



THE POWER OF ANGELS



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The Power of Angels



As I reflect on the past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the immense impact Nankind has had on the lives of so many families living with cancer. I am reminded of the incredible power of our Angels — both our dedicated volunteers and you, our supporters, who trust us to deliver

our mission of bringing hope and relief to parents with cancer and their children.

Our community of over 230 Volunteer Angels are the heartbeat of Nankind. Their steadfast commitment and empathy embody the spirit of generosity and selflessness that propels our mission. Whether it's engaging with children in our in-home program, leading virtual homework sessions, giving parents we support much-needed respite, assembling and packing our Fun-In-A-Box kits, or simply providing a listening ear, our Volunteer Angels consistently go above and beyond to make a tangible difference in the lives of the families we support.

Cancer disrupts the entire family and their sense of normalcy. That is where Nankind

steps in. Our team has been able to provide support to over 2,000 families navigating the challenges that cancer brings. From over 7,650 Fun-in-a-Box activities packed to deliver joy and practical assistance to parents, we have created a community that is a source of comfort and strength during difficult times.

Our network has become a powerful force for good. Our annual family event continues to unite and is a testament to our incredible community. The success of our Angels and Heroes Game Day Let's Play event saw over 400 members come together to celebrate, build new memories and connect with Nankind families.

One of the most heartwarming aspects of our work is witnessing the resilience and courage of the families we serve. In the face of adversity, parents and their children continue to inspire us with their strength and determination.

It is a privilege to walk alongside them on their journey, offering a helping hand and a glimmer of hope when they need it most.

As we look ahead, I am filled with hope and optimism. With your continued support, we will be able to expand our reach and touch even more lives. Together, we can be the angels of hope so many experiencing cancer desperately need. Thank you for your support and belief in our mission. With you by our side, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

With deepest gratitude,

Audrey Guth

Founder & Board Chair

Our Values



Inclusion

We believe all parents with cancer regardless of income should receive supportive cancer care at every stage of their journey.



Innovation

We are nimble and driven to respond to the changing needs of our community with creativity and insight.



Compassion

We know what a difficult time this is for a family. We are here to give hope and support at every stage.



Accountability

We are accountable to all our stakeholders — parents, children, families, volunteers, community partners, funding partners and supporters — and are committed to evaluating our performance, measuring our impact, and improving our results.



Excellence

Thirty years of nanny agency expertise matched with our Certified Child Life Specialist team, we have developed evidence based, personalized support for our families. Our trained and screened volunteers deliver our programs with excellence through all stages of the cancer journey.

Our Vision

A world where every parent with cancer receives the support they need to no longer choose between their care and the care of their children. Where their children have the support of a specially trained Volunteer Angel to share their feelings in a healthy way and build emotional resilience.

Our Mission

To lessen
the social
& emotional
impact of
cancer on
families.

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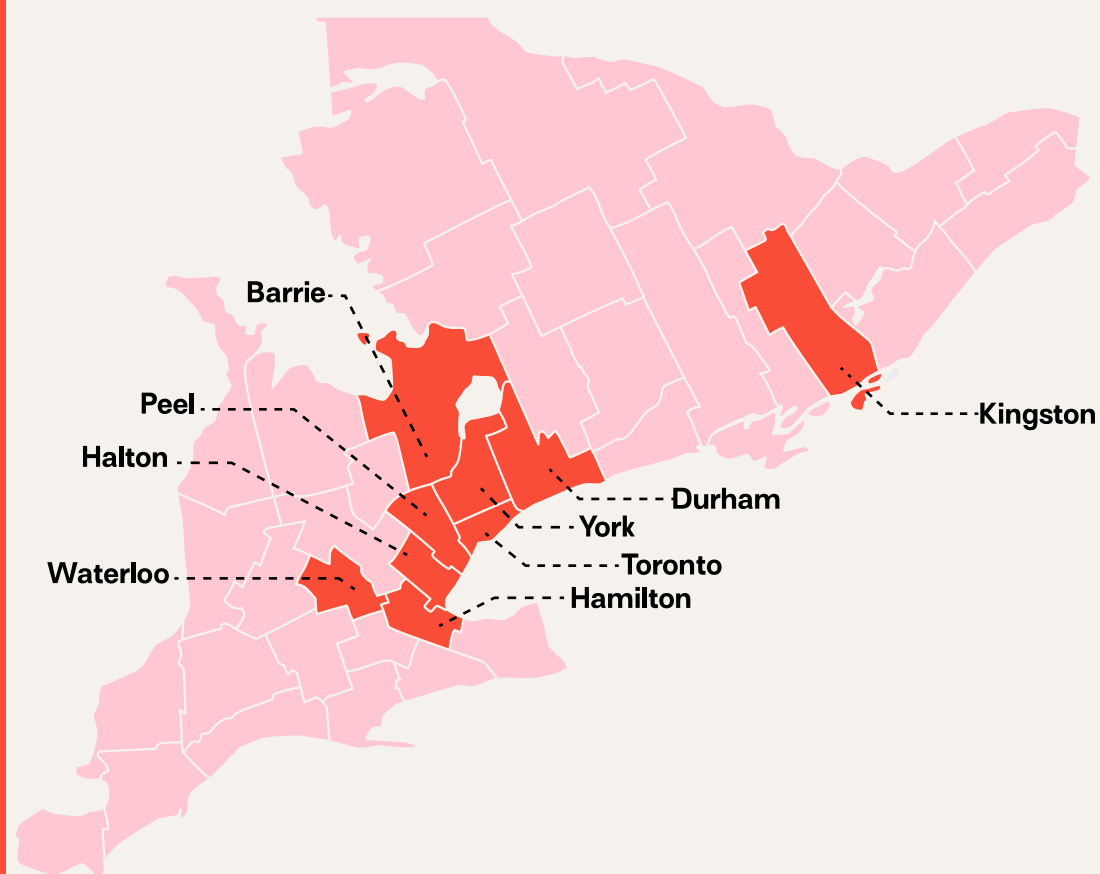
Sean Wierda
Director

Our Community

Our network of support spans seven regions in Ontario, offering care to families navigating the daily challenges of cancer. Thanks to our dedicated Volunteer Angels, assistance, comfort, and joy are brought into their homes at every stage of their cancer journey.

Together, we deliver the relief and support families need, fostering resilience and spreading hope in the face of adversity.

ONTARIO REGIONS WE SERVE



Together, and thanks to your support, we have an immediate impact. Here's a look back at all that we achieved together in 2023!



From free in-home childcare to virtual support groups and nutritious meals delivered to front doors, the impact that our programs have on the lives of the families we support is felt every day.

7,560

Fun-In-A Box activities packed

28

Teddy Bear Clinics

153

Families supported

100

Mom Care Bags distributed across 19 Cancer Centres

1,239

Hours of virtual support

3,220

Hours of free childcare

418

Game Day Let's Play event attendees

42

Families graduated from our program

5

Ontario regions supported

74

Virtual mom support group hours

10,072

Nutritious meals delivered

233

Volunteers engaged

56

Kids received grief and bereavement support

307

Children empowered

Coping Through Play

When faced with parental cancer, a child's world can feel confusing and overwhelming. Child Life combines a unique understanding of child psychology, development, and cognitive stages. Focusing on guiding children through life events using age-appropriate language, Child Life Specialists support children to better understand what is happening. Through various methods, Nankind Child Life Specialists teach children coping mechanisms and provide them with strategies to thrive in a safe space.

Coping is not just a concept, it's a lifeline. Our team weaves play, compassion, and empathy into the fabric of its programs to ensure that no child faces adversity alone.



“I recently met with a child to conduct a Teddy Bear Clinic. I was working with a new family to help the child understand his mother's diagnosis and treatment. Using various medical tools I explained what his mother experiences at the hospital. At the end of the session, he was excited to share that he now understands why his mother needs to go to the hospital so often.”

-Karen, *Child Life Specialist, Nankind*

As children navigate the twists and turns of their parent's cancer, they have a trusted companion, their Volunteer Angel.

We understand how challenging, emotional and overwhelming a parent's cancer diagnosis can be for the entire family. Our programs work closely with parents and their children to provide personalized holistic support throughout their journey.

We meet children and families where they are. Our programs use developmentally appropriate, concrete language to help explain cancer to children and validate their emotions. Our Teddy Bear Clinic is rooted in guided play to help children learn and develop coping strategies.

By including children in conversations, the entire family's cancer experience can be honest, open and inclusive. Children often have a great sense of change, and our goal is to guide them in feeling a greater sense of autonomy.

They can process information and begin to feel a sense of control and understanding of their place throughout their parent's cancer journey.

Nankind believes that every child deserves the best support. Our team is committed to providing compassionate and comprehensive care to every child and family so that they can navigate this challenging time with dignity, strength, and resilience.

Building Resilience Through Community

Imagine the emotional rollercoaster of celebrating your baby's birth in the same year you learn your long-time friend is missing. For Andrea, a producer, director, and mother of two, 2018 brought joy and trials. She welcomed her son at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as she adjusted to this new reality and resumed work, she discovered a lump while breastfeeding. During a

“It was terrifying. I had just finished my crowdfunding and was ready to start my project, and then I received the news. Learning it had spread was beyond scary.”

doctor's visit, Andrea reported the lump, kicking off a daunting screening process amidst fundraising for a documentary about her missing friend.

By the end of 2020, she faced a crushing diagnosis: cancer in both her breasts and lymph nodes.

However, hope emerged when scans showed the cancer hadn't advanced beyond her lymph nodes, bolstering her confidence to start treatment aggressively.

Early in her journey, Andrea contacted Nankind. Despite advice to keep her diagnosis from her young children, Andrea felt transparency was vital but struggled with how to explain it to them.



“Allison was phenomenal, engaging my kids in the Fun-In-A-Box Program. It gave them something to look forward to.”

She found Nankind's resources clear and helpful. They allowed her to communicate effectively with her kids and ensure they felt included in her journey.

Support was crucial throughout her treatment, from initial consultations with the Child Life team to the ongoing engagement through Nankind's virtual Volunteer Angel program, which provided stability and normalcy for her children.

Andrea's resilience grew fueled by the determination to show her children the importance of strength in adversity. Reflecting on her experience,

Andrea realized the value of demonstrating resilience, hoping her example would inspire her children to face life's challenges with fortitude.

Now in recovery and regaining her energy, Andrea looks forward to a brighter future, embodying hope for other parents navigating a cancer journey. Her story, supported by Nankind, her family, and her community, is a testament of resiliency. Andrea's journey is a beacon of hope, and we are honoured to be a part of her story.

“Nothing is more rewarding than using my skills, creativity, unconditional love, and zest for life to impact a child.”



Aura,
Volunteer Angel

“Nankind is an outstanding organization that I am lucky to be a part of. It’s been a gift to me, and I thank you for the opportunity to volunteer — something I take very seriously yet have fun with. Nothing is more rewarding than using my skills, creativity, unconditional love, and zest for life to impact a child.”

Aura, Volunteer Angel

“What is not immediately realized is how this experience has enriched my life.”



Alysha,
Volunteer Angel

“I have had the pleasure of participating in Nankind’s Fun-in-a-Box. What is not immediately realized is how this experience has enriched my life. My student attends our sessions with unmatched positivity. She is a very curious and kind seven-year-old. In her company, I am reminded of how beautiful the learning journey can be with the right attitude.”

Alysha, Volunteer Angel

“My experience working with Nankind children has been very endearing, as I’ve had the pleasure of developing and maintaining a relationship with such wonderful youth in the community. It’s been an honour and privilege to contribute to bringing a ray of hope into the lives of those I’ve mentored. My commitment to serving youth and their families as a Homework Tutor and Fun-In-A-Box Support remains a top priority.”

Arome,
Volunteer Angel

“I’ve had the pleasure of developing and maintaining a relationship with such wonderful youth in the community.”



Arome,
Volunteer Angel

“I teamed with Nankind to offer strongly independent mothers a helping hand and to unlock their maternal divinity. I am confident that if a mother redirects her child-caring tendencies towards herself, however briefly, then she sets herself up for a future as bright as that of her child’s.”

Erik, Volunteer Angel

“I teamed with Nankind to offer strongly independent mothers a helping hand.”



Erik,
Volunteer Angel

“Volunteering with Nankind is more than donating my time to an organization. It is providing care to a family.”



Maliha,
Volunteer Angel

with Nankind is an opportunity to make a difference no matter how seemingly small. Because I know at the end of my visit that it has a much larger impact than I could imagine.”

Maliha, Volunteer Angel

“It’s been an amazing experience and I highly recommend it.”



Leah,
Volunteer Angel

“Visiting the boys every Sunday has been the absolute highlight of my year! They always brighten my day and we have so much fun doing arts and crafts or getting messy with a science experiment. I know the boys enjoy our visits as much as I do. It’s been an amazing experience and I highly recommend it.”

Leah, Volunteer Angel

“Volunteering with Nankind is more than donating my time to an organization. It is providing care to a family. I know what it can be like when your mom is sick with cancer, and so I want to do what I can to make it even 1% easier on the family I’m volunteering with. To me, volunteering

“I have been volunteering with Nankind since 2020 and I have enjoyed every minute of it. I began volunteering with Nankind after I retired from 33 years as an educator. I wanted to use my knowledge of child development to give back and Nankind was a perfect fit. Parents with cancer need as much support as possible to navigate treatments while at the same time caring for their children. Nankind provides that through this volunteer program.”

Mary, Volunteer Angel

“Parents diagnosed with cancer need as much support as possible to navigate treatments while at the same time caring for their children.”



Mary,
Volunteer Angel

“I would like to encourage anybody to volunteer with Nankind. It’s a wonderful experience, very rewarding, I’ve been doing this volunteer work for the last 5 years and it’s been the most rewarding thing I’ve done all my life for a great experience and helping you look at life from a different perspective.”

Milena, Volunteer Angel

“I would like to encourage anybody to volunteer with Nankind.”



Milena,
Volunteer Angel



The Little Legends



When Sloan and Blair heard about their Aunt Tanya's diagnosis with colon cancer, it ignited a drive to make a difference. Inspired by their friend Lorelei, who began selling handcrafted bracelets, Sloan and Blair, along with Lorelei and Cadence, founded "The Little Legends" and embarked on crafting "hope bracelets".

Motivated by a clear mission to aid families impacted by cancer, just as Tanya's was, The Little Legends set up a booth at the Newmarket Farmers Market to sell their bracelets. Lorelei explains, "We use something called sea beads and clay beads as they are really fun and easy to make and sell," and adds, "We have 13 different beads that represent different types of cancer."

While their family had already contributed to a colon cancer organization, Sloan and Blair wanted to do more.

They had heard about Nankind and decided

to direct their fundraising efforts towards this cause, aiming for a more community-focused impact. Setting up their booth, they shared Tanya's story, sparking conversation and spreading awareness about Nankind. "It was a great way to raise money because we were doing something that we love to do, like making crafts and jewelry. So, we were able to have fun doing it while donating to a great cause. I've always wanted to do something to make a huge difference in the world, so it felt good," Lorelei reflects.

Their efforts, filled with passion and determination, resonated deeply within the community, turning each bracelet into a symbol of hope and support. As they shared Tanya's story, they not only raised funds but also fostered a deeper connection and awareness within their community, ensuring their aunt's legacy would continue to inspire.



Planting Seeds of Hope

“I’ve always wanted to do more, but finding the right avenue and cause was a challenge. After volunteering with hospitals and not getting much response, I was introduced to Nankind through a friend. Working in the restaurant industry, I understood the importance of addressing root problems, which Nankind does so well by supporting parental illness, as it really affects the whole family.”

In the heart of Toronto lies Substance Food Group. At its helm stands Michael De Tommaso, a man whose journey through the culinary world mirrors his passion for giving back.

Michael’s story is one of humble beginnings. At the age of 15, he started as a dishwasher in high school before becoming a waiter. Fast-forward 15+ years, and through dedication and determination, in 2000, Michael joined the Substance Food Group as a partner. Now, the group has five renowned restaurant locations across Ontario.

But Michael’s commitment to making a difference transcends the culinary world. Outside of the kitchen, Michael is passionate about finding ways to connect with his community and give back.

As a father of two incredible children, he treasures every moment spent with them, understanding the value of cherishing life’s simple moments. Reflecting on his own experiences and the challenges he faced in finding the right avenue for giving back, Michael’s connection to Nankind was immediate and profound.

Michael’s belief in the power of community and giving back has never wavered. He understands that every small step counts in supporting Nankind’s mission.

The Substance Group’s support grew as Michael witnessed firsthand the impact of the organization’s support programs.

When he’s not working or spending time with his family, you can be sure to catch Michael taking care of his plants, starting each day by watering those in need. A principle that

“My own personal experience of losing my godmother at a young age reminded me what a difficult and confusing time that was. Their mission addresses the support children need when families are dealing with illness and grief, and that deeply resonated with me.”

has been carried through his philanthropic endeavours.

Looking to the future, Michael makes it a point to ensure his children understand the importance and value of giving back.

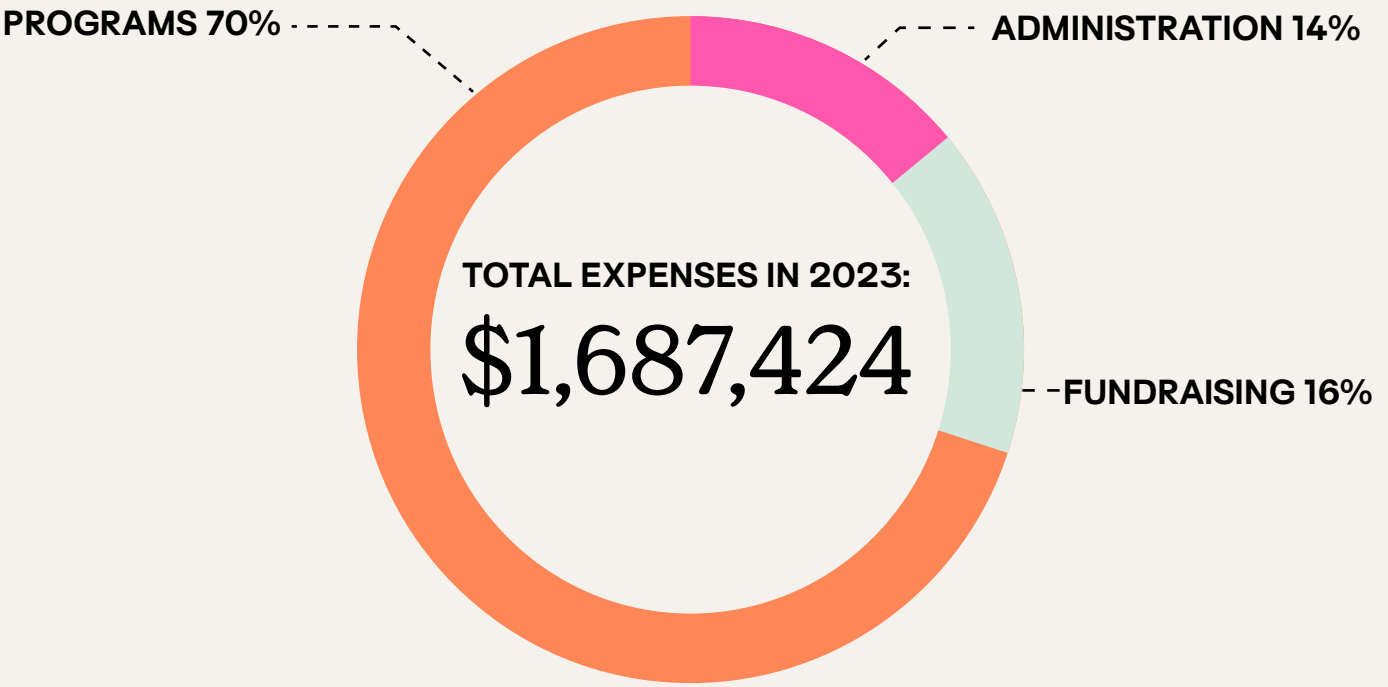
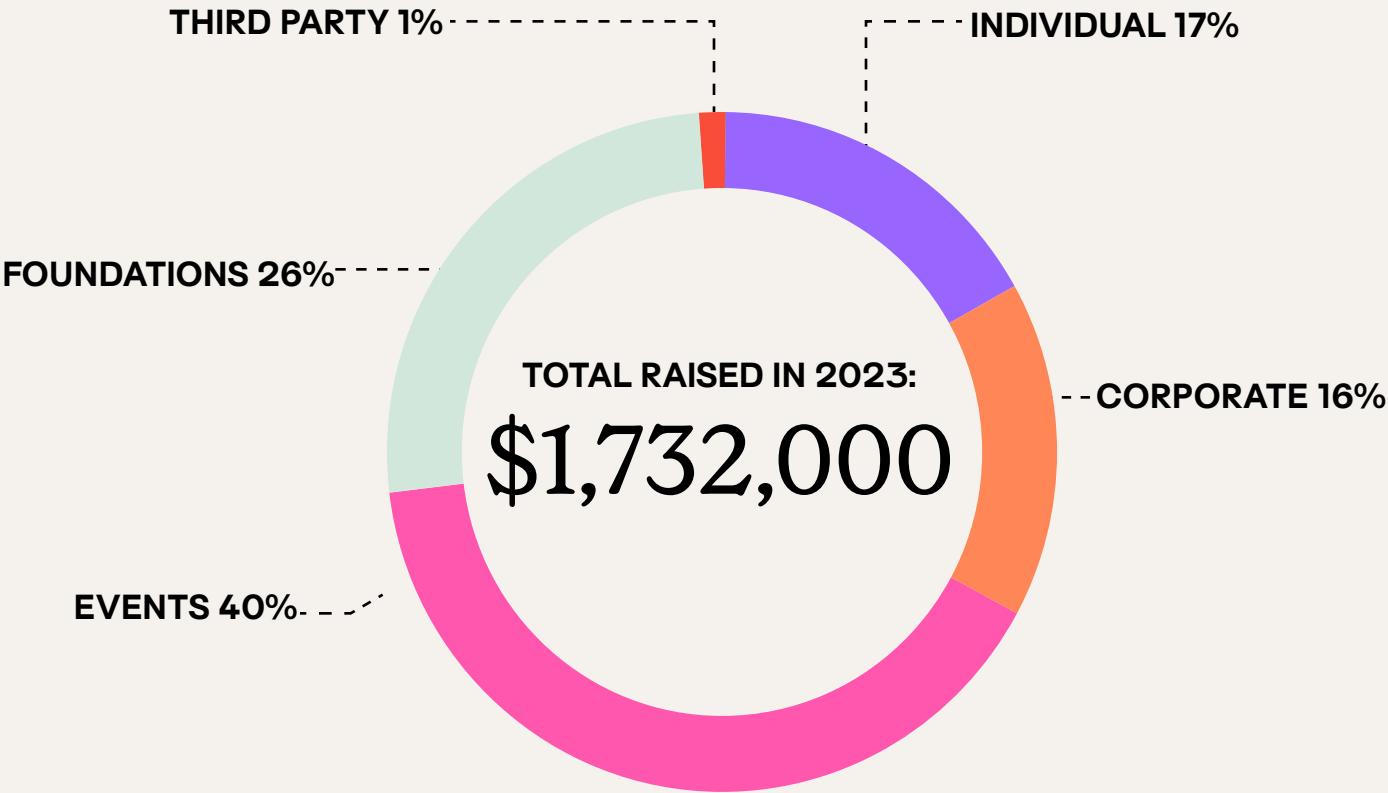
The De Tommaso’s attend Nankind’s Annual family event, coming together to witness the impact and connect as a family. Michael hopes to see Nankind expand its reach and help more families facing the everyday hurdles that cancer brings. His goal is simple — to continue supporting Nankind however he can.

The continued growth of the Substance Group’s support serves as a testament to the power of individuals coming together to make a difference. The ripple effect of their support has brought much hope and comfort to those who need it most.



Financials

We are leaders in cancer care thanks to the unwavering support of countless individuals, businesses, foundations, and groups who have rallied behind our cause. Throughout 2023 our momentum surged, empowering us to expand our reach. Every dollar raised directly fuels our mission of providing vital assistance to families living with cancer.





Our deepest gratitude to each and every individual, company, and foundation whose generosity has propelled our mission forward. We have been able to offer invaluable services like free childcare and support programs, profoundly impacting the lives of families navigating the challenging journey of cancer.

The following list reflects the cumulative giving of donations and gifts in kind from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. We have made every effort to include and list all donors accurately. We apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions. To note a discrepancy, please contact us at 416-730-0025 ext. 5, info@nankind.com.

Our Donors

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We deeply appreciate your continued generosity and dedication to our cause. Every contribution directly aids our mission to alleviate the social and emotional toll of cancer on families.





Since 2009 Nankind has supported 2,000+ families, empowered 3,500+ children and provided 65,000+ meals to families living with cancer.



POWERED
nankind
BY ANGELS