

DUENDE



Circle of Care
Annual Report **2018**



Until no parent has to hear the words
"Your child has cancer," we will be here.



Dear Friends,

At our gala this year we celebrated our families with the powerful word Duende that comes from the Spanish tradition recognizing the unknown strength within us all. Duende means passion, courage and inspiration. These are the words that drive us every day to be there and be present for the hundreds of children diagnosed with cancer every year in Connecticut. And no three words ring truer for families facing the unimaginable – a pediatric cancer diagnosis.

2018 was a banner year. We took the bold step of moving the Circle of Care team into our first “home”- an historic red barn in Wilton which is so reminiscent of the little red barn where Dr. Joe treated Carlos and Dan so many years ago. Our new home allows us to offer more family programming, like our AXA Financial sponsored “ThanksGathering”, and our barn opening dinner for supporters. The barn also provides a great workspace for our dedicated team of staff and volunteers to collaborate. And that team continues to grow. We welcomed a new Program and Events Director and three new board members this year, who bring fresh passion and talent to our circle. Our programs are growing, too, as we benefit from incredible community support and the energy of tireless volunteers.

With your help, we can continue to support children and families through programs that create hope, inspire dreams, relieve financial burdens, and make lasting connections. Thank you for all you do to make these moments possible for so many children. We invite you to enjoy the photos on the following pages...they are proof of all that you have helped us to make possible this year. Until no parent has to hear the words, “your child has cancer,” we will be here. We know that thanks to your Passion, Courage and Inspiration, together we are making a difference.

From the bottom of our hearts – thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn'.



Our Impact



Volunteers preparing Bags of Love, (2008)

15 years ago, we had a simple idea, to provide a day of diagnosis care package for newly diagnosed children and their families. We never envisioned how many families Circle of Care would reach. Today, 88% of children are cured, but no matter the outcome, and facing the most difficult challenge of their life, families feel overwhelmed and isolated.

Whether it is our Bag of Love, filled with the essential items and resources that are needed as newly diagnosed families transition to hospital life, an Art from the Heart children's room makeover, a week at Circle The Sun Sibling Camp, or much needed financial assistance from our Lifeline Emergency Fund, We understand the journey because we've been there. Our proven programs and services are time-tested and designed to provide support when and where it's needed most - from diagnosis, throughout treatment, and into post survivorship.

Circle of Care today...

We understand the cancer journey because we've been there.



Because of your generous donations, our programs have reached over 10,500 individuals in Connecticut. Circle of Care ensures those families touched by cancer get the support they need today, on the ground, where the battle hits closest to home.

Bags of Love

Our day of diagnosis Bag of Love is available to every child, adolescent and young adult diagnosed with cancer in Connecticut. This bag is filled with all the essentials needed for those first unexpected weeks in the hospital, such as a toothbrush, a soft colorful fleece blanket to bring comfort, as well as some of the tools for navigating the cancer world like our resource guide "The Purple Pages." We want families to know they are not alone on this journey and that as parents who have been there we are here to help them as they adjust to their "new normal."



"Circle of Care was the first organization to reach out to me with a form of survival."

- Jennifer McGettigan

Hospital Volunteers

Who doesn't want to have their own personal companion while at clinic? Our specially trained volunteers at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital provided over 4,000 hours of service in 2018, playing games, painting nails and providing much-needed distractions to patients, siblings and even moms.



2018 Yale New Haven Children's Hospital Volunteers

"Volunteering to play with children once a week may appear to be insignificant, but I know I have made a difference in the lives of those I help. Although my trips to the clinic only take a few hours out of my day, for the many patients and parents who crowd the playroom, it is the center of their lives." - **Molly Head**

Art From The Heart



Each year we are welcomed into some of the homes of our families to transform the child's bedroom into a personal wonderland. Through paint, fabric and boundless creativity our Art from the Heart teams bring moments of joy to these children and their families. For Mia it was a mermaid inspired sea world. Amelia shares her room with her mother, so our corporate team from Lincoln HealthCare used her favorite color blue to create a serene palate with tons of Disney princesses! Two-time cancer survivor Victoria wished for a rainbow palace for the room she shares with her sister. Giovanni and Zachary both immortalized their favorite sports teams in their rooms. This year we provided moments of peace for Dylan, Steven and Danny. These boys had relapsed and were in the fight of their lives when they reached out to have one last wish – something to look forward to that they had total control over -- a special place all their own while they were confined to home.

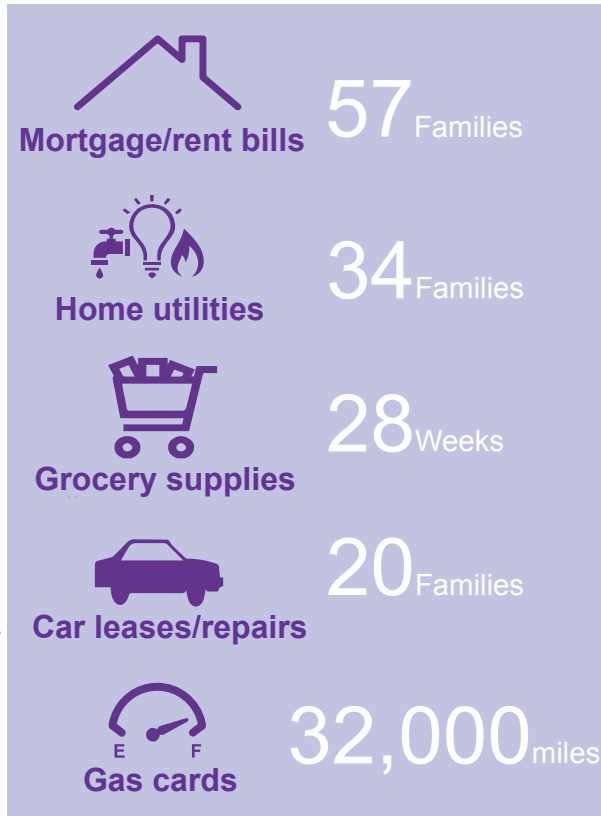
2018 Rooms Completed

Giovanni, Amelia, Zach, Mia,
Victoria, Dylan, Steven, Danny



Lifeline Emergency Fund

Our financial assistance is there for families facing the unimaginable *and* the bill collectors. We ensure that parents can focus on caring for their child, reducing stress for the entire family, while providing financial stability - a roof over their heads and food on the table.



Financial assistance in 2018

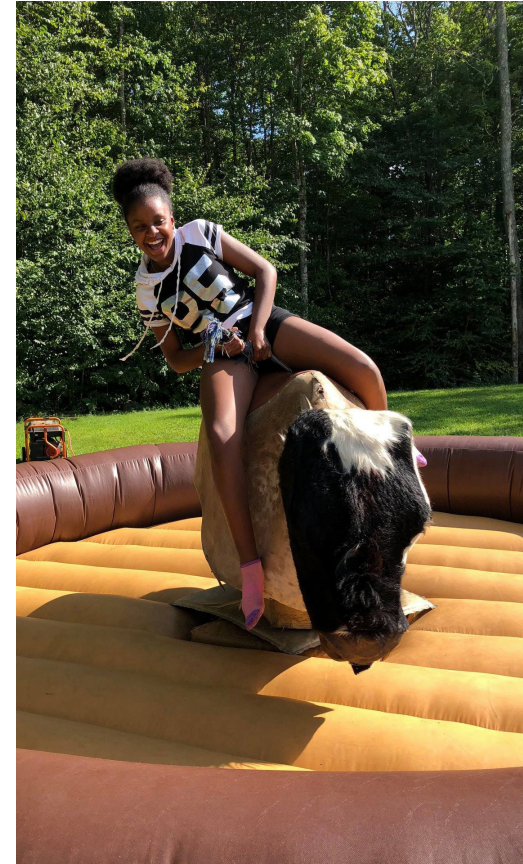


"Our daughter was diagnosed and I had to leave my job the next day. I don't know how we would have gotten through this without help from Circle of Care." – **Amy Mason Mann**

In 15 years, we have never turned away a family in need.

Circle The Sun Sibling Camp

55 siblings joined us for a week of Wild West adventure complete with mechanical bull, horseback riding, and laser tag in the woods. A highlight was Goldrush where the kids had to find silver and gold and catch bandits who were trying to rob them!



Childhood Cancer Alliance of Connecticut

The Alliance welcomed three new members including Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut, Ryan's Rebels, and Team Impact for a total of 17 member organizations. Our bi-annual meetings provide educational opportunities and a forum for networking and open sharing of information. In 2018, our spring meeting topic was Models of Collaboration presented by non-profit consultant Sharon Danosky which resulted in a new CT Alliance Resource Fair at the hospitals. In the fall, our speaker was Joe Charnitski, a social media expert and storyteller who provided insights into the use of social media and the power of storytelling to help us more effectively reach our clients and donors.

We are proud that each year membership and collaboration among agencies grows.



CHILDHOOD
CANCER
ALLIANCE of
CONNECTICUT

Camp Rising Sun
Circle of Care
Colin's Crew
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Friends of Karen
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
LIVFREE
Make-A-Wish Connecticut
Phoebe's Phriends

Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut
Ryan's Rebels
Special Wishes
Sunshine Kids
Team Impact
The Susan Fund
The Tommy Fund
Yale New Haven Children's Hospital





Community, Collaboration, and Partnership

All under one roof. Our new office in the historic Davenport Barn at 144 Danbury Rd, Wilton provides both necessary office space and storage of program materials as well as a home for our family events.



Circle of Care 5K



Issy's dad Frank and her sister Lucia give thanks to our runners at the start of our 2018 5K in Issy's honor.



Presenting Sponsors:

Brett And Mark Kristoff
The COC Board of Directors

Inspiration Sponsor:

Northwestern Mutual - Midtown

Courage Sponsors:

Zelie & Andy Pforzheimer
The Stroup Family
Liz & Jeffrey Salguero
Dawn & Mitch Ladenheim

Passion Sponsors:

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Yale New Haven Children's Hospital
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Mary & Ray Eckert
Liz & Jose Vega
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Missy & Allen Dorsey
Julie & Rick Fingeret
Gina Longo & Tricia Small
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Media Sponsor:

Moffley Media

Many Thanks To Our 2018 Duende Gala Sponsors!

Patient Spotlight

Victoria Diaz

Strength sometimes come in the smallest of packages



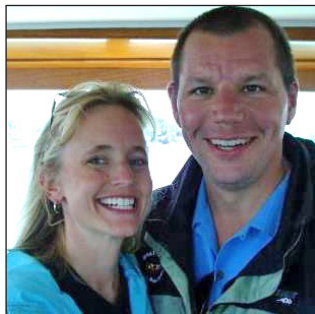
Victoria was diagnosed with an inoperable rhabdomyosarcoma in her leg just one month after her first birthday. Thus began 10 months of chemotherapy followed by six weeks of radiation. By her 2nd birthday, she was in remission but with each follow up scan came the anxiety that the cancer could return. 2 1/2 years later their worst fears were realized. The cancer had come back. Since Victoria was now 4, with a smaller recurrent tumor, doctors decided to operate. They removed the muscle and half her tibia. Treatment was even harder this time. Victoria was in a wheelchair, then a cast, then a brace, along with another 10 months of chemotherapy, followed by radiation.

We are thrilled to share that Victoria is now cancer-free!

*"Our life changed within the blink of an eye. One day, we are celebrating her birthday and a month later we are pumping chemo into her. Circle of Care has been a constant in our lives the past four years, helping us financially and emotionally. Victoria and her big sister, Kiara received an Art from the Heart room makeover - a beautiful rainbow palace! It was an incredible experience that brought my girls closer together. As difficult as Victoria's ordeal was on her, it took a big toll on Kiara. That burden was lessened by Circle of Care who invited us to holiday parties and special events, all of which were a great distraction. We are so grateful for the financial support the organization provided. It lifted a worry off our shoulders, helping us with rent, gas and groceries. But perhaps most meaningful of all, are the two family portraits we received through Life Within the Journey. That meant the world to me. We can't thank Circle of Care enough for all they have done to support us." - **Victoria's mom Emily***

Donor Spotlight

Matt & Tonya Russo



Matt Russo is the Managing Partner of Northwestern Mutual's New York City midtown Manhattan office, consistently one of the highest producing agencies in the United States. But Matt's greatest accomplishment is his remarkable commitment to children with cancer.

In 2005, Matt and his wife Tonya created the "500 for 500" relay race in support of their good friend and colleague's son Connor who was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma at age 4. In 2009, Tonya and Matt introduced Team Connor to Circle of Care and for the next four years Circle of Care was the emotional and financial support arm for Team Connor in Connecticut. In 2013, deepening their commitment, Tonya joined our board of directors, directing our Bags of Love program, ensuring that every child in Connecticut diagnosed with cancer received a care package at diagnosis. Since that time, through personal

donations, and their work with the Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Matt and Tonya have raised over \$162,000 for Circle of Care. This Incredible support has allowed us to grow into the premiere provider of support services to children with cancer and their families here in Connecticut.

Their unwavering support and dedication to children with cancer is truly remarkable. We could not possibly put in words what both Matt and Tonya Russo mean to the children and families in our circle.





Yale
NewHaven
Health

Yale New Haven Children's Hospital
Pediatric Specialty Center
November 2018

Yale
NewHaven
Health

Greenwich Specialty Center opening ceremony, Greenwich

A word from Cynthia Sparer, *Executive Director Yale New Haven Children's Hospital*

"Liz Salguero and Dawn Ladenheim and everyone at Circle of Care are "Every Day Heroes" to all of us at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital. They turned their personal experiences as the parents of children with cancer into a strong and vital organization that supports children and families like their own. On behalf of our Leadership team, physicians, nurses, child life specialists, social workers and all of the members of the team we are grateful for everything they do on behalf of our families who have heard the terrible words, "Your child has cancer."

We know that they understand what these families are facing and as it is our job to do as much as we can medically, we cannot do it alone. It is through their efforts that we are able to do as much as we can on behalf of these families and these children. It has been a great partnership over the past 15 years, with over \$750,000 worth of direct care that they have provided to families who are in crisis.

But their work doesn't stop there. Circle of Care was with us back in 2014 when we opened up our Center in Trumbull at Park Avenue Medical Center and we hope that you'll be with us for the opening of our newest oncology center at the Greenwich Specialty Center we're opening on West Putnam Avenue.



Partners

Circle of Care is especially grateful to the corporations and foundations who partner with us at the highest level in support of our critical programs.

American Savings Bank Foundation

New Canaan Community Foundation

Northwestern Mutual (NY Midtown)

**Community Foundation of Greater
New Haven**

Lincoln HealthCare

MBIA Foundation

Circle of Care offers thanks and gratitude to our collaborative partners who are instrumental in helping ensure our programs and services reach those families in need.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Connecticut Children's Medical Center

**Morgan Stanley-Komansky Children's
Hospital**

Yale New Haven Children's Hospital

**Maria Fareri Children's Hospital
New York-Presbyterian**

Boston Children's Hospital

Camp Rising Sun

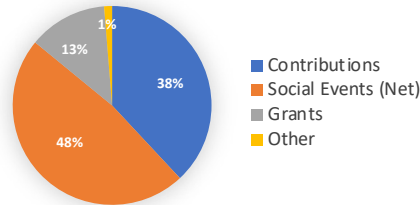


Financials - 2018

Revenue and Support 516,258

Contributions	196,448
Special Events Net	247,136
Grants	66,000
Other	6,674

Revenue and Support Source

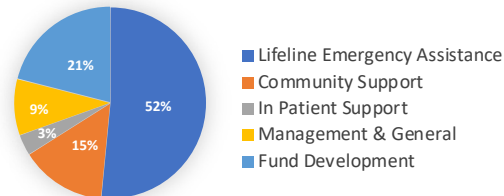


Expenses

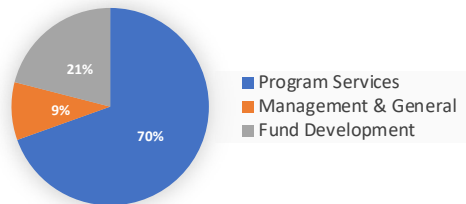
510,677

Lifeline Emergency Assistance	263,145
Community Support	74,112
In Patient Support	17,813
Management & General	48,364
Fund Development	107,243

Operating Expense Distribution



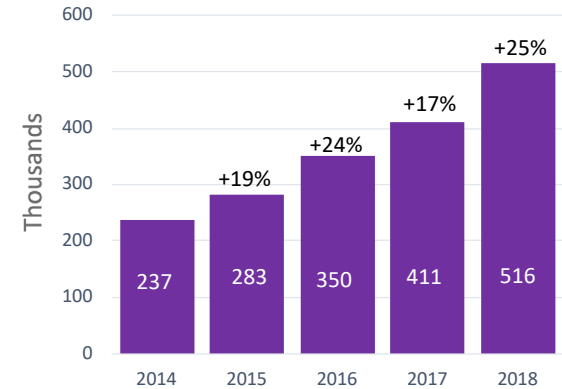
Distribution of Program Services*



*Program Services:

Lifeline Emergency Assistance
Community Support
In Patient Support

CY 2017/2018 Revenue Growth: +25%



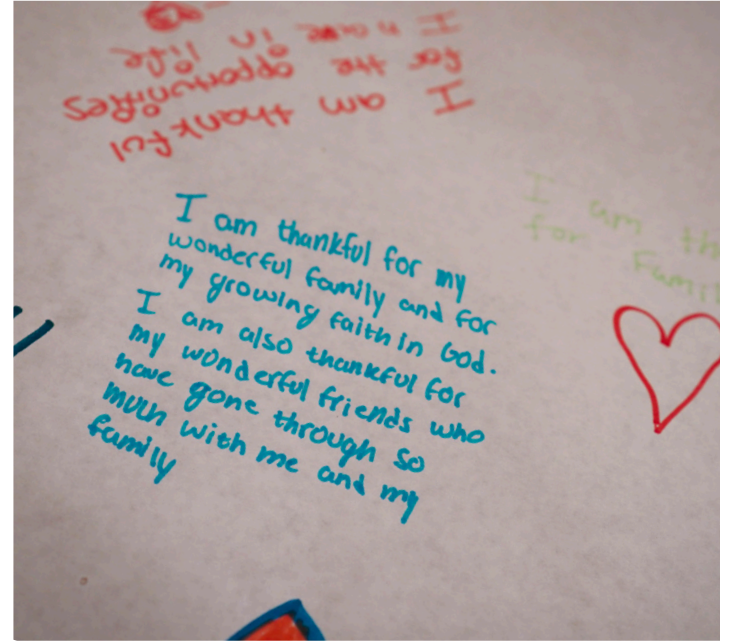
Change in net assets

5,581

Net assets beginning of year
Net assets end of year

573,844
579,285

Unrestricted 526,130
Donor restricted 53,155



2018 Fall "Thanksgiving," Circle of Care barn

Circle of Care is a volunteer-driven organization that seeks to make a difference in the lives of children living with cancer, and their families, during treatment. As such, there is a special quality to those who make up our circle. We are guides, survivors, parents, siblings, friends...we've been there, and we know what this journey is like.

Leadership

Officers

Liz Salguero, Founder & President, Wilton
Dawn Ladenheim, Founder & Treasurer, Wilton
Jeff Salguero, Vice President, Wilton
Liz Vega, Vice President, Westport
Stacey Savas, Secretary, Wilton

Board Members

Missy Dorsey, Weston
Ray Eckert, Wilton
Bob Hinckley, Westport
Jason Li, Fairfield
Susan Kobylinski, Westport
Rick Fingeret, Wilton
Zelie Pforzheimer, Wilton
Katarina Tchakarov, New Canaan
John Weidner, Wilton

Executive Director

Gina Longo, Fairfield

Director of Programs and Events

Tammi Small, Norwalk

Committee Members

Christine Baer, Wilton
Jeff Belitzky, Fairfield
Karen Morgenbesser, Greenwich
Lisa Schneider, Wilton
Jeanna Shepard, New Canaan
Kacky Theoharides, Wilton

Advisory Board

Joseph McNamara, M.D., Guilford
Jeanne Marconi, M.D., Greenwich
Jennifer Moore, M.D., Greenwich



Lyla, 5 year cancer survivor and friends



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Join Our Cause



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