

Bright Futures

CANCER FOR COLLEGE

IMPACT REPORT 2024



SCHOLARSHIPS
MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES



DESTINED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



REFLECTIONS OF 2024



As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the profound impact your support has had on the lives of the brave cancer survivors we serve.

Cancer for College was founded over 32 years ago with a goal of providing the opportunity for young cancer survivors to pursue their educational dreams without the financial burden that often accompanies higher education. I'm proud to say that, with your help, this bright future has become a reality.

In 2024, we launched our Bright Futures campaign with the goal of growing our program endowment by \$8 million over the next three years. In 2024, our endowment grew by \$1 million and we were able to award over \$1.25 million to cancer survivors through programs like college scholarships, medical debt relief and educational opportunities. Every scholarship is more than just a check—it's a stepping stone to the future and an opportunity to thrive in college and beyond. It's a reminder that no matter the hardships they've faced, cancer survivors are not alone in their journey.

There is always more to be done. The road ahead remains challenging, but we are committed more than ever to the mission.

Our board of directors, staff, volunteers, and most importantly our scholars inspire us everyday to make a positive impact in the cancer community. With your continued support, we will keep pushing the boundaries, touching more lives, and making the dream of higher education a reality for those who have fought so hard to overcome the effects of cancer.

Thank you for being part of our mission. We appreciate all of your contributions. Together, we are building a future where young cancer survivors can experience a brighter tomorrow.

With gratitude,

Craig Pollard
Founder | President-CEO



All survivors appearing in the CFC Impact Report are past & current scholarship recipients

FEELING THE IMPACT



COLLEGE IS EXPENSIVE

College education can exceed \$20K annually at public institutions and can surpass \$50K at private schools. This creates financial burdens that can impact a survivor for years.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

39% of our scholars are pursuing a career in healthcare and 34% of our female scholars are pursuing a career in the STEM field!

MORE HELP NEEDED

CFC will award \$1M in scholarships for the third straight year, but there were hundreds of applicants that we could not help.



CANCER IS EXPENSIVE

The cost of medical care and treatment in the first year after diagnosis can range from \$42K to over \$100K on average.



FIRST TIME

47 of our current scholars are first generation college students and need additional support in navigating college.



LOST WAGES

36% of families dealing with cancer lose 40% or more of their annual household income.

94%

94% of parents caring for a child with cancer make work-related sacrifices including quitting jobs. This places incredible stress on the financial health of the family.



HIGH-ACHIEVING

CFC SCHOLARS BOAST A

3.78

GRADE AVERAGE

IT'S TIME TO THRIVE...

The survival rate for adolescents and young adults diagnosed with cancer is now over 85%. It's more important than ever to ensure that these young people are prepared for a life after cancer.

There is an
85%
survival rate



SCHOLAR HIGHLIGHTS



The Chicago Blackhawks Foundation partnered with CFC to support local cancer survivors. Recipient **Cameron Harris** got to attend a game, share his story and was honored with his own team jersey.

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CFC Alum and lymphoma survivor **Taylor Hay** completed her studies at Southwestern Law School's Entertainment Law graduate program. She's now gearing up to tackle the Bar exam.

.....



Leukemia survivor **Jonah Kornberg** graduated with a Master's degree in AI & Innovation from Carnegie Mellon University. He moved across country for his dream job with Meta in creating cutting-edge machine learning.

.....



Scholar **Mauri'anna Richardson** took part in the prestigious Roberts Academy at City of Hope. She was able to work with the hospital's world class team of doctors and researchers for a once in a lifetime experience.

Remarkable...



5x CFC Scholar **Lauren Alfino** recently matched to a medical oncology residency in veterinary medicine at Oregon State University. The Burkitt's lymphoma survivor wants to carve out a career combining her love for animals with medicine and specifically, oncology research.



CFC alum **Mike Thompson** wrote a book and launched a podcast called "Finding Good." It's about maintaining a spirit of gratitude and positivity, despite whatever challenges life throws you.

SCHOLAR PROFILES



Cancer Survivor is Flying into the Future

At 18, **Raphael Meleji** had big dreams. He was a high school senior in Kenya, planning to become a pilot and earn his degree at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. He envisioned funding his education as a student-athlete, playing on the university's soccer team. But in early 2019, his life took an unexpected turn.

While preparing for exams, Raphael discovered a lump near his left testicle. It turned out to be rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare cancer. Two weeks later, he flew to India for treatment, as there were no treatment options available in Kenya.

The journey was rough. Raphael had surgery, chemotherapy, and lost mobility in his leg. Over the next two years, he endured 45 chemotherapy sessions but remained positive.

After two years, Raphael was declared cancer-free. He immediately reset his focus on becoming an aviator.

Now, three years later, Raphael hopes his story inspires other children facing cancer, showing them that life continues after illness. He is proof that dreams can survive the harshest challenges.

Overcoming Cancer to Live on Her Own Terms

Aimee De Luna was a typical high school senior balancing an advanced curriculum with applying to colleges. A routine checkup turned into a rush trip to the hospital and a heartbreaking diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Aimee faced intense treatment, months of isolation, hair loss, and physical struggles. She was unable to walk for months. Despite the side effects, she finished her senior year, graduated, and received a standing ovation at her ceremony. Unfortunately, her cancer journey didn't end there. Financial struggles grew as her family juggled full-time work and mounting medical bills.

Writing became Aimee's escape. She started an Instagram account to share her journey, connecting with others in similar situations. Her story resonated with many, offering strength and inspiration.

Now in remission, Aimee continues to face the lifelong effects of cancer treatment but remains determined to achieve her goals. She refuses to let cancer define her future, fighting to complete her education and live life on her terms.





FUNDRAISING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

At Cancer for College, events are the lifeblood of our fundraising efforts. They fuel our programming and have allowed us to grow tremendously over the last several years.

For the fourth time in five years, CFC partnered with **Jersey Mike's Subs for the Month of Giving**. In March, select stores throughout Southern California, Alabama and Massachusetts banded together and raised \$2 million for the cause. CFC did secret scholarship reveals at multiple Jersey Mike's across the country. Over the lifetime of our relationship with Jersey Mike's, the company has raised over \$7M to support CFC's efforts in the cancer community.

The 31st Annual Classy Golf Classic is the fundraiser that started it all for CFC. It was played at the historic Coronado Golf Course and was once again sold out. The event featured multiple scholars and raised \$200K.

The Holiday Jam hosted by Will Ferrell returned to the Music Box in San Diego with a very special performance from Dogstar featuring Keanu Reeves.

Other staple events held in 2024 included **One Classy Night - Carolina**, the 12th annual **Tin Cup One Club Challenge** in San Diego, the 25th Annual **Cherry Hawk Day** at the Del Mar Race Track and the **Ultimate DJ House Party**. Each event is a celebration of determination our scholars exhibit as they work toward their dream of a life beyond cancer.

To learn about upcoming events, please visit our website at www.cancerforcollege.org.



Jersey Mike's Month of Giving



The 31st Classy Golf Classic



One Classy Night | Carolina



Will Ferrell's Holiday Jam

FINANCIAL RECAP



Cancer for College Consolidated Financial Report

Revenue	Total
Individual Donations	\$763,108
Corporate Donations	\$2,103,115
Grants	\$106,247
Events	\$3,520,372
Merchandise Donations	\$58,108
Total Operating Revenue	\$6,550,950

Expenditures	Total
Programming	\$1,279,547
Event Expenses	\$2,936,577
Insurance	\$11,846
Cost of Labor	\$933,140
Travel	\$70,746
Marketing	\$294,180
Office Expense	\$170,809
Professional Services	97,260
Bank & Broker Fees	\$123,728
Total Expenditures	\$5,917,863

Net Operating Revenue	\$633,087
Other Interest & Dividends	\$1,522,684
Total Net Revenue	\$2,155,771

Bank Accounts	
CFC Checking	\$111,788
Investment Cash	\$275,641
Investment Accounts	\$17,540,611
Total Bank Accounts	\$18,033,729

178
need-based
scholarships
awarded to
survivors
this year

76%
of our total
applicants are
facing serious
medical debt
issues

\$123K
in medical debt
wiped out
through your
financial
support



DID YOU KNOW?

Since inception, Cancer for College has awarded more than \$7M in need-based college scholarships, medical debt relief and educational experiences to nearly 2,000 cancer survivors.

CANCER FOR COLLEGE

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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