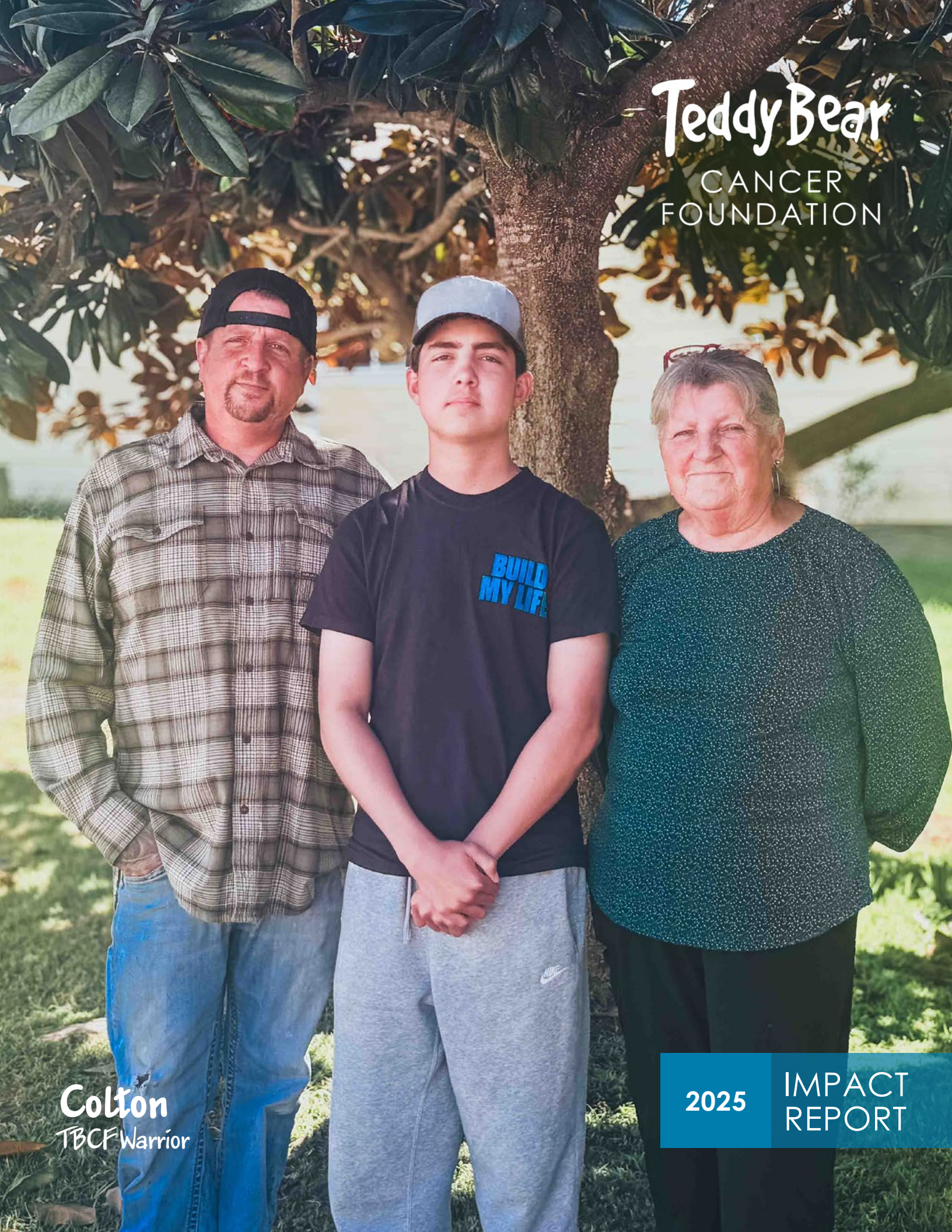




# Teddy Bear

CANCER  
FOUNDATION

Colton  
TBCF Warrior

2025

IMPACT  
REPORT

## A message from our Executive Director



Each year, we have the privilege of hearing and sharing stories that reflect the heart of our work. This year, Colton's story is a powerful reminder of why we do what we do.

His journey, marked by a life-altering diagnosis, isolation, and complex treatment decisions, highlights something we see every day: families facing pediatric cancer are forced to navigate overwhelming medical, emotional, and financial challenges all at once. In those moments, the ability to focus fully on their child can make all the difference.

That's where we come in.

At Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation, we believe that families should not have to navigate this journey alone. Our role is to walk alongside them, removing barriers, easing burdens, and providing

meaningful, tangible support so they can remain present for what matters most: their child.

As you will see throughout this report, our programs are shaped by the voices and needs of the families we serve. Our new Pediatric Cancer Support Center is a direct reflection of that commitment—a space intentionally designed to bring resources, support, and community together in one place, because families told us that proximity, accessibility, and connection matter.

Colton's story is one of resilience, but it is also a testament to what is possible when families are supported and not left to face the unimaginable alone.

Because of you, we can show up in these moments—consistently, compassionately, and without added burden to the families we serve.

Thank you for making this work possible.

With gratitude,

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

**Brittany Avila Wazny**  
Executive Director

## OUR MISSION

We advocate for families living in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo counties that have a child with cancer by providing financial, educational, and emotional support.

## OUR VISION

All families experiencing pediatric cancer feel strengthened and supported.

## OUR CORE VALUES

### Trust

We work to build trust by listening with empathy and acting with compassion.

### Respect

We show unwavering respect for diverse needs, perspectives, and contributions.

### Integrity

We uphold integrity in all we do through transparency and gratitude.

### Intentionality

We are guided by our families in all decision making and develop data-driven, collaborative strategies that sustain and strengthen.

### Fearlessness

We boldly face challenges, with a growth-mindset, and equipped with the resources to empower our families.

### Wellness

We are committed to cultivating an institutional culture based on health and wellness.

## THE TEAM BEHIND THE MISSION

### Staff

**Brittany Avila Wazny**  
*Executive Director*

**Becca Solodon**  
*Sr. Operations Director*

**Julia George**  
*Sr. Development Director*

**Gisselle Madrigal**  
*Program Director*

**Kirsten Stuart**  
*Communications & Events Director*

**Mayetzi Iturbide**  
*Family Care Manager*

**Lili Muñoz**  
*Family Engagement Manager*

**Roberta Tuck**  
*Operations Manager*

### TBCF Ambassadors

Donna Barranco Fisher | Co-chair  
Sheela Hunt | Co-chair  
Carolyn Shepard Baham  
Margo Barbakow  
Lorena Cheverez  
Lucia Engel  
Nikki Greene  
Mer James  
Pati Kern  
Kristi Marks  
Kathy McCarthy  
Adriana Mezic  
Jo Landis Shields  
Fiona Stone  
Carla Tomson

### Board of Directors

**Andrew Miller** | Chair

**Debby Mann** | Vice Chair

**Robyn Howard-Anderson** | Secretary

**Andrew Arrastia** | Treasurer

Sarai Anderson

Taylor Fuller

Jamie Hansen

Kachina Heil

Joe McCorkell

Joseph Tasca

Lacy Taylor

### Emeritus Board

Donna Barranco Fisher

Jim Bechtel

Tina Fanucchi-Frontado

J. Paul Gignac

Wells Hughes

Michelle Pickett

Nathan Rogers

Rich Schuette

Rachael Steidl

# Meet Colton

## Colton's Story: Strength, Advocacy, and the Power of Community

Colton's life had already faced hardship long before cancer entered the picture.

In his early adolescent years, he faced two defining moments: the unexpected incarceration of his father—his sole parent and steady provider—and a sudden move from Oklahoma to California to live with his grandparents. Overnight, his world shifted: a new home, a new school, a new reality. It was a loss of stability that would challenge anyone.

Then, just as he was beginning to find his footing and settle into junior high, everything changed again.

In January 2024, what first appeared to be a lingering sports injury—a sore hip from basketball—revealed itself to be something far more serious. Colton had always been active, constantly moving between basketball, volleyball, and time with friends. But when the pain persisted and his energy began to fade, his grandmother, Karen, trusted her instincts.

Within days, after multiple appointments and determined advocacy, they had an answer.

Colton was diagnosed with a rare, high-risk form of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). The diagnosis was overwhelming. Karen immediately shifted into problem-solving mode—focused, determined, and ready to do whatever it took. His father, James, received the news from a place no parent should ever have to—from inside prison, thousands of miles away.

***"I lost it," James shared. "You never want to hear that your child has cancer, but to hear it and not be able to be there... there's nothing worse. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy."***



Against extraordinary odds, James applied for compassionate release. In a process rarely granted, he was approved and released early, reuniting with his son during the fight for his life.

That reunion marked the beginning of a journey defined not only by survival, but by relentless advocacy.

From the start, Colton's treatment path was anything but straightforward. Initial chemotherapy did not reduce the cancer cells to a healthy desired level. The family quickly realized they would need to explore every possible option.

Their search led them to Los Angeles for CAR-T cell therapy, and then across the country to Philadelphia for an advanced, humanized CAR-T treatment. Along the way, they read medical journals, consulted multiple specialists, and asked difficult questions—pairing medical expertise with their own instincts.

They were navigating a world where, as Karen put it, “no one has all the answers.”

Medicine is evolving rapidly, especially in cancer care. New technologies, treatments, and data are constantly emerging. For Colton, this meant becoming part of that evolution. His case is so rare that he is now among a small number of patients worldwide to undergo this specific sequence of treatments.

The CAR-T therapy significantly reduced (but did not fully eliminate) the cancer, bringing it down to a fraction of a detectable level. The family faced another difficult decision: whether to wait and see if the cancer grew, or move forward with a bone marrow transplant.



They chose to move forward.

In an extraordinary act of love, James became Colton's bone marrow donor.

The transplant process was grueling. Colton endured days of chemotherapy and radiation that stripped his body down completely, leaving him reliant on machines, medications, and constant monitoring to survive. James, meanwhile, underwent his own physically demanding preparation—receiving injections to stimulate cell production before undergoing hours-long procedures to extract the life-saving cells. "There's nothing you can do as a parent in that moment," James recalled. "You're watching your child, and they're being kept alive by machines... it's a different kind of pain."

For Colton, the experience was both physically and mentally exhausting. There were days he couldn't eat, moments when his body simply shut down, and long stretches of isolation in hospital rooms and recovery housing. Even after leaving the hospital, the road back to normal life remained uncertain.

But through it all, Colton carried a quiet strength.

"I just try to live normally," he said. "Hang out with friends through video games, do what I can, not think about it too much."

Still, the emotional toll was undeniable, especially for a teenager. Missing school, sports, and everyday moments with friends was one of the hardest parts.

"When something fun is happening and I can't go—that's probably the worst part," he shared.

And yet, despite everything, Colton continued to move forward with resilience far beyond his years.

"He's stronger than all of us," Karen said. "We'll be the ones falling apart, and he's steady."

That strength, however, does not stand alone.

Throughout their journey, the family relied on a network of support that allowed them to stay focused on what mattered most: Colton.

Through Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation, they received financial assistance, emotional support, and consistent case management that eased the burden of an already overwhelming situation. Their Family Care Manager, Mayetzi, became a steady presence—checking in regularly, anticipating needs, and ensuring the family could access resources without added stress.

"They made it easy," Karen shared. "We didn't have to keep applying or figure things out. They were just there."

That simplicity mattered.

Because when a family is navigating hospital stays, complex treatments, and constant uncertainty, even small barriers can feel insurmountable. Having immediate, accessible support allowed them to remain present for appointments, decisions, and for each other.

Today, Colton's journey continues. There are still tests, still unknowns, and still risks that require careful monitoring. But there is also hope.

Hope in the progress of medicine. Hope in the strength of family. And hope in the power of community.

Colton's story is not just one of survival, it is a testament to what is possible when resilience meets advocacy, and when no challenge is faced alone.

And through it all, Colton remains rounded in a perspective that carries him forward:

***"Don't worry too much," he said. "Have faith... and just try to enjoy life."***



# Core Programs

# 1

## THE FAMILY FUND

## FINANCIAL STABILITY PROGRAM



Our Financial Stability Program helps offset loss of income due to one or more parents reducing work hours or quitting their job to care for their child in the hospital. Funds help cover immediate expenses such as rent, utilities, car payments, gas, lodging and groceries.

### Initial Diagnosis Fund

Low-to-moderate income families can ease their immediate financial burden by applying for up to \$7,000 for payment of rent or mortgage, auto expenses, utility bills, medications, home care services, food, child care, or hotel accommodations.

### Relapse Fund

If a child's cancer returns, families can request an additional \$2,500 of financial support.

### Support for 18-21 Year Olds

Young adults being treated on a pediatric protocol are included in all of our programming. As one of our newer programs, we're proud to be able to allocate funding toward this often overlooked population.

### Secondary Diagnosis Fund

If a child receives a secondary diagnosis of a different type of cancer, families can request an additional \$2,500 of financial support.

### Bone Marrow Fund

If a child is in need of a bone marrow transplant, families can request an additional \$2,500 of financial support.

### Funeral Fund

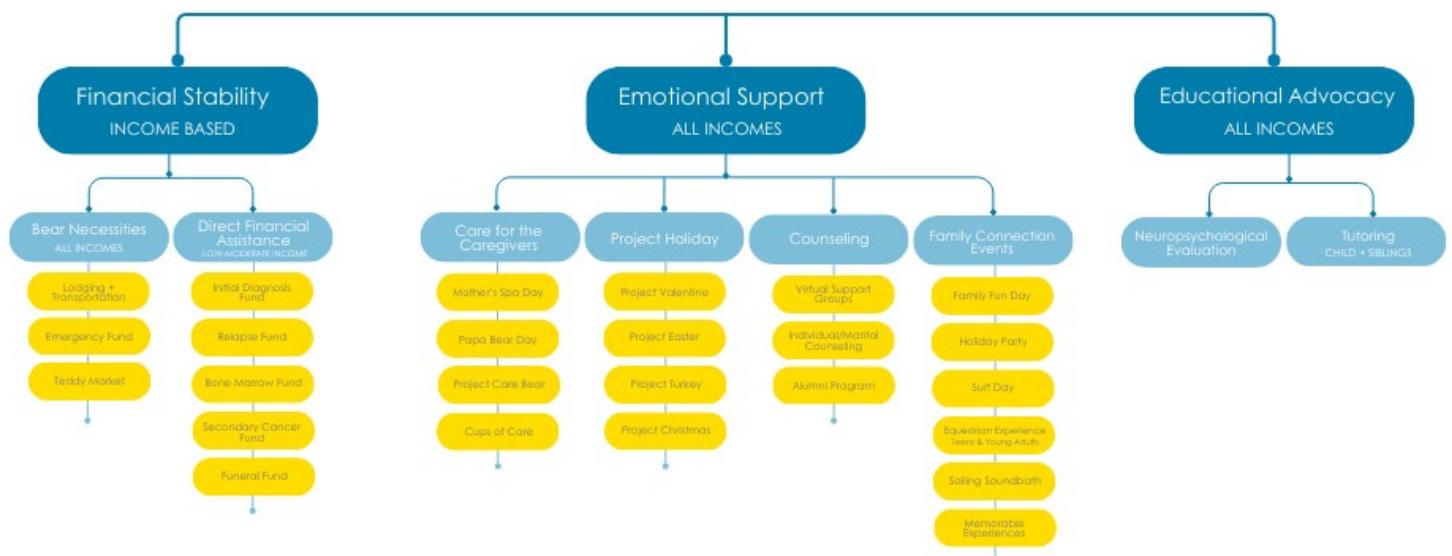
We assist families with up to \$2,500 to cover the costs of funeral arrangements.

### Bear Necessities

Items for families such as furniture, appliances, clothing, bedding, and hospital care packages are provided to families in need. **Families of all income levels** may also request assistance such as grocery gift cards and qualify for \$2,500 of support through our partnership with The Starfish Connection for emergency situations.

### Transportation & Lodging

**Families of all income levels** can receive up to \$2,000 in lodging gift cards and gas gift cards to cover two round trips to their treatment centers. With the support of American Cancer Society, we were able to distribute over \$49,275 in transportation and lodging funding.



# 2

## HELP FOR THE HEART

## EMOTIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM



Available to all families and family members, this program provides professional and peer support to parents, the child in treatment and siblings to ease emotional hardship.

### Family Support Groups

Supportive services in collaboration with local organizations and licensed professionals for families during the varying stages of their child's treatment. Our Spanish Parent Groups, English Parent Groups, Teen Groups and Kids Groups are offered virtually each month for families in the tri-counties battling pediatric cancer.

### Individual & Couples Counseling

We now offer professional, trauma informed counseling for both individuals and couples. Services are offered either in-person or virtually in Santa Barbara city, or virtually in all tri-counties.

### Project Holiday

Families of children in treatment can participate in Project Holiday to receive Christmas gifts, Easter baskets, Thanksgiving dinners, Valentine's Day baskets, grocery vouchers, and more delivered to the families' home or child's treatment location by a TBCF volunteer or staff.

### Care for the Caregivers

We host an annual Mother's Spa Day and a Papa Bear event. We also offer Project Care Bear deliveries throughout the year for families who have a child battling cancer.

### Family Connection Events

Family Fun Days, trips for children and their families, and holiday parties are created to offer a safe environment for families to gain support and connect with one another.

### Parent Alumni Program

This is a group of dedicated parent advocates who have been on a pediatric cancer journey and wish to provide support to newly diagnosed families as a peer supporter. TBCF is in the process of developing peer support training programs for all who wish to participate.

# 3

## TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

## EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM



This program gives parents of all income levels the necessary tools to support and advocate for their child's academic career and provides a smooth transition back to school following treatment.

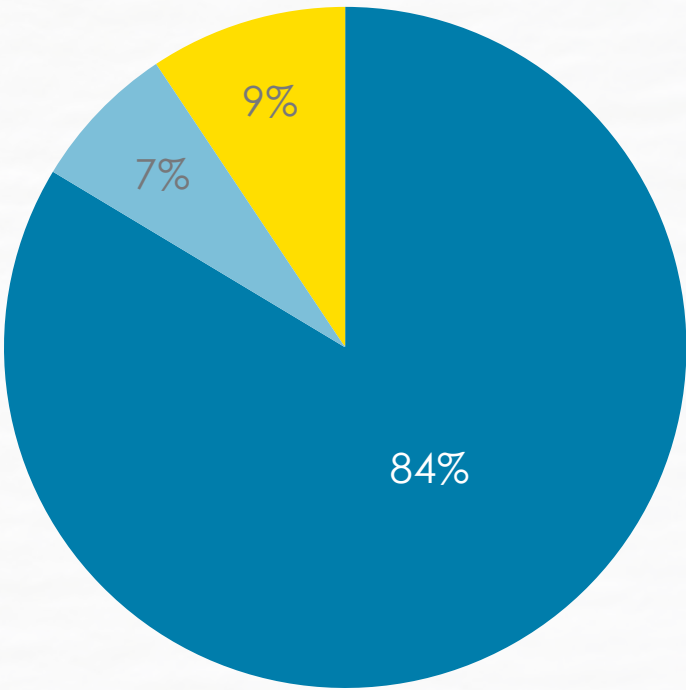
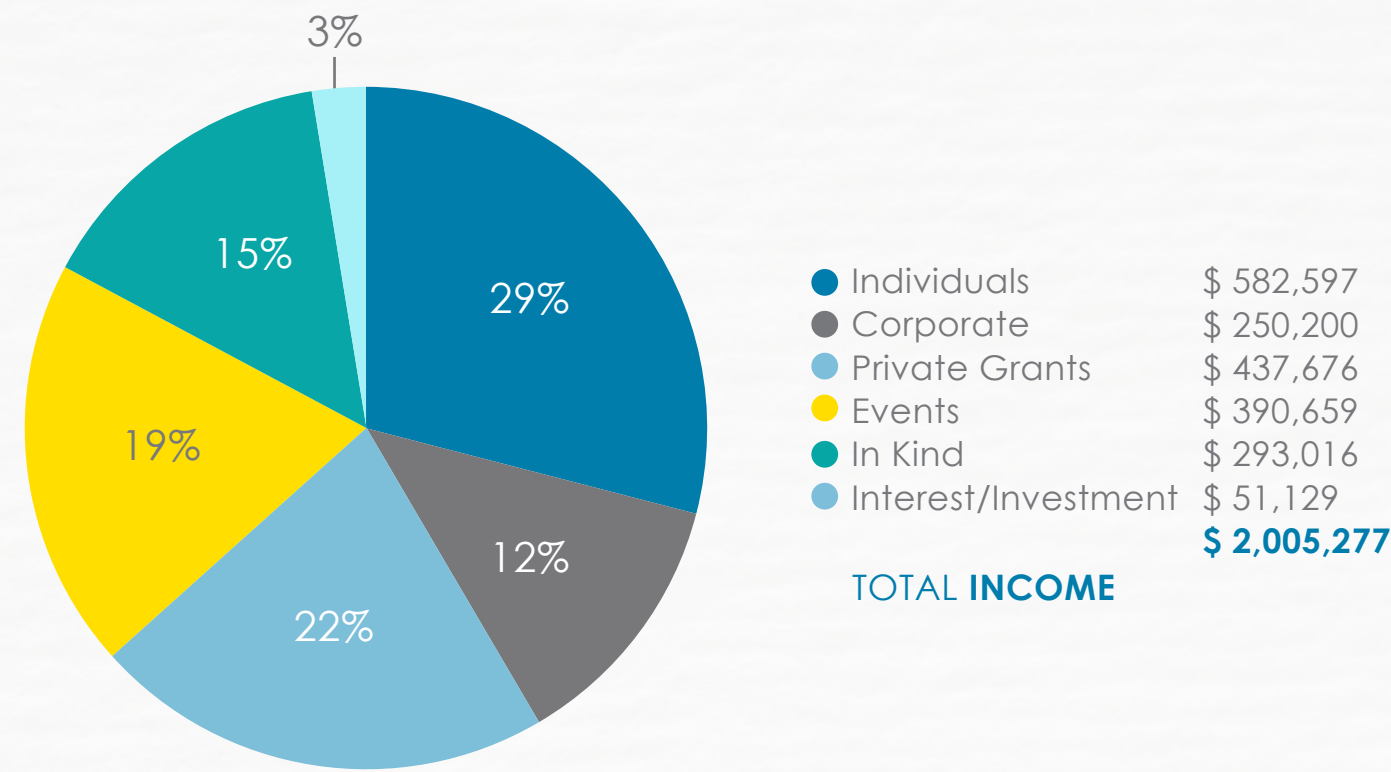
### Neuropsychological Evaluation

To help families address learning difficulties associated with cancer treatment, TBCF covers up to \$1,500 for neuropsychological testing. Test results are used to better understand and effectively advocate for their child's academic needs.

### Tutoring Services

Youth and young adults in need of individualized academic support can apply to receive up to 24hrs of virtual or in-person tutoring services in partnership with Grade Potential Tutoring Agency. This program is recommended for those in maintenance or remission. Qualifying families can receive tutoring support for siblings as well!

# 2025 Financial Overview



Being part of their Project Holiday program has brought immense joy to my younger kids, as well as to Bella. Thank you, Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation, for being a beacon of hope and support for families like ours. - Isabella's mom



## OUR THREE CORE PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

# 195

FAMILIES SERVED

# 842

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

## Program Stats



### Financial Stability Program

## 92

FAMILIES

## 391

INDIVIDUALS

#### BEAR NECESSITIES

## 80

FAMILIES

## 341

INDIVIDUALS

#### INITIAL DIAGNOSIS FUND

## 41

FAMILIES

## 167

INDIVIDUALS

#### FUNERAL FUND

## 8

FAMILIES

## 40

INDIVIDUALS

#### RELAPSE FUND

## 6

FAMILIES

## 24

INDIVIDUALS

#### BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT FUND

## 3

FAMILIES

## 13

INDIVIDUALS



### Educational Advocacy Program

## 14

FAMILIES

## 64

INDIVIDUALS

#### TUTORING SERVICES

## 10

FAMILIES

## 45

INDIVIDUALS

#### NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

## 5

FAMILIES

## 23

INDIVIDUALS



### Emotional Support Program

## 186

FAMILIES

## 805

INDIVIDUALS

#### FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS

## 54

FAMILIES

## 240

INDIVIDUALS

#### INDIVIDUAL & COUPLES COUNSELING

## 13

FAMILIES

## 51

INDIVIDUALS

#### FAMILY CONNECTION EVENTS

## 79

FAMILIES

## 355

INDIVIDUALS

#### CARE FOR THE CAREGIVERS

## 70

FAMILIES

## 295

INDIVIDUALS

#### PROJECT HOLIDAY

## 135

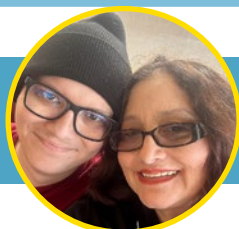
FAMILIES

## 581

INDIVIDUALS



My family has received such wonderful support from TBCF from day one... The gas assistance you provided was incredibly valuable for my grandson to be able to travel to Stanford for his treatment. - Riley's Grandma



# 2025 Family Connection Events

Family Connection Events provide meaningful opportunities for TBCF families to disconnect from doctors, treatment and hospital visits, and connect with others who truly understand their journey.

## Mother's Spa Day

Mother's Spa Day is one of our most cherished events. It provides an opportunity to truly pamper and celebrate our Mama Bears. In 2025, we hosted the event at Legends Salon in Santa Barbara.

Twenty service providers came together to offer complimentary spa services, including haircuts and styling, makeup application, massage, and waxing. Guests enjoyed a beautiful brunch in a relaxing atmosphere where moms could unwind, recharge, and connect with one another. Each mom received a goodie bag and a beautiful floral bouquet to take home.

## Papa Bear Event

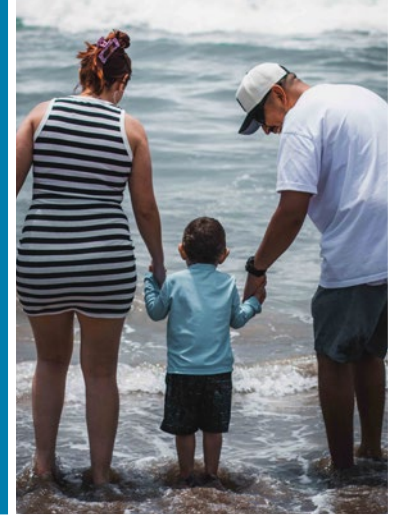
We hosted our annual Papa Bear event at Figueroa Mountain Brewery in Santa Barbara. Dads enjoyed beverages and pizza from Lucky Penny while connecting in a welcoming environment. The gathering created a space for TBCF dads to build relationships and openly discuss the challenges they face while navigating one of the most difficult times in their lives.

## Family Fun Day

Families enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch at Stow Grove Park with arts and crafts tables for children, and a flower bouquet workshop for teens and adults by Flower Empower. Special guests included Therapy Dogs of Santa Barbara, a small circus performance, and face painting. We also welcomed several community partners who shared information about their services.

Children and adults created new memories in a beautiful park surrounded by towering redwoods and stunning views. Our hearts were full after seeing so many smiles and kids enjoying their day out in nature.

Creating safe  
spaces for  
our families



81

families received  
Valentine's Day baskets



84

families (161 children)  
received Easter baskets



## Surf Day

Our 19th Annual Surf Day at Santa Claus Lane was made possible by our continued partnership with Surf Happens Foundation. This is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year, giving families the opportunity to spend meaningful time together at the beach while learning how to surf. For many children, Surf Day is often their first time visiting the beach. This year was filled with waves, laughter, and delicious food from Padaro Beach Grill.



## Believe Ranch Days

We were fortunate to partner with Believe Ranch & Rescue, which graciously opened its beautiful property to TBCF families. We hosted two separate dates at the ranch, one for children and their families, and another for young adults. Both experiences were truly memorable. Families spent time with horses and were introduced to the power of equine therapy. This new experience provided a peaceful opportunity for families to relax, connect, and enjoy time together in a serene, private ranch setting.

## Teen Cooking Class

Our teens enjoyed a special Farmer's Market to Table Cooking Class, thoughtfully curated by Brittany Rice of Rustic Chef. Being a pediatric cancer survivor herself, Brittany is passionate about teaching younger generations how to cook with organic and healthy ingredients grown by local & California farmers. A special thank you to the Ballonoff family and TBCF Ambassador, Jo Landis Shields, for helping make this event happen!



## Holiday Party

We hosted another successful Holiday Party at the Santa Barbara Elks Lodge. This is our largest family event of the year, with more than 300 people in attendance! The event featured catered food from the Elks, holiday inspired arts and crafts for the whole family, and special appearances by Spider Man and Disney princesses. One of the most magical moments of the day was when each child and teen received a gift personally delivered by Mr. and Mrs. Claus.



### Holiday Party Committee

Lauren Hardy  
Debra Launius  
Paralee Schmechel  
Christina Ervin  
Pam Rodriguez  
Nanci Alvarado  
Robyn Howard-Anderson  
Brenda Rodriguez  
Sonia Rivera  
Gail Plowman  
Katie Luna  
Intern: Natalia Hernandez (not pictured)

This beloved event is thoughtfully planned throughout the year by our dedicated Holiday Party Committee, whose members have been bringing joy to our families for over 15 years.

**A special thank you to Elks Lodge #613 and Cottage Health for making the event possible!**



99

families received  
Thanksgiving dinner baskets



61

families received presents  
for every child in the family

# 2025 Fundraising Events



The Teddy Bear Picnic is an elegant, family-friendly event where supporters and their families engaged in playful activities together alongside some of our recipient families in a whimsical outdoor setting.

## Teddy Bear Picnic Committee

### Co-Chairs

Susannah Rao  
Maria Wilson

### Committee

Briana Deignan  
Kachina Heil  
Linda James  
Sofie Langhorne  
Debbie Neer  
Fe Peres  
Stacey Polo



Photo credit: Charlie Brand & Dorrien Reeve Photography



The Golden Gala is the culmination of September's Gold Ribbon Campaign held in recognition of Childhood Cancer Awareness month. It is our primary fundraising event of the year. This year's gala will be held on September 19th at Tuscan Hills Estate overlooking the ocean and will be a magnificent event for our supports and families.

If you or your business would like to sponsor the Golden Gala, please contact Julia George at [Julia@TeddyBearCancerFoundation.org](mailto:Julia@TeddyBearCancerFoundation.org)

## Golden Gala Event Committee

### Co-Chairs

Adriana Mezic  
Angel Speier

### Committee

Nicole Allen  
Taylor Fuller  
Jamie Hansen  
Kachina Heil  
Sheela Hunt  
Kerry Kelly  
Terre Lapman  
Gary Lapman

Giana Miller  
Debbie Neer  
Stacey Polo  
Nora Scheinberg  
Lisa Solana  
Lacy Taylor  
Jill t'Sas  
Brigitte Welty

Photo credit: Charlie Brand & Sophia Viktoria Photography

# THANK YOU PARTNERS

## 2025 Beneficiary Events

Thank you to our many community partners that hosted events and chose Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation as the benefitting charity. All funds raised support our three core programs and make a real difference in the lives of the families we serve every day.

### Business Partnerships

Agents vs Cancer  
Bar Method  
Bettina  
Carpe Data  
Cerity Partners  
Charity Auto Donation  
Deckers  
Ergomotion, Inc.  
Figueroa Mountain Brewery  
Globe Life  
Hook & Press Donuts  
Institution Ale  
Lama Dog  
The Leta Hotel  
Mission Street Ice Cream & Yogurt  
Mr. Salsa  
O'Malley's  
Oak & Fire  
Oak Cottage of Santa Barbara  
Ojai Pizza Company  
Padaro Beach Grill  
Press Room  
Sage Society  
Santa Barbara Honda & Acura  
StarCycle Santa Barbara  
Tinsel Tavern at Paloma  
Toyota of Santa Barbara  
Ventura Harley Davidson  
Yellow Belly Tap & Restaurant

### Beneficiary Events

7th Annual Bash Cancer Fest  
Cruzin' for Life Dinner & Auction  
Danny's Classic Car & Motorcycle Show  
Endless Summer at Ventura Harley Davidson  
Golfing for Little Heroes & Victories  
YouthMuze Concert

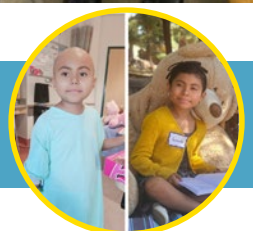


### Youth Philanthropy

Bishop Diego High School Teddy Bear Club  
Cabrillo High School  
Hope Elementary School  
Lily Groves  
Orcutt Academy High School  
Riviera Ridge School  
Santa Barbara Dance Arts  
Washington Elementary School  
YMCA After School Program



TBCF has given us hope so many times when we felt we had lost it... I reached out to TBCF for tutoring support and they immediately helped us. My daughter improved so much and ended the class with an A! - Dulce, Fernanda's mom



# 2025 Supporters

## \$250,000+

Anonymous  
Thomas & Charmaine Rogers

## \$100,000 - \$249,000

Charity Auto Donation  
Claudia Taden

## \$50,000 - \$99,000

Ann Cameros  
Cruzin' for Life  
Globe Life  
Lambert 1996 Unit Trust  
Earl Minnis  
The Nurture Foundation,  
Michael & Kathy McCarthy

## \$25,000 - \$49,000

Albertsons Companies Foundation  
American Cancer Society  
Jeffrey & Margo Barbakow  
Donna Barranco Fisher & Dr. Robert Kammer  
Ronnie & Laura DeBrum  
Holly & Jerry Deweese  
Ergomotion, Inc.  
The Linden Family Foundation  
Patricia Bragg Foundation  
Roy & Ida Eagle Foundation  
Stater Brothers Charities  
Travis & Amanda Twining  
Yardi Systems, Inc.

## \$10,000 - \$24,000

Ray & Michelle Avila  
Virginia Benson Wigle  
Kielle Campbell Lindsey  
The Coeta & Donald Barker Foundation  
Diana Crothers  
Martin & Kerrilee Gore  
The Greene Family Foundation  
The Henry W. Bull Foundation  
Bob & Robyn Howard-Anderson  
Diane Kees  
The Kim & Andrew D. Busch Family Foundation  
Mark & Dorothy Smith Family Foundation  
Michael Molony & Sylvia Schulte Molony  
Mosher Foundation  
The Paix Alia Foundation  
Beverly S. Mamey & The Saleh Foundation  
San Pasqual Fiduciary Trust Company  
Santa Barbara Honda & Acura  
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash  
Indians Foundation  
Shrontz Family Foundation  
Stanley J. Steinberg Hodgkin's  
Lymphoma Fund  
Swift Memorial Healthcare Foundation  
Thyne | Taylor | Fox | Howard, LLP  
Victor & Susan Schaff Family Foundation

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

Above All Aviation  
The Ann Jackson Family Foundation  
Anonymous  
William & Kathy Borgers  
Willard & Elizabeth Boss  
Columbia Bank  
Costco United Way Campaign  
Cottage Health  
Deckers Outdoor Corporation  
Ginni Dreier  
Ornella Faccin  
Joe & Svetlana Ferreira  
Stanley & Roberta Fishman  
Janet Garufis  
Jill Hall  
The Herbert & Gertrude Latkin Foundation  
Wes & Stella Johnson  
Peter & Gerd Jordano  
Pati Kern  
Lynda Kest  
Igor & Adriana Mezic - Aimdyn, Inc.  
Alan & Mary Jane Miller  
Jody & Ivan Misner  
Bibi Moezzi & Bill Pessio  
Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management  
Ralph & Sharadi Nobbe  
The PATCH Foundation  
Mike & Sharon Perez  
Nathan & Margaret Rogers  
Mark & Nicole Romasanta  
Rudi Schulte Family Foundation  
Rick & Carolyn Scott  
Jason Spievak & Lynette Figueroas-Spievak  
The Stanley Family Foundation  
Frank Stevens  
Leifur & Nicolette Thordarson  
John & Olesya Thyne  
Toyota of Santa Barbara  
Travis Vassallo  
Monte & Maria Wilson

## \$2,500 - \$4,999

Christian Arce  
Andrew & Sarah Arrastia  
B & B Foundation  
James & Vanessa Bechtel  
Brock & Makenzy Berglund  
Cabrillo High School  
Captrust Community Foundation Inc.  
Ruth & Michael Cavaletto  
Clear Skies Fund, Inc.  
J. Paul Gignac  
Jamie Hansen  
Kachina Heil  
The Hoot Family Fund  
Mark & Sheela Hunt  
J.J. O'Malley's  
John A. Martin & Associates, Inc.  
Dustin Jones  
Susan Jordano

Sharon & Jeff Jordano  
Michael & Kerry Kelly  
LBR Gray Chiropractic Corp.  
Deborah Mann  
Peter & Kathryn Martin  
Montecito Bank & Trust  
Jorge Morales  
Nasif, Hicks, Harris & Co., LLP  
John Nasser  
Northern Trust  
Don & Catherine Parsons  
Josh & Alix Rabinowitz  
Richard & Nora Scheinberg,  
Scheinberg Orthopedic Group  
The Solana Foundation  
Vivian M. & Peter Solodkin  
St. Francis Foundation of Santa Barbara  
Joseph & Jennifer Tasca  
Joyce Vigneaud  
Village Properties  
Ely & Jason Wolfe  
Zegar Family Foundation

## \$1,000 - \$2,499

Joiwind Alexander  
Altrusa Club of The Central Coast  
Foundation, Inc.  
American Riviera Bank  
Sarai & Matt Anderson  
Brent & Sue Anderson  
Apple Inc.  
Arlington Financial Advisors,  
Wells Hughes & Michael Yang  
Brittany Avila Wazny & Daniel Wazny  
Barlein & Company, Inc.  
Belmond El Encanto  
Blood Cancer United  
Morgan Bluhm  
Mark Bottiani  
Tessa Boyce  
Diana Brelsford  
Dr. Bob & Patty Bryant  
Tom & Misook Burk  
California Community Foundation  
Camarillo-Somis-Pleasant Valley Lions Club  
Casa Dorinda  
Jon & Chris Cavaletto  
Mike & Vikki Cavaletto  
CenCal Health  
The Charitable Foundation-Pickford  
Realty Cares  
Susan & Dennis Chiavelli  
Arthur & Kate Coppola  
Timothy & Lisa Couch  
Justin & Lynda Dees  
Max & Jennifer Drucker  
Mark & Patti Duell  
David Edelman  
Fishman Family Foundation  
Taylor Fuller  
Kevin Gates  
Morgan & Chad Gatzlaff

Julie & Brian Godlis  
 Shaina & Casey Groves  
 Steven & Amy Hammer  
 Mary M. Hampson & Julia Claire Hamson Long  
 Megan Hayward  
 Herring Imming LLP  
 Roger & Robin Himovitz  
 Tom Hopkins & Sandy Kaneoka Hopkins  
 Kelly Hunziker  
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My daughter loves the kids' support groups... smiling  
 and simply being a kid. That means everything to me.  
 - Aryanet's dad



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From the first call we received from TBCF the support and guidance were priceless. TBCF supported us financially, which helped alleviate some of the stress we were caring about already. Words can't describe the gratitude our family has for TBCF. - Valerie's mom

”



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”

The financial support Teddy Bear provided helped us keep a roof over our heads and food on our table. TBCF helped us better understand my son's needs...  
 Teddy Bear has walked with our family through diagnosis, treatment and beyond.  
 - Thiago's mom

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Santa Barbara International Film Festival  
Santa Barbara Maritime Museum  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club  
Santa Barbara Sailing Center  
Santa Barbara Shellfish Company  
Santa Barbara Symphony  
Santa Barbara Zoo  
Satellite Wine Bar  
Brett Schaffner  
Nora & Rick Scheinberg  
Seastrand  
SeaVees  
Selfie Booth 805  
Richard & Michele Seoane  
Skin Care Clinic/Skin Prophecy  
Lisa Solana  
Vivian & Peter Solodkin  
Sonos  
Sophia Viktoria Photography  
South Coast Deli  
Southern California Edison  
Angel & Jackson Speier

Lisa Spencer  
Springboard Hospitality  
Starbucks  
StarCycle Santa Barbara  
Phil Stearns  
Sugar & Spice Bakery  
SunOven  
Sunstone Winery  
SunSwept Sailing  
Michael & Lacy Taylor  
Teddy's By The Sea  
Terre et Sang  
Terri Thacker  
Therapy Dogs of America  
Third Window Brewing  
This Moment in Thyme  
Toyota of Santa Barbara  
Trader Joe's  
Tre Lune  
Peter Trent  
True Love Always  
Jill t'Sas  
Roberta Tuck  
Eva Turenchalk  
UCSB Teddy Bear Club  
Dr. Shivani Upadhyay  
Uptown Barber Shop  
Kenny Uyekawa  
Validation Ale  
Viva Oliva  
Viva Party Delights  
Michele Waggoner  
Tina Welsh  
Brigitte & Alain Welty  
West Coast Pharmacy  
Whiskey & Leather  
White Caps Beach Club  
Yellow Belly Tap & Restaurant  
Yoga Soup  
Ysidro Sake Spritz



# Become a Gold Legacy Society Member!

Our Gold Legacy Society honors those visionary supporters who commit to a future gift of any size through their estate plans or those who make a gift now of \$25,000 or more toward the Endowment Fund. Your gift will sustain TBCF's mission and programs for the future.

## WAYS TO GIVE

### Gifts of Stock

This is an easy way to donate with the added bonus of potential income tax savings.

### IRA Rollover

There are a variety of methods to do this. If you are 70.5 years or older, you can make a Qualified Distribution from your IRA that is tax free.

### Create a Bequest

Designate TBCF as the beneficiary of your assets in your will or charitable trusts. You can transfer cash or appreciated property to TBCF.

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR  
PLANNED GIVING COUNCIL?



Please contact:

**Brittany Avila Wazny**

[Brittany@TeddyBearCancerFoundation.org](mailto:Brittany@TeddyBearCancerFoundation.org)

*Our planned giving team can work with you to explore the many ways you can support our mission and provide lasting help to families for years to come.*





The bears are  
waking up!

*After a long hibernation, the Grizzly Club is back.  
A community of local business leaders united in support  
of families facing a pediatric cancer diagnosis.*

In 2002, Larry Crandell introduced Eloy Ortega, Steve Cushman, Earl Armstrong and Tom Parker to a new nonprofit organization called Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation. In response to the need for immediate funding to address the needs of local families facing a pediatric cancer diagnosis, Steve Cushman came up with the idea to establish the Grizzly Club.

For ten years, the Grizzly Club consistently gathered and raised vital funds for timely or difficult areas of need for Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation.

Become a  
member today!



# What's Happening

## AT TBCF'S PEDIATRIC CANCER SUPPORT CENTER

TBCF's Pediatric Cancer Support Center, just steps from Cottage Hospital, is the first of its kind in Santa Barbara County.

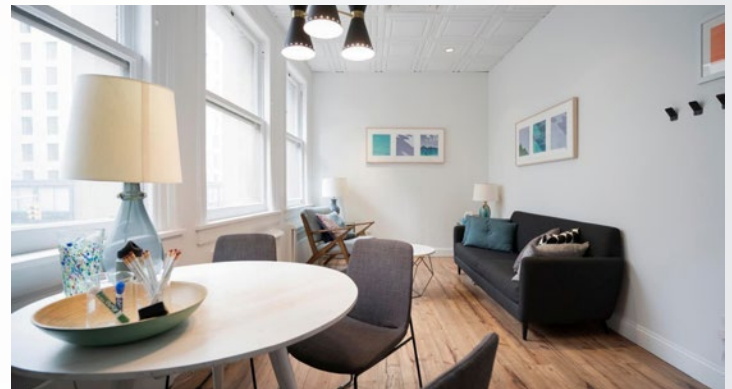


Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation's comprehensive support for families facing pediatric cancer will be elevated through the creation of the Pediatric Cancer Support Center located near Cottage Children's Medical Center—bringing to life a long-expressed dream from the families we serve for a respite and resource space close to treatment. While nearly 40% of TBCF families receive treatment at Cottage Hospital and benefit from exceptional medical care, the hospital environment can intensify stress and trauma for families. The Pediatric Cancer Support Center will provide a welcoming place of refuge where families can rest, recharge, and access support outside the clinical setting while remaining close enough to return to their child's bedside at a moment's notice.

The Center will feature private respite spaces, communal areas for connection, spaces for siblings to play, and access to free meals, snacks, and essential resources, while also housing TBCF's core programs and services.



With more than 500 anticipated visits each year, the Center will meet a critical need in our community while strengthening the support network for families navigating pediatric cancer. The Creating Home, Building Hope Campaign will bring the full vision of the Pediatric Cancer Support Center to life by raising the essential resources needed to complete the purchase of the facility, fund critical renovations, and establish a Building Reserve Fund to ensure the Center's long-term sustainability and care for families in the years ahead.



### Creating Home, Building Hope Capital Campaign Committee

Sarai Anderson  
Donna Barranco Fisher  
Sheela Hunt  
Nikki Katz  
Gene McKnight  
Adriana Mezic  
Nathan Rogers  
Rick Scott

### Design Task Force

Lauren Ballantyne  
Betsy Moyer  
Joey Tasca

### LEARN MORE

Please contact **Brittany Avila Wazny**  
[Brittany@TeddyBearCancerFoundation.org](mailto:Brittany@TeddyBearCancerFoundation.org)

# PILOT PROGRAMS IN ACTION AT TBCF'S PEDIATRIC CANCER SUPPORT CENTER

To immediately serve families near treatment and inform future programming, we are piloting the following programs in the Center:



## Teddy Market

A welcoming space where families can access nutritious groceries, meals, and snacks at no cost during and beyond their child's cancer journey.

**Why?** Hospital stays create financial and logistical strain, making meals difficult to access. The Teddy Market ensures families have reliable food near treatment so they can focus on their child's care.

*Generously sponsored by Albertson's Companies Foundation with product support from Kate Farms*



## Alumni Program

Recognizing that the cancer journey continues beyond treatment, the Alumni Program offers ongoing support through gatherings where families connect, find community, and help shape TBCF programs while guiding newly diagnosed families.



## Cups of Care

A weekly time for caregivers to recharge, enjoy a snack or warm drink, and connect with TBCF staff and others on a similar journey.

**Why?** Pediatric cancer can be isolating, especially during long hospital stays. Building community helps ease emotional strain and foster resilience.



## Health & Wellness Committee

The Health & Wellness Committee is comprised of members who help to support the overall wellness of the organization through pediatric cancer expertise or lived experience.

The committee serves as a thought partner for new programming and ensures that holistic wellness is integrated into organizational culture and programming in ways that are accessible and trauma-informed.

### Committee Members

Robyn Howard-Anderson  
Virginia Clarke  
Justin Diem  
Kachina Heil  
Susan Jordano  
Alissa Rennacker  
Sandy Zurovski



## Bright Minds Kits

**The Problem:** After diagnosis, it can take weeks or months for a Home-

Hospital Instruction Program to begin, leaving children without educational engagement. Combined with treatment and long hospital stays, this can lead to academic regression and difficulty re-engaging.

**The Solution:** To bridge this gap, we are piloting Bright Minds Kits—age-specific, no screen, brain-stimulating activities like puzzles, books, and learning games that are loaned out—so children can stay engaged during treatment and better transition back into school.

## PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

We're pleased to welcome Hearts Aligned as our first tenant in the Collaboration Space, an adjacent suite in TBCF's Pediatric Cancer Support Center dedicated to house nonprofit partners.

Together, we're creating a stronger, more connected support system for families facing pediatric cancer and other critical illnesses.



## FINANCIAL IMPACT AFTER DIAGNOSIS

~50% lost half their income

50% at risk of losing housing

~50% unable to meet basic needs

33% at risk of food insecurity

## 2025 FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS

*How support from TBCF made a meaningful difference*



### Financial Stability Program

91%

Families who shared that TBCF relieved their immediate financial burden



112

gas cards distributed



72

hotel nights covered



### Educational Advocacy Program

80%

Parents who felt more confident knowing how to support their child after neuropsychological evaluation

100%

Families whose children gained confidence after tutoring



51

individuals supported with 1:1 counseling



### Emotional Support Program

91%

Project Holiday support helped relieve holiday stress

76%

Families felt a decrease in stress after attending support groups



5,000

miles driven by volunteers

# Teddy Bear

CANCER FOUNDATION

2323 De La Vina Street, Suite 104  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

(805) 962-7466

[TeddyBearCancerFoundation.org](http://TeddyBearCancerFoundation.org)



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



”

The one-on-one counseling gave us the space to process our reality individually... The individual counseling support has truly been a blessing for our family, helping us heal and move forward together. - Maliyah's mom