

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



*Brightening* the Burden of Cancer

## Dear Friends,

This year marks my third year on the Board of Directors, and I reflect on our work and the gratitude we have for supporters like you.

We are incredibly proud to share a summary of our achievements from this past year. In 2024, we assisted over 650 individuals facing a cancer diagnosis with basic needs, providing a total of \$350,000 to cover expenses such as groceries, transportation, housing, household bills, and more. In addition, we continued the Write Treatment therapeutic writing workshop, and accepted patient care bags and port pillows from community members.

None of this could be possible without the enthusiasm and generosity of our community. Gifts large and small help lift a weight, spark a smile, and restore a small sense of control to those going through treatment. Together, we have shown that while we may not be able to take away the diagnosis, we can lighten the load—one person, one family, and one act of kindness at a time.

Through our financial assistance and patient education programs this past year, our organization remained steadfast in its commitment to brighten the burden of cancer for patients, families, and caregivers facing some of life's most difficult moments. While cancer casts a heavy shadow, it cannot dim the light of compassion, resilience, and hope that defines our mission.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to expanding our reach, strengthening our programs, and ensuring that those affected by cancer receive the care and support they deserve. With your continued support, we know that this is possible. Thank you for believing in our mission and for being part of a compassionate community that is making a difference every day.

Sincerely,



Lisa Anne Proskin, Esq.  
**PRESIDENT OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



*The mission of the NYOH Community Cancer Foundation is to alleviate financial hardship for community members diagnosed and living with cancer, allowing them to focus on treatment and improve their quality of life.*

## Who We Are

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### STAFF

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MSW, *Foundation Administrator*  
Keri Alonzo, *Foundation  
Program Coordinator*

### NYOH COMMUNITY CANCER FOUNDATION

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Clifton Park, NY 12065  
(518) 373-3950 • [nyohfoundation.org](http://nyohfoundation.org)  
f @ nyohfoundation  
EIN 14-1822194

# WHAT WE DO AND THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

We help pay for rent and household bills or provide gift cards to purchase gas and groceries. This helps cancer patients focus on their treatment instead of worrying about daily household stressors.



## PATIENT EDUCATION

We provide free patient education and support programs that enrich the cancer journey for patients and caregivers. Our Foundation sponsors virtual and in-person workshops covering topics such as breast cancer, cancer and wellness and utilizing writing as a therapeutic tool.



## OTHER RESOURCES

We distribute items such as blankets, port pillows, books for children about cancer, and patient care bags (with items such as socks, lotion, journals, etc.) for local cancer patients.

“Due to the intensity of treatment, I had a hard time eating. I kept losing weight, but couldn’t afford nutritional drinks like Ensure. The NYOH Community Cancer Foundation provided me with Hannaford gift cards to purchase Ensure, but also afford healthy foods to gain weight. *The gift cards were a true blessing to help me keep me strong* as I prepared for surgery.”

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT,  
NORTHVILLE



“The physicians, nurses, and staff at NYOH took tremendous care of mom and our family during her cancer journey. They were *there for us night and day* during that incredibly difficult time. My mom was extremely grateful for the care she received at NYOH. She was known and loved for her kindness, compassion and generosity. It is in that spirit and in her memory that I give to the NYOH Community Cancer Foundation.”

LAURA PELOSI (photo provided by Laura Pelosi, of her mother and grandson Ryland)



# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

Since 2000, the NYOH Community Cancer Foundation has provided financial assistance, patient education, and other resources to thousands of adults with cancer living in the Capital Region.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Helping cancer patients focus on their treatment, instead of worrying about daily household expenses and outstanding bills.



**652**

Individuals Supported



**11**

Counties Served

with the greatest amount of assistance to: Albany, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Rensselaer counties



**17**

Different Types of Cancer Treated

top cancers from individuals receiving assistance are breast, lung, digestive, and colorectal



**\$250,810**

Food & Household Needs



**\$16,858**

Utilities



**\$34,207**

Transportation



**\$28,518**

Medical



**\$1,300**

Holiday Gift Cards



**\$15,060**

Housing



**\$2,310**

Complementary Therapies

**\$349,063**

Total Financial Assistance Given

## PATIENT EDUCATION AND OTHER RESOURCES

Sponsoring patient education and programs; as well as accepting donations for cancer patients, family members, and caregivers.



**5**

Workshops presented



**50**

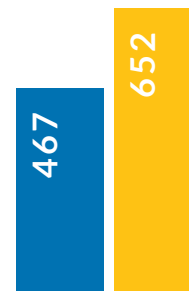
Participants



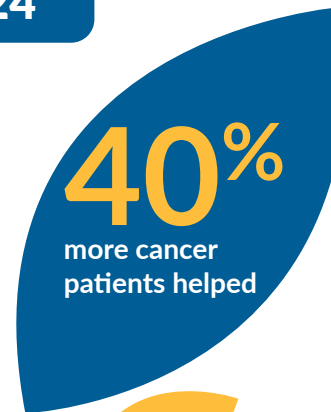
**560**

Patient care bags and other resources, like port pillows and blankets

## 2023 vs. 2024



Patients Supported

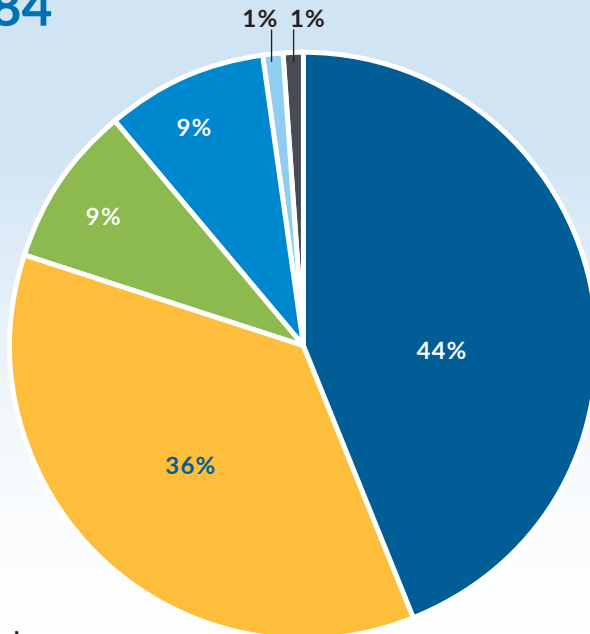


Financial Assistance Provided

## 2024 FINANCIALS

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

\$517,184

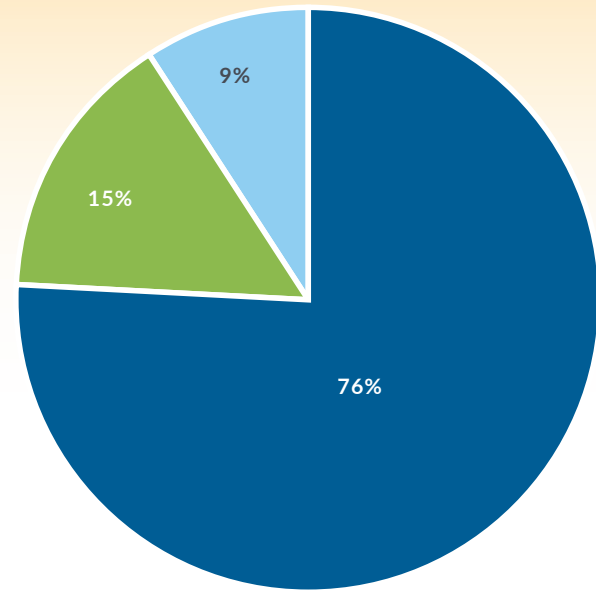


- Individuals
- Corporate and Grants
- Endowment
- Community Fundraisers\*
- Other
- Non-Cash

**\*COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS** are led by passionate individuals, groups, and businesses that organized or hosted a fundraising effort to benefit the NYOH Community Cancer Foundation.

### EXPENSES

\$486,374



- Programming
- Fundraising
- Administrative

# BRIGHTENING THE BURDEN TOGETHER: SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR SPECIAL SUPPORTERS



## EMMA JAYNE'S RESTAURANT DAKOTAH JONES, GENERAL MANAGER

Emma Jayne's Restaurant in Clifton Park is more than just a place to share a great meal—it's a place known for its generosity, warmth, and giving back. A proud supporter of many local causes, the restaurant received such a wonderful response for hosting a breast cancer awareness fundraiser in October, that the staff organized another fundraiser in December to help patients and their families for the holidays. Their dedication to giving back through the NYOH Foundation is personal—inspired by and in honor of Kelly Carron, one the managers who is a seven-year breast cancer survivor. Emma Jayne's continues not only continues to serve delicious food, but show by example what it means to truly care for others.



## LIBERTY ARC, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

For over 10 years, the Liberty ARC staff and residents have organized a special Pink Out Day each October to raise awareness about breast cancer and to raise money for the NYOH Community Cancer Foundation. They've celebrated the day selling custom t-shirts, raffle basket tickets, baked goods, and of course, pink ribbons. 2024 marked the 11th annual Pink Out Day raising nearly \$3,500. Thank you, Liberty ARC!



“After I was diagnosed with lymphoma, I became too sick to work and fell behind on my bills. *The NYOH Community Cancer Foundation took care of my National Grid bill.* I cried I was so thankful that I didn't have to worry about that bill.” FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT, AMSTERDAM

## BRIGHTENING THE BURDEN TOGETHER: SPECIAL SUPPORTERS CONT'D



The NYOH Community Cancer Foundation is proud of the generosity and heart that NYOH colleagues bring not just to their work each day delivering cancer care, but to our foundation's mission. By giving through payroll deduction, purchasing tickets to events, volunteering for events, donating to "dress down" on Friday, and more, colleagues have gone above and beyond to support patients and families facing the challenges of cancer. Collectively in 2024, NYOH staff contributed over \$70,000 to help fund transportation assistance, housing, meals and nutrition, and more for patients. NYOH providers and staff experience first-hand the toll that cancer has on patients, and we're grateful for their dedication to help patients beyond treatment.

"I give to the Foundation because *I see the tremendous impact that it has for our patients and their families.*

I have seen it provide food,

clothing, and heat. The funds can assist a patient with paying for a much-needed medication or wheelchair. Meeting these needs can ease the stress and anxiety for the person who is dealing with a cancer diagnosis and its treatment."

BONNIE WIENER, NYOH NURSE NAVIGATOR



"As an NYOH employee who is an emotionally-connected nurse, I donate to our NYOH Foundation through payroll deduction. This is an easy way to donate, knowing that I am helping others in their time of need, and it is empowering. I care deeply about the cause with the desire to impact a patient's life and bring some hope to them. *I choose to contribute and am passionate about making a difference no matter how small.*"

JACKIE HOWLAND, RN, NYOH



# COMMUNITY COMPASSION AT COURAGE & CANCER: AN EVENING OF STORIES



The NYOH Community Cancer Foundation hosted *Courage & Cancer: An Evening of Stories*, on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at the Cohoes Music Hall. It was an evening of hope, community, and inspiration, as cancer survivors shared their personal stories on stage.

This special fundraiser featured five storytellers who shared their personal journeys through cancer with honesty, strength, humor, and humility. Their stories offered a window into their cancer journey, but also

how they define themselves beyond just cancer. Thank you to Howard Hanna, Kate Hockford, Larry Lagace, Antoinette Lawson, and Deanna Wicklund.

Special thanks to Emily Rubin, our storyteller coach, and Johanne Morne, Executive Deputy Commissioner of the NYS Department of Health, our mistress of ceremonies for the evening.

Our 2024 *Courage & Cancer: Evening of Stories* honorees were Stacy Fischer-Rosenthal and Richard Rosenthal. Their support for the NYOH Community Cancer Foundation is rooted in a personal connection with Stacy's oncologist, Dr. Maria Theodoulou and a commitment to celebrating survivorship. As a breast cancer survivor, Stacy is helping others along their cancer journey by supporting patient education and programming.

To view a list of event sponsors, the program book, and video recordings of each storyteller, visit: [nyohfoundation.org/eveningofstories-2024](https://nyohfoundation.org/eveningofstories-2024).



## *In memory*

Antoinette Lawson  
June 11, 1979 -  
September 26, 2024

## *In memory*

Kate Hockford  
September 03, 1972 -  
February 11, 2025







For a complete list of our 2024 models and supporters, visit: [nyohfoundation.org/rockyourstyle-2024](https://nyohfoundation.org/rockyourstyle-2024) and mark your calendars for this year's Rock Your Style® event on **Saturday, September 27, 2025**, at Empire Live in Albany.



## MODELS, MAGIC, AND A MISSION: **ROCK YOUR STYLE® IS A NIGHT OF FASHION AND FUNDRAISING**

On Saturday, September 21, Rock Your Style® lit up the runway in a dazzling celebration of fashion for a cause at Empire Live in Albany. With 13 local individuals rocking the runway, this high-energy and positive event brought together community members, survivors, and local businesses in support of a cause that touches so many.

Each model strutted their stuff in apparel provided by Macy's, elaborate hair design by Nuance, A Boutique Salon and bold makeup by One Oak Atelier. Additional thanks to music by DJ Reel, catering by Jackson Soul Catering, and runway set-up by Live Sound.

From bold walks to heartfelt moments, each model—whether a cancer survivor or had a connection to cancer—shared more than just fashion: they shared hope, resilience, and the powerful message that our community is greater than cancer.

Collectively, the 2024 models raised over \$117,000 for the NYOH Community Cancer Foundation. Congratulations to Dr. Karen Tedesco, this year's Golden Hanger trophy winner, who raised the highest fundraising total of all the models. Dr. Tedesco broke the event's fundraising record by raising \$26,675 for the NYOH Community Cancer Foundation!

In addition to the model fundraising, thanks to the generosity of our event sponsors, supporters, and guests, Rock Your Style® raised a total of nearly \$190,000 to support financial assistance and patient education programs. These funds support local patients and families navigating the challenges of cancer—helping us continue our mission to brighten the burden of cancer in meaningful, compassionate ways. To everyone who rocked the runway, cheered from the crowd, or contributed behind the scenes, thank you for making this night unforgettable!



# IMPACT REPORT

## *The Write Treatment*

Since 2021, New York Oncology Hematology (NYOH) and the NYOH Community Cancer Foundation have provided free therapeutic writing workshops for patients and caregivers. Each workshop includes four one-hour virtual sessions held weekly over a month. Facilitated by Emily Rubin, a published author and cancer survivor, the sessions feature writing prompts and reflection-sharing. Prompts often focus on personal meaning rather than cancer. Since 2023, participants receive a complimentary journal to capture their writing.

“Writing can serve as an accessible intervention that helps patients and caregivers navigate the often-unexpected emotional challenges of a cancer diagnosis, obtain a greater sense of well-being, find new meaning in their cancer experience, and incorporate this experience into the greater context of their lives,” says Frances Ford, LCSW-R, NYOH Social Work Manager.

Workshops are open to all adult cancer patients and caregivers, regardless of treatment status, and consistently reach capacity. Based on participant feedback, drop-in sessions were introduced in 2024 to foster ongoing writing and connection. Many participants, especially those no longer in active treatment, find the sessions accessible and appreciate the non-traditional support group dynamic created by Rubin’s welcoming approach.

The success of these workshops underscores the healing power of writing. Due to high demand, more workshops and drop-in sessions will be offered in 2025. Visit [nyohfoundation.org](https://nyohfoundation.org) for updates.

### BY THE NUMBERS

(2021-2024)



**7** Total Workshops  
+ 2 Drop-In Workshops



**77** Workshop Participants  
(71 Patients + 4 Caregivers)

The 2024 Write Treatment Workshops were sponsored by



### WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY

“It was very different from a support group... yet *I felt very supported*. Focusing on finding the words for the assignments helped me to regain them.”

“The writing workshop helps me express things that are hard otherwise...*the group knows what it’s like to go through treatment*, side effects, etc. without judgment; it’s a safe, wonderful place to explore our thoughts, dreams and hopes.”

“Being able to listen to each other’s stories *connects us in a way that transcends our cancer diagnoses* and gives us new perspectives on who we are and what we’re capable of accomplishing.”



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the following organizations, businesses, and private funders for investing in our mission, as well as the countless individuals and families whose collective generosity helped us reach fellow community members.

## **\$10,000+**

Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals  
Live Like Brent Foundation  
Mary Ellen & Jordan Conboy  
Mechanicville-Stillwater Breast Cancer Walk  
New York Oncology Hematology  
Regeneron  
The Rosenthal Family Fund

## **\$5,000-\$9,999**

Bristol Myers Squibb  
Dr. Makenzi Evangelist & Jason Hughes  
Dr. Lawrence & Elizabeth Garbo  
Gilead Sciences, Inc.  
Janitronics, Inc.  
M&T Bank  
Monticello, Licensed Real Estate Broker  
Morgan Linen Service  
OneOncology  
Robert & Laura Pelosi  
Dr. David Shaffer  
Shaker Logistics

## **\$1,000-\$4,999**

30 Degrees North  
Accent Commercial Furniture  
Akira Medical Imaging + Wellness  
Ashley Brown LLC  
Dr. Nadarajah Balasubramanian  
Ballston Lake Rocks Cancer  
BBL Companies  
Drs. Saida Baxt & Sherwood Baxt  
Courtney Bellomo  
Bonacio Construction  
Sue Bradley  
Callanan Industries  
Capital Cardiology Associates  
CDPHP  
Cement & Concrete Workers DC 16  
Columbia Development  
Construction Administration Network LLC  
Corey Jamison Consulting

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Delsignore Blacktop Paving  
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Guardant Health  
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Elizabeth Cady Stanton Sunflower Shoppe  
Elk Street Group  
EMCO Construction  
Faegre Drinker  
Frank Adams Jewelers  
Hannoush Jewelers  
Harter Secrest & Emery  
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Richard Moran  
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NYS Laborers' Employers Cooperation and Education Trust Fund  
Dr. Tia Olds  
ReadyMix Design + Letterpress  
Rifenburg Construction  
Relay Integrated Logistics and Solutions  
Risk Strategies  
Diana & Chris Rulon  
Staff at New York Oncology Hematology  
Natalia Steves  
Drs. Karen Tedesco & John DeFrancisco

Alecia & Jason Thompson  
Ralph Tompkins  
United Healthcare  
Dan Urban  
Walmart DC #6096 - Johnstown  
Walmart Supercenter #2844 - Clifton Park  
Walmart #2370 - Troy  
Jill Walsh  
Waterford-Halfmoon Sports  
Booster Club  
Dr. Stephen Wrzesinski

## **\$500-\$999**

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Catherine Adams  
Alaant Workforce Solutions  
Albany Med Health System  
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Ambulnz  
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Colleen Dawson  
Dr. Matthew DiCaprio  
Darci Emerich  
Emma Jayne's Restaurant  
Lisa Ganjhu  
Genentech



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John W. Danforth Company  
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Elizabeth Katz  
Rebecca Keim  
Christopher Kennedy  
Key Bank  
Colleen Kohler  
Christian LaBier  
Lorraine Laczko  
Laborers Local Union 210  
Laborers' New England Region  
Organizing Fund  
Laborer's International Union of North America Local 17  
Seth Lamont  
MaryLouise Led Duke



## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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Melissa Maney  
Rebecca Marino  
Paula McCormick  
Merrill Lynch Wealth  
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Metabolic Fitness  
Millennium Medical Imaging  
Barbara Morris-Lent  
Nesco Resource  
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Professional Fire Fighters  
NYS Laborers' Organizing Fund  
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The Malatras Family  
Lisbet Williams  
Takara Wiles  
Dr. Mohamad Younes  
ZEPHYRX

### \$499 AND BELOW

Janet Abbondante  
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ACC Containers LLC  
Nirisa & Michael Adams  
Ellen Adams  
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Mary Amodeo  
Charles Amodio  
Caitlin Anderson  
Marcellia Anderson  
Rachael Angelini  
Gerald & Nicole Angelou  
Scott Arbogast  
Abby Arceneaux

"I was diagnosed with lung cancer, but now it has spread to my brain and I'm not able to drive. It's really hard not to have the freedom to move around on my own! I rely on friends and family to take me places. *The NYOH Community Cancer Foundation gave me digital Lyft cards, which I can use to get around by myself and not feel like I'm bothering anyone else.* I am so grateful!"

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT, GLOVERSVILLE

Bob & Judy Arsenault  
Christina Artese  
Kayleigh Aston  
Rakel Astorga  
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Lisa Cheney  
Nancy Chernet



## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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Dennis Chesky  
Jan, Bob, Beth & David Cheverie  
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Tara Clark  
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Jodi Cohen  
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"I am single and on my own, and I had to stop working while going through treatment. The gift cards were so appreciated to help get by. *The NYOH Community Cancer Foundation helped me along the way* during the difficult struggle of trying to get treatment and live my life the best I can."

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT, SAINT JOHNSVILLE

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Mike & Donna Malarkey



“Being part of the *Write Treatment Writing Workshop* exceeded my expectations. My diagnosis was in 2013, but the emotions are still raw. I was able to bond with fellow participants and empathize.”

WRITE TREATMENT WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT



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Joseph Roglieri

*"I think everyone is touched in some way by cancer, my family included. I am beyond blessed to have two healthy kids and five healthy grandchildren. I donate to NYOH Community Cancer Foundation from my payroll because it's easy and I don't have to think twice about it. I hope more of my fellow colleagues consider donating, as well!"*

KATHY PENFOLD, NYOH COMPLIANCE

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“The Albany Academy Key Club students are committed to becoming more socially responsible and empathetic members of their community. Many have a family member or friend who has been impacted by cancer. *This is our third year making care bags for the NYOH Foundation, which we hope are a sign of the concern, love and support the students have for patients.*”

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The NYOH Community Cancer Foundation extends our heartfelt thanks to all who support our mission—especially those who gave anonymously. We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended our events, shared our message with others, submitted their gift for a corporate match, or volunteered their time to help further our work. Every contribution—whether it's time, talent, or financial support—is meaningful and appreciated, no matter the amount or size. If your name was inadvertently omitted or misspelled in this publication, please accept our sincerest apologies. We invite you to contact us so we can correct the error.

# GIFTS IN-KIND

Thank you to the many individuals, businesses, and community groups that contributed goods, services, or non-monetary donations to our Foundation.

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Wolff's Biergarten

*"The kids absolutely loved creating the blankets for the patient care bags. They receive so much support from parts of their community so it was a great way for them to give back and to have fun while doing it!"*

GRACE BRANSHAW, SIENA COLLEGE





# DONATIONS MADE IN TRIBUTE

We were honored to accept donations in tribute to loved ones. "In Honor of" gifts are a meaningful way to pay tribute to someone special, celebrate a survivor, or express gratitude for care received. "In Memory of" gifts are made in remembrance of someone who has passed away and are often given in lieu of flowers.

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**THE MISSION OF THE NYOH COMMUNITY CANCER FOUNDATION** is to alleviate financial hardship for community members diagnosed and living with cancer, allowing them to focus on treatment and improve their quality of life.

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