

ACCELERATE



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

BRIDGE TO A CURE FOUNDATION, INC.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 | Welcome from Robert Martin
- 4 | Leadership & Boards
- 5 | Current State of Childhood Cancer
- 8 | Critical Role of Data To Accelerate Discovery
- 11 | Challenges of Data
- 13 | Investment in Innovation
- 17 | Empowering Research
- 20 | Childhood Cancer Champions
- 23 | Stewardship
- 24 | Join Our Fight

BRIDGE TO A CURE FOUNDATION IS ON
A MISSION TO UNIFY AND TRANSFORM
THE CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH
COMMUNITY TO REDUCE CHILDHOOD
CANCER DEATHS 50% BY 2030.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear Friends,

I think we can all agree that this past year was unlike any other. Despite the challenges, Bridge To A Cure Foundation has had a momentous year, and I look forward to sharing our progress and plan for 2022.

So let me get right to the point.

Brain tumors are the number one cause of death in children. The deadliest of all cancers. Our goal is to cure pediatric brain tumor cancer by 2030. If we do, we achieve our mission.

Admittedly, this is an audacious goal, since there has never been a drug developed to cure childhood brain tumor cancer. So how can a small nonprofit accomplish what large institutions with the best scientific minds have not? How can Bridge To A Cure Foundation dramatically improve the current state of childhood cancer?

We are succeeding by establishing a network of institutions committed to accelerating access to full data sets that researchers require for scientific discovery that leads to cures.

The pages that follow substantiate how our strategies and plans will accelerate discovery of childhood cancer cures. None of these tremendous strides forward would have been

possible without our partnership organizations and engaged coalition of supporters. If you aren't already taking part, we invite you to help us accelerate the realization of cures for childhood cancer.



Thank you – big time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Martin".

Robert Martin
Founder & President



OUR INSPIRATION

Foundation president Robert Martin's granddaughter Clara Ely was just six years old in 2017 when she lost her battle with a form of brain cancer. Her remarkable courage and optimistic spirit continue to inspire the work of Bridge To A Cure Foundation.

FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

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THE CURRENT STATE OF CHILDHOOD CANCER

**Not enough progress has been made,
and the reasons why are shocking.**

The field of childhood cancer has attracted some of the best minds and institutions. Yet, cures for the most devastating forms of childhood cancer remain frustratingly out of reach. Bridge To A Cure Foundation has identified several systemic failures within the childhood cancer research community that mire progress toward desperately needed treatments and cures.

INADEQUATE ACCESS TO DATA

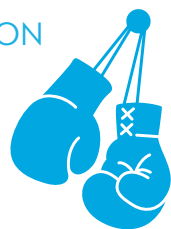
Our brightest medical minds do not have the critical data they need for scientific discovery.



Critical data is stored in various consortia. Access to that data may be limited, outdated, or simply unavailable.

LIMITED COLLABORATION

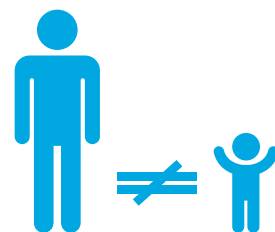
Institutions compete to reach new milestones in research – because it impacts their fundraising opportunities and prestige.



The research tends to be done in silos, so a breakthrough in one area may not be shared with those who may find applications for it in their areas of study.

INAPPROPRIATE CLINICAL TRIAL PROCESS

The clinical trial process was designed for adults. Children’s bodies react differently than adult bodies to treatment. Also, adult trial criteria fails to consider the child’s horrific suffering, emotional strain on families, potential for deep psychological scars, and debilitating financial burden.



SCARCITY OF FUNDING

GOVERNMENT NEGLECT: A mere 2/10 of 1% of government spending is allocated to childhood cancer research.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY DISINTEREST: The market is too small to justify the investment because it wouldn’t generate the financial return that investors demand.

FAILED INVESTMENT PROGRAMS: Federal laws meant to encourage drug companies to invest in pediatric clinical trials have not been effective.

TAXPAYER ALLOCATION: Just 4% of the National Cancer Institute’s budget is invested in childhood cancer research. Most spending is directed toward adult forms of the disease.

DILUTED RESOURCES

There are simply too few patients and not enough dollars to support the number of pediatric cancer facilities, laboratories, and nonprofits.



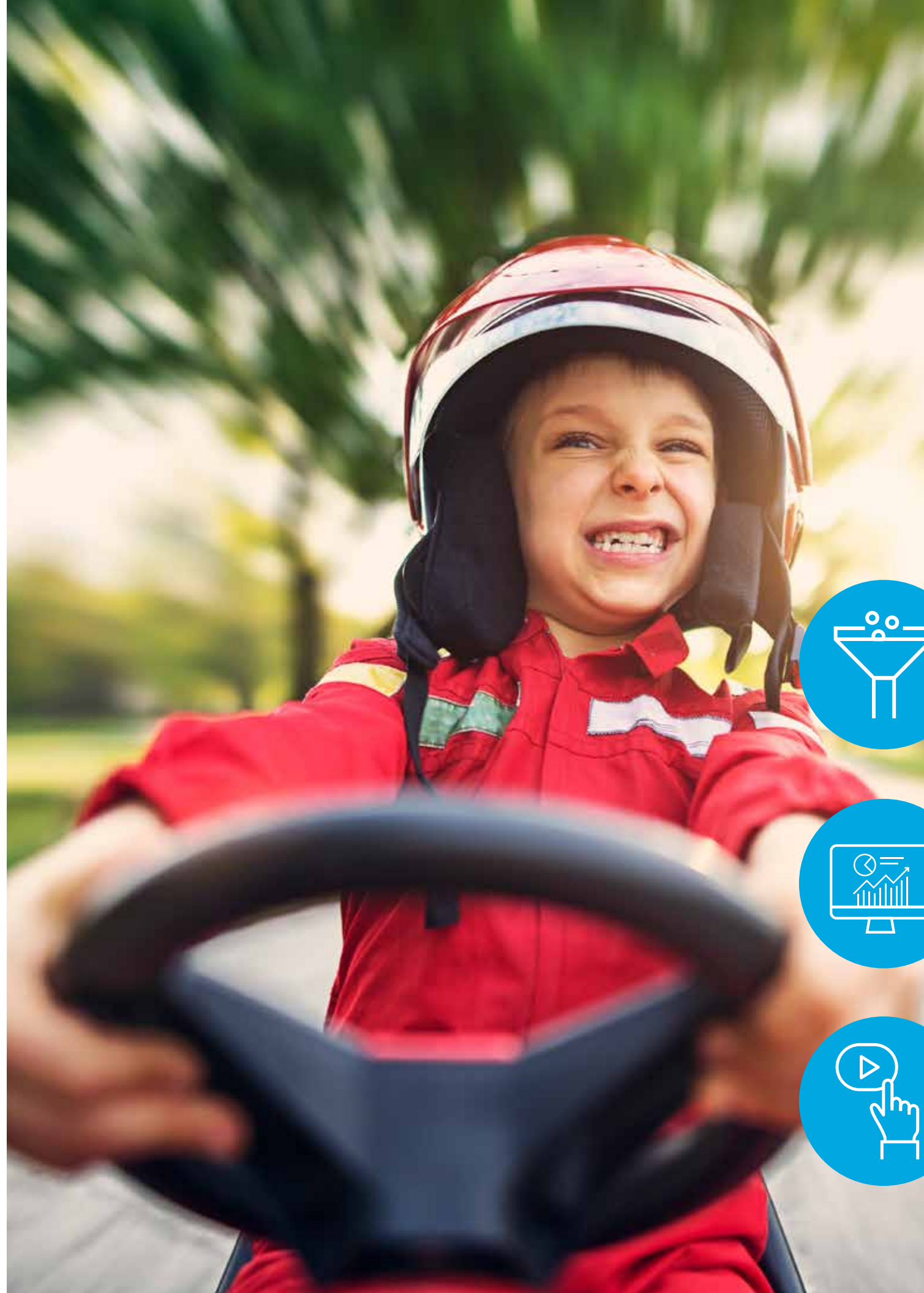
BRIDGE TO A CURE IS DRIVING PROGRESS FORWARD

With the creation of a national cancer database, researchers can share with and learn from each other. We’re unifying resources, people, and organizations that are working to find cures. We believe that together we can become the “squeaky wheel” that receives the attention—and the funding—that this approach deserves.



THE CRITICAL ROLE OF DATA TO ACCELERATE DISCOVERY

Enhanced data sharing empowers discovery and accelerates personalized medicine. That's why creating a national database that contains everything we need to fight childhood brain cancers has been our top priority this past year.



Bridge To A Cure's plan to maximize the availability of comprehensive data sets, collect and store this data in a consistent manner, and apply a uniform lexicon for childhood cancer is essential to reaching the critical mass needed to drive breakthroughs.

DATA COLLECTION

FOCUS: Identify what needs to be collected and in what format

GOAL: Define and unify terminology



DATA STORAGE

FOCUS: Create efficient databases formatted to process meaningful insight

GOAL: Model open science



DATA ACCESS

FOCUS: Provide easy, real-time access to facilitate analysis and discovery

GOAL: Facilitate database adoption and provide AI tools

Building a robust and comprehensive database is the most important thing we can do to speed the delivery of cures. Yet there are many obstacles that lie in the way, including the immense challenge of harmonizing data of many different types and from many different sources.



CHALLENGES OF DATA COLLECTION

Currently, this requires painstaking manual processing and building large consortia that includes experts from each cohort. We are working to streamline this expensive, arduous, and inefficient process.



FUNDING

Some of the country's most prestigious healthcare systems are sitting on billions in reserve that could be invested to collect and share data more seamlessly. And, some of the largest nonprofits provide research grants without requiring data to be shared.

RESOURCES

Another critical need includes recruiting and paying for investigators to process data sets from biospecimens provided by patient families.

POLICY & REGULATION

There are significant issues relating to policy, regulations, and privacy ethics that must be addressed, as well as technological, logistical, and resource hurdles that must be overcome for seamless data sharing.

CHALLENGES OF STORAGE & ACCESS

Data sharing is currently **not an expectation of research** nor a condition for funding it. Sometimes the data collected is not shared outside an individual institution or consortia, and sometimes it is shared years after it is collected, when the particular research project has been completed. This is unnecessary and unacceptable.

And only recently has machine learning technology begun to catch up with what's needed to process large groups of data accurately and efficiently. We now sit on the precipice of scientific discovery through artificial intelligence.



INVESTMENT IN INNOVATION

Since the founding of Bridge To A Cure six years ago, we have worked tirelessly to reduce childhood cancer deaths and end the agony of so many thousands of suffering children and devastated families.

We started this ambitious work by presenting the case for a robust national database, the use of machine learning (AI) to accelerate data processing, and the need for greater collaboration within the research community to National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director Ned Sharpless in October 2017. This conversation led to the [Childhood Cancer Data Initiative \(CCDI\) at NCI](#), a \$500 million, decade-long effort to fulfill our recommendation.

We've honed this model to build more quickly by focusing solely on [brain tumors, the #1 killer of kids](#) by disease. This model may serve as a potential model to cure other serious childhood diseases and disorders.

ALIGNING PARTNERSHIPS TO TURBO-CHARGE RESULTS



ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION

In June of 2021, Foundation President Robert Martin joined the board of directors of St. Baldrick's Foundation, the largest non-government funder of childhood cancer research grants. Bridge To A Cure provided \$10,000 toward the more than \$310 million St. Baldrick's has raised to fund 1,620 research grants. The goal of Bridge To A Cure is to influence this important funder to support open science projects in cooperation with institutions like CBTN. Further, we provide leadership and strategic insight to enhance operations.



SMASHING WALNUTS FOUNDATION

We're calling on Congress to pass the Gabriella Miller Kids First 2.0 Act to fund childhood cancer and disease research in perpetuity without relying on taxpayer dollars. Teaming up with Ellyn Miller of Smashing Walnuts Foundation, Bridge To A Cure leadership met with federal legislators to educate them about this commonsense legislation that can save thousands of lives. To date, more than 80 legislators have cosponsored the bipartisan bill, and 135 Bridge To A Cure supporters signed on to a letter of support.

PEDIATRIC CANCER DATA COMMONS

PEDIATRIC CANCER DATABASE COMMONS (PCDC)

Bridge To A Cure granted PCDC \$50,000 to accelerate the completion of a childhood brain tumor dictionary that gives researchers a single, unified vocabulary for recording and interpreting data. Now, the data processed can reflect the same terminology no matter where in the world the data is recorded.



NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

We continue to push for the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI) to fund consolidation and expansion of childhood brain tumor data to develop a model that can be used for all childhood cancers. This project has been funded by the federal government at \$50 million annually over ten years. NCI has identified our partner CBTN as the model for building an effective national childhood cancer database in part due to the endorsement of Bridge To A Cure Foundation.



CHILDREN'S BRAIN TUMOR NETWORK (CBTN)

CBTN is the largest bio-repository of its kind in the country, and it serves as a model for the national childhood cancer database envisioned by Bridge To A Cure. The foundation is a member of the CBTN Executive Council, pushing for institutional participation and peer foundation support along with providing expertise in strategic planning and communications. In June, Bridge To A Cure Foundation provided a \$25,000 grant to further this initiative.



EMPOWERING RESEARCH

We have exceeded expectations.

We have created the model.

It's time to find a cure!

As we move into 2022,
Bridge To A Cure Foundation is
accelerating our efforts even more
to ensure we make the finish line in
reducing childhood cancer deaths
50% by 2030 — or even earlier.

The Bridge To A Cure CBTN Fund

There's an amazing alignment forming between Bridge To A Cure Foundation and Children's Brain Tumor Network that will allow crucial leverage of both organizations' resources to boost the efforts of all thanks to a new Bridge To Cure Fund within CBTN.

CBTN shares our values and mission. They know our model. And we agree: it's time to accelerate cures for childhood cancer – once and for all.



To this end, Bridge To A Cure Foundation is in the process of setting up the “Bridge To A Cure CBTN Fund” to support CBTN database-building operations, including Project Accelerate.



Made possible, in part, by resources provided through a National Institutes of Health program, Project Accelerate speeds research to save kids by significantly increasing the size and scale of information available to researchers, scientists, and healthcare providers worldwide. And, it will advance personalized medicine, ensuring that doctors and clinicians can deliver the right diagnosis and treatment for each individual child. The more data available to researchers, the higher the potential for novel insights that lead to breakthroughs in treatment.



Project Accelerate researchers are prioritizing the most aggressive tumor types, supporting discoveries for those cancers where there is a lack of existing data. Within the next year, approximately 4,000 patient samples within the CBTN biobank will be characterized at the Broad Institute of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. CBTN will then make this flood of new information available to all researchers everywhere, around the world.

CONSORTIA CONSOLIDATION

Bridge To A Cure Foundation noticed that research data and discoveries are not being shared in an efficient, effective way. This means that there is an incredible amount of critical data that does not get shared with all those who need it.

In the coming year we'll be calling on America's largest childhood cancer database consortia – Children's Brain Tumor Network (CBTN), Pacific Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Consortium (PNOC), and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium (PBTC) – to share the data their member institutions collect with the entire scientific research community. In doing so, researchers can access a new treasure trove of childhood cancer data and eliminate costly redundancies, vastly accelerating breakthroughs to cures.

Only by unifying can we reach our shared goal to finally, once and for all, end childhood cancer. We honor these generous donors who in 2021 joined us in saying,

“We’ve had enough.”

Ken & Gwen Asher
Judy Barnett
John Bartlett
Dick & Jan Bean
Ray & Barbara Beaulieu
Montague Belanger
Francoise Bell
Rose Bertucci
Kevin Bostater
Jeff & Colette Brazer
Bob & Cindy Brazer
Debbie Burnside
Tom Callans
Joe & Barbara Cameratta
Anna Campanelli
Charlene Caprio
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Atwood Collins
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Ian Cook

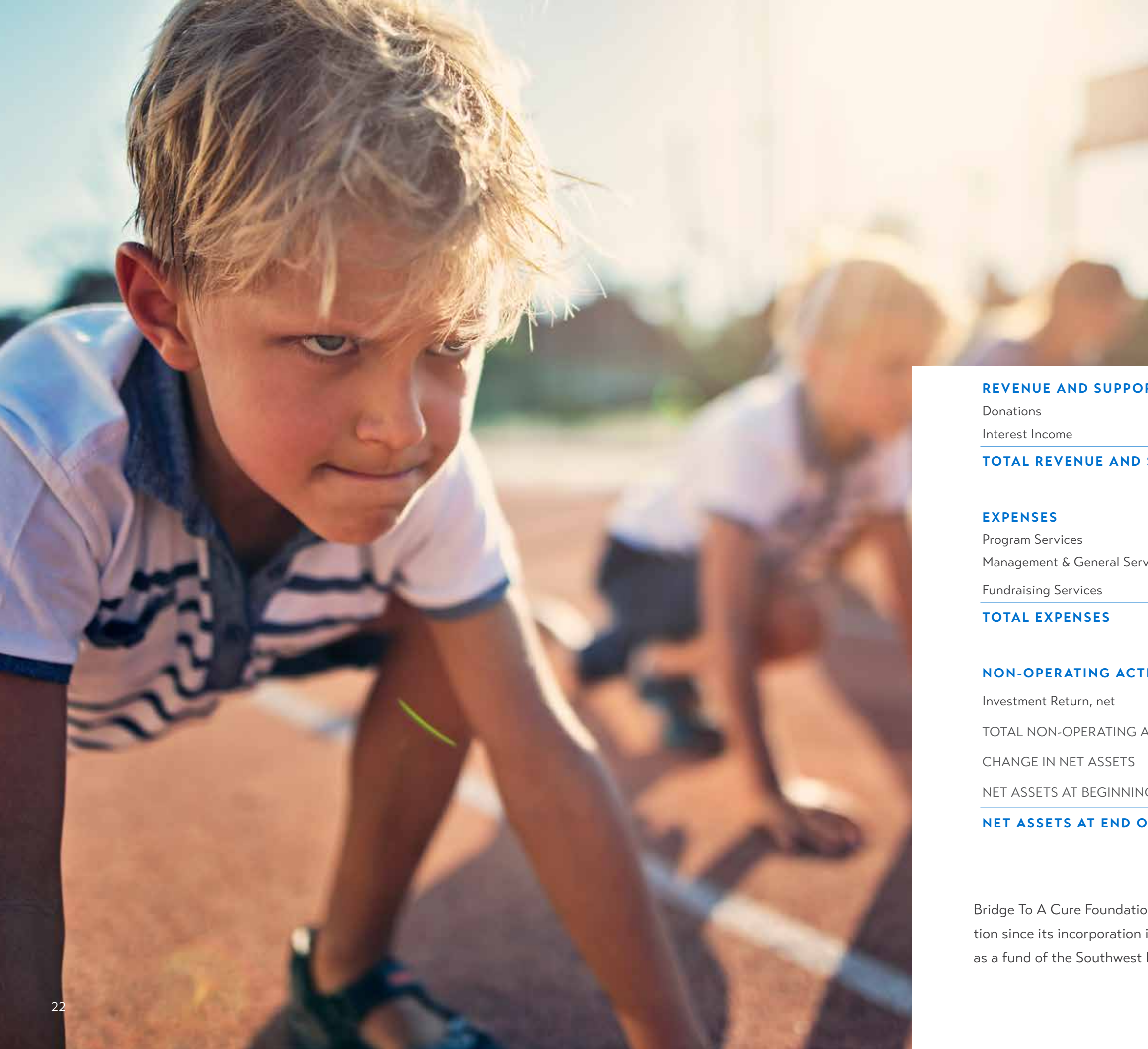
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Peter & Ann Tombros
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The Vitale Family
John & Christina Walsh
Steve & Sandy Ward
Mara Wesolaski
Jeff & Kathy Whitley
Janice Wilkinson
Marianne Witdorchie
Gerry & Jacque Wolken
Harold & Debbie Wright



FINANCIAL REPORT
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
 FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	TOTAL
REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
Donations	\$ 255,897
Interest Income	6
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	255,903
EXPENSES	
Program Services	173,247
Management & General Services	68,187
Fundraising Services	12,887
TOTAL EXPENSES	254,321
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Investment Return, net	94
TOTAL NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES	94
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,676
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	87,308
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 88,984

Bridge To A Cure Foundation has operated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization since its incorporation in September 2019. Prior to that, the Foundation operated as a fund of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation.

JOIN OUR FIGHT

VOLUNTEER

Whether you'd like to give your time on an ongoing basis or for a short-term project, your time and talents will greatly enhance our efforts.

FUNDRAISE

Create your own campaign to support Bridge To A Cure Foundation. Make it a great time while you make a difference. Visit BridgeToACure.org for ideas that bring "fun" to your fundraiser.

ADVOCATE

Write emails or set appointments with decision-makers and legislators, forward our latest blog stories, and share social media content with your friends and connections.

SHOP

Bridge To A Cure Foundation is a registered charitable organization with some of the nation's largest online retailers, including Amazon-Smile, PayPal, and eBay.

SHARE

If you've been touched by childhood cancer, we want to hear your story. We're ready to listen, with resources, compassion, and acceptance.

DONATE

Give once or give monthly when you visit BridgeToACure.org/donate. For other ways to give, visit the website's support page to see check, stock, wire, employer matching, or legacy giving options.

CONNECT

   @BTACFoundation

Visit bridgetoacure.org/support or call 877.460.2873 to learn more.





BRIDGE TO A CURE FOUNDATION, INC.

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