



# The Piggyback Foundation

*Carrying Families Through Times of Need Since 2007*

## Thirteen years of relieving financial stress and strengthening families in our community...

It has been 13 years since our foundation began and each year, I feel blessed by the amount of support we receive from the community in so many ways. From volunteers giving of their time and talents, financial support of individuals to fundraisers, and the support of our charity shops. It amazes me how our foundation is woven into the heart of our community.

We had many changes in 2019. Our director changed careers, we downsized in our office, and brought the area of service back to Norwalk and its surrounding communities. The

changes were necessary, as we were giving out more funds than we were bringing in. We hoped to help ensure the existence of the foundation in the future. Looking back, I think it was God's way of preparing the foundation for the unprecedented times that have affected everyone.

At this time of grief and stress due to the pandemic, we are extremely grateful to have your support. We all understand the importance of not spreading this virus. It is especially important for those already battling life-threatening illnesses such as cancer.

As we talk to our families,

we can hear the relief in their voices when we let them know a check is on the way to help. Our mission to help maintain normalcy for children, create joy, and strengthen family bonds is more important than ever.

Touching the hearts of children and families going through the battle of a life-threatening illness not only strengthens the families but our community. Thank you for allowing us to serve our community in this way for 13 years and hopefully many more.

Joyfully,  
Lisa Hiler  
Executive Director

## OCTOBER 2020

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### **Our Mission:**

***The Piggyback Foundation helps families maintain a sense of normalcy during time of life-threatening illness by providing funds to meet the emotional, educational and physical needs of the children.***

## Piggyback's Good Works

Families Supported in 2019: 100

Families Supported since 2007: 550

Children Supported in 2019: 214

Children Supported since 2007: 1,141

### 2019 %

94% Funds raised went directly to families in need

6% Spent on administrative expenses/fundraising

\$50,684 was donated to The Piggyback Foundation from When Pigs Fly Store

### 2019 Fundraiser Highlights

*Christian Roberts "Cutting for the Cause" raised over \$11,168 in 2019. This adds to the total funds raised to \$106,302 in the last 12 years!!!*

*Third Annual Piggyback 5K raised over \$27,044!!!*

## Spencer's Story

Spencer Rumer  
Jan. 14, 2002 – Sept. 17, 2019

On August 20, 2010, Spencer was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called Spindle Cell, Synovial Sarcoma, High Grade. It was a cancerous tumor on his head with metastases to his lung. The Piggyback Foundation started working with Spencer and his family right away. Board members, Allison Smith and Lisa Hiler met with the family before they traveled to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Spencer spent four months at St. Jude's. At that time, the foundation helped with the family's car payment, Spencer's sister, Kylee's band camp fee, back to school



clothes and a birthday celebration for Spencer's brother, Zach. Over the next 9 years, Spencer relapsed with cancer 5 times. The foundation supported the family through these difficult times. Spencer was a fighter with a positive attitude.

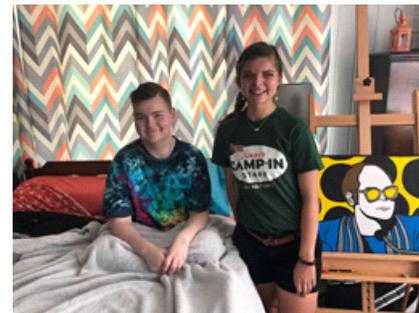
His mom, Lisa, kept searching for any cutting edge treatments to help in Spencer's battle. Every effort possible was made to save Spencer's life, but in the summer of 2019 a mass entangled around Spencer's heart was inoperable and chemo/radiation was no longer working.

Spencer was an amazing artist. His favorite quote was from artist Melissa Miller, "Thematically, I wish my paintings to depict the many

facets and layers of life and survival, of which I am a constant and curious observer."

The Piggyback Foundation provided art materials for Spencer. As an extra special surprise, Spencer's mom, Lisa, gathered his artwork and brought it to When Pigs Fly, where we were able to frame his work. Our intern, Isabelle Rousseau, hung it in Spencer's room. It was beautiful to see the joy it brought to Spencer to see his work framed.

Spencer passed in September at the age of 17 after a 9 year battle with cancer. His beautiful spirit touched us all.



### Did you know...

*In 2020, an estimated 1,806,590 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States.*

*National Cancer Society*

## Hope for those in the darkest days...

I cannot begin to express the gratitude that I have for the Piggyback Foundation. Our lives were turned upside down September 2008. Our youngest son was 6 weeks old and our older son was only 3 when my husband, literally the strongest man I have ever known, was diagnosed with cancer.



This defining moment changed my life forever. I do believe Piggyback Foundation was introduced to us a couple years later, sometime in 2011.

By this time, we were exhausted

mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially. When fighting cancer with a loved one, everything in life is focused on survival, cancer, treatments, and appointments. Although we tried to keep some normalcy in our home for our children, there was nothing normal about it. PBF came in and helped with some of the normalcy for our children. They helped by offering us opportunities for our family to create memories. The foundation had partnered with a local professional photographer and were able to have family portraits taken that are my most treasured gift. They gave us gifts for relaxation spa treatments at a local salon. I do believe they gave us Cedar Point passes, zoo passes, and I distinctly remember them helping us with expenses for a family trip to see relatives in North Carolina.



It has been so long ago now, that I cannot fully remember all the support, but it was more than I could have ever imagined. I am forever grateful. Little did we know, these times were my husband's last days. We would not have had the resources or the forethought to create these memories if not for PBF. My husband took his last worldly breath on April 2, 2012.



I don't know who will read this, if anyone, but the last picture is recent because if you are in the boat we were in many years ago, I remember the fear, desperation, and darkness. There is light on the other side, no matter the outcome of your journey. It may not be the outcome you envisioned or even the one you want but, you can make it through the darkness and create the life you desire. It will just be different and that is okay.

## Volunteer Spotlight – Kristin Miller



We have so many wonderful volunteers who help our stores and foundation grow and succeed! Today we are highlighting Kristin Miller, who has been volunteering with us at When Pigs Fly Too and The Piggyback Foundation since October 2018.

### **How would you describe your roll at PBF?**

With the exception of one day, I have always worked at the WPF Too location. When I work in the shop, I do anything necessary to keep the shop looking fabulous. That may be dusting or sweeping. It also includes folding, straightening, and organizing clothing. When shipments come in, I log in the items, price them, steam them and then put them out on display. I assist customers when they are in the shop as needed. Once all of the above items are done, I may find myself changing displays and

updating mannequin outfits. It's fun!

### **Why did you choose to help the PBF?**

What drew me to PBF, specifically my decision to volunteer at WPF, was the fact that I do not currently work outside of the home, but have the time to do something each day. I wanted to use that time in a way that would make a difference in the life of someone else. I know Lisa Hiler well and was familiar with her organization. I loved that it was local and directly impacted my "neighbors." A friend of mine told me that they needed help opening their new location and asked if I wanted to join her. I did, and I've never left! Everyone is so warm and appreciative every time I come in to volunteer. It's great to feel loved and appreciated while making a difference. I look forward to going in every day I am on the schedule.

### **Do you have any personal stories or memories from volunteering?**

Often someone will come into the shop and share with me that they, or their family, were once recipients of the PBF's generosity. They are now customers to each store as a way of giving back and saying "thank you" for taking care of them and their family. Every time this happens, I feel extremely emotional and thankful. EVERY. SINGLE. TIME.

In 2016, there were an estimated 15.5 million cancer survivors in the U. S. The number of cancer survivors is expected to increase to 20.3 million by 2026.

## God in the Details - PBF Partnership with Camp Patmos

During the summer of 2016, a local family requested assistance from the PBF to send their son to Camp Patmos on Kelley's Island. Incredibly, his sister actually won a free week during VBS program for later that same summer. Both the kids had a great time, but came home with more than just stories of bonfires and tubing on Lake Erie. They came home refreshed, hopeful and full of joy. Each child began their individual camp week excited but with hesitation, as neither wanted to leave their mom while she was fighting breast cancer. Both went, but later regretted the decision and that was when God was revealed in the details.



Dave and Kristi Sellers, along with their children, Carden, Reese, and Casteel are the heart of Camp Patmos, running the day to day operations. When the PBF family's children began to struggle, Kristi swooped in with love and encouragement that only a mom, and a breast cancer survivor herself, could offer. She knew immediately what to do and what to say. She loved them, shared her faith and prayed with them. By the end of the week the kids referred to Kristi as their "camp mom". God was in the details, ensuring that they had a great time, all while growing in their faith. There were no coincidences that week;

God was in the details.

The family continues to send their children to Camp Patmos every year and their son is hoping to work at the camp next summer. Their mom is now cancer free and helped start a partnership with Camp Patmos, area churches, and the foundation to send more Piggyback kids to camp. During the summer of 2019, 4 children were able to attend Camp Patmos through the giving of local churches and the Piggyback Foundation.



## How it all began — How did Piggyback Foundation start?

When we started the Piggyback Foundation, we didn't know how to start a charity. I had a teaching background. I was helping children with sight words in my daughter's first grade class. I watched this one boy, go from a happy little boy who always knew his sight words, to being sad and not knowing his words. His whole self, deflated, losing the beautiful light in his eyes. I asked him why. He said his mom didn't have time to help him with his words anymore. The teacher shared that his dad had been diagnosed with stomach cancer. It affected the whole family. I reached out to the mother and tried to connect them with a charity in Michigan (the Rosemary Hockney Foundation). I helped her apply for assistance, but she was declined. My husband and I met with the organization. After talking to them and listening to some of the families they had helped, it was like God opened the door for me, asked me to walk through and listen.

I realized that we needed something like this in Norwalk. I typed up a proposal and brought it to my coffee group. You see, God had placed people in my life who were ready and willing to help. They each had life experiences that brought value to our budding organization. We worked to form articles of incorporation and by-laws and finally in the spring of 2007, we received our 501(c)(3). This was exciting! It meant we were a real entity.

Then, we had to figure out exactly how we were going to help our Piggyback families.

I designed four programs based off of what I did for a good friend when she was diagnosed with cancer.

I hosted a birthday party for her two girls, which allowed her to just enjoy the moment. I brought the kids to my house after school and helped them with their homework. We made sure the girls could go to their ballet lessons and piano lessons. I visited her almost every day and prayed with her and for her.

Our four main programs (Families Count, Education Counts, Activities Count and Faith Counts) came together through the simple act of being a good neighbor.

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**PBF Executive Board: Tom and Laurie Schmuhl, Matt and Lisa Herner, Dirk and Lisa Hiler, Amber Riley and Morgan Hiler**

**PBF Working Board: Linda Camp, Julie Eckloff, Buffy Greenawalt, Martha Long, Julie Murdock, Melissa Murphy, Deb Lucal and Tricia Ebner**

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**Donations can be made via our website:**

[www.thepiggybackfoundation.org](http://www.thepiggybackfoundation.org)

**or mailed to:**

**The Piggyback Foundation  
P.O. Box 436  
Norwalk, Ohio 44857**

**Or dropped off at:**

**When Pigs Fly  
31 E. Main Street  
Norwalk, Ohio 44857**

Funded by private donations, fundraisers, When Pigs Fly and When Pigs Fly Too Charitable Shops. Visit our websites for more details



**Uptown Norwalk | 31 E. Main St.**

**Store Hours:**

Tuesday-Saturday; 10-4

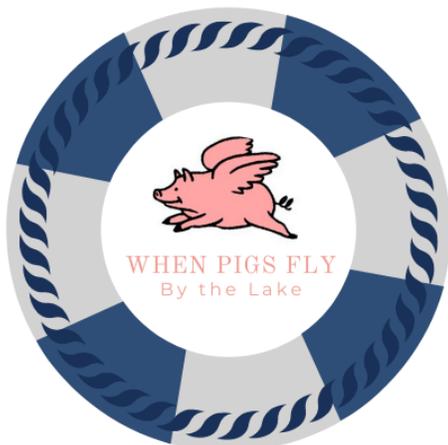
Closed: Sunday & Monday

419-660-1932

[www.whenpigsflynorwalk.com](http://www.whenpigsflynorwalk.com)



We are excited to announce — Our new Huron Shop  
When Pigs Fly By the Lake- Coming in June of 2021



Our board member, Buffy Greenawalt, will be using her decorating and designing talents to support the Piggyback Foundation with a charitable resale and retail shop on Huron's Main Street. Buffy will be looking for volunteers and donations. Watch for more information to come!

Lost Income Forces Families to Fall Behind...

72% of families reported losing more than 50% of their income since the time of diagnosis.

Your support will help...

## The Piggyback Foundation

*Carrying Families Through Times of Need Since 2007*

### Personal Reply

To: The Piggyback Foundation, P.O. Box 436, Norwalk, Ohio 44857

From:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I would like to partner with The Piggyback Foundation in support of families facing the challenge of maintaining normalcy for their children, when confronted with a life threatening illness, such as cancer. You can count on me to support the work of the foundation with a generous tax-deductible contribution of:

\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 \_\_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_ \$75.00 \_\_\_\_ \$100.00 \_\_\_\_ **\$300.00** Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Supports a family for Christmas

Please make your check payable to: The Piggyback Foundation.  
The Piggyback Foundation is a 501(C) (3) non-profit charitable organization.  
All contributions are tax-deductible.

Your financial support is greatly appreciated due to foundation fundraisers being canceled.

To:

The Piggyback Foundation  
P.O. Box 436  
Norwalk, Ohio 44857  
[www.thepiggybackfoundation.org](http://www.thepiggybackfoundation.org)