings and caregivers.

- **32 Events Hosted**
- **520 Individuals Served**

- **Family Events:** 303 participants
- **Healing Hearts:** 12 participants
- **Men's Recharge:** 17 participants
- **Women's Recharge:** 28 participants
- **Kids link:** 117 participants
- **Teen Link:** 38 participants

“IT IS NICE TO KNOW OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH SIMILAR SITUATIONS...PEOPLE WHO 'GET IT'. THE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING IS COMFORTING.”



We are grateful for our many sponsors and volunteers:



**KIDS
LINK**

Justin & Katie Lieffers



**TEENS
LINK**

Anonymous



**WOMEN'S
RECHARGE**

Midlands Carrier Transicold



**MEN'S
RECHARGE**

WealthPlan Partners/Feltz WealthPlan
Wade & Christine Behlen



**HEALING
HEARTS**

Jim & Mindy Young



**FAMILY
EVENTS**

Adam & Aimee Tice
The Hamzhie Family
Steve & Melissa Koesters

Patrick Enterprises
Midlands Carrier Transicold
Mustache for Kids Omaha
VirtuActive 3D Drafting & Design



**CALEB'S
COFFEE**

Scooter's Coffee

469 Volunteer Hours

**"IT'S BEEN REALLY
NICE TO GET
TOGETHER WITH
OTHER FAMILIES THAT
HAVE BEEN THROUGH
THE SAME SITUATION AS
WE HAVE, AND TO BE ABLE
TO RELAX AND KNOW THAT
WE ARE AROUND FOLKS WHO
UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE
GOING THROUGH."**



JAYDEN

"You hold your child as tight as you can,
and push away the unimaginable."

– 'It's Quiet Uptown' from the Hamilton Musical

I remember hearing this line for the first time and instantly bawling because it's so true. No one ever thinks, "my child will get cancer." It's something that happens to other people, to other families. The empathy is always there, but cancer is something we think won't happen to us, because the idea of it is so terrifying and all-consuming, you have to push it away with every fiber of your being or it will consume you. My family had been touched by cancer before, older relatives while we watched and prayed from the sidelines. I'm intuitive and always knew cancer would affect my life more seriously. I just assumed I would be the one battling it; never once did I allow my mind to think it would be my child instead.

My son, Jayden, was diagnosed in January 2021 and my entire world screeched to a halt. I remember driving home after we got the news. I had dropped Jayden back off at home and was going to his school to pick up his homework for the day. That was when I allowed myself to break down, once I was alone; because as parents, we have to stay strong for our kids. I distinctly remember thinking, how is everyone just driving around, going to the store, at work, like nothing happened? Like the world didn't just change forever? It was so strange to me in that moment; how alone I felt in my fear and agony. After a cancer diagnoses, there are a million and one thoughts that swirl through your head every second of every day. The doctor appointments, the treatment options, the pain control, insurance, travel, work, bills and continuing all the normal parenting duties not only for your child with cancer but their siblings as well.

IT TAKES EVERY OUNCE OF STRENGTH TO JUST GET OUT OF BED AND PUSH AWAY THE ANXIETY THAT THREATENS TO DROWN YOU BECAUSE THERE'S BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF.

I had daily panic attacks multiple times a day in the first couple of months, trying to figure out our new reality. Angels Among Us is aptly named because they came in as if sent from Heaven and took so much weight off our shoulders. Not only did they take care of a few of the household bills every month, they also constantly reached out to check on not only my child, but me and his dad and his little sister as well. They reminded us we aren't alone and have a ton of support just a phone call or email away. Our first Christmas after the diagnoses was hard, we didn't feel like we had much to celebrate. They sent a family fun box to our house with gifts for both children and a game to play together as a family which reminded us that we still have each other and that's a lot to be thankful for.

WHEN JAYDEN HAD HIS LEG AMPUTATED DUE TO THE CANCER, AMY WAS THERE AT THE HOSPITAL WITH AN EAR TO LISTEN AND A SCOOTERS COFFEE FOR THIS EXHAUSTED MOTHER.

Amy got us in touch with Ronald McDonald House during the hospital stay. Anything we needed, Amy and Angels Among Us team has been there. We're almost two years out from our diagnosis, and they are still reaching out with kind words and the offer of support. I honestly don't know how we would've gotten through this trying time without her and Angels Among Us. This testimony doesn't even begin to describe the ways this organization has touched our lives and our hearts. "Thank you" will never be enough but it's all I have, and I carry my gratitude in my heart every single day.

EMERSYN

Angels Among Us has been supporting us on this journey since we started.

When your child is diagnosed with cancer, every horrible emotion goes through your mind. On top of the list of worries is how will we afford treatment as well as our regular bills while not being able to work full time so we can care for Emersyn. Angels Among Us has helped lessen that worry by providing us support to help with bills.

They also have provided a way for parents to meet other parents and escape life for a minute to have some fun.

*“THEY ARE CONSTANTLY FINDING
WAYS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES ON THIS
JOURNEY TO MAKE IT LESS SCARY.”*

We are so grateful for them!



STAFF



Susie Nelson
Executive Director



Brittany Friesen
Director of Programming



Amy Kent
Marketing & Grants Coordinator



Lindsay Stroupe
Operations Manager

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Grose, Chair, Midlands Carrier Transicold

Marlon Lofgren, Vice Chair, Koley Jessen

Katie Henry, Secretary, Access Bank

Ryan Cook, Lutz

Terry Davis, BuilderTrend

Joel Friesen, Five Nines

Nick Jasa, One Source Background Check

JR Johnson, Edgewater Insurance & Real Estate

Rebecca McMahon, Nebraska Medicine

Terry Patterson, Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Ret'd

Tom Whiteing, Renaissance Financial



MyAngelsAmongUs.org

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SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER

ERRORS & OMISSIONS: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If something is incorrect, we sincerely apologize, and hope you will let us know so that corrections can be made in future publications and in our records. You may contact the Angels Among Us offices at (402)934-0999.