

The Piggyback Foundation

Carrying Families Through Times of Need Since 2007



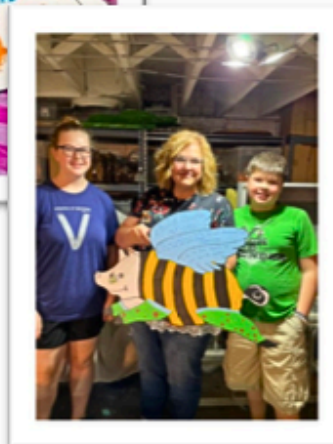
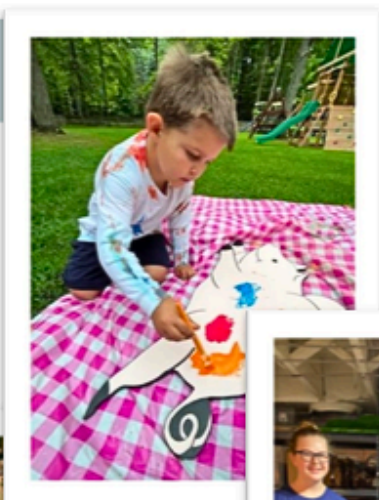
Bringing Joy to Children for 15 Years

As the year comes to a close, it is time to reflect upon how, together, we have supported local families and friends through some of the most difficult times in their lives.

I am especially pleased to share this issue of our Piggyback Foundation newsletter. It is filled with stories and pictures that will touch your heart, renew your hope, and update you on the joy we have brought to children and families in 2022.

None of this would be possible without our board members, managers, volunteers, and philanthropic friends. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your hard work and dedication to our mission.

As we approach the season of giving, we ask you to consider donating to The Piggyback Foundation to support our good works, because every child loves a piggyback ride.



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Piggyback's Good Works



All in the Numbers: 2021-2022 YTD

Piggyback Foundation

Dollars Raised: \$179,256

Amount Donated to Families: \$126,690

Families Served: 61

Children Served: 160

2021/22 Fundraisers & Public Support

Personal Donations to
PBF: \$57,900

Corporate Donations:
\$44,201

Fundraisers: \$30,731

Grants: \$15,000

When Pigs Fly

2021-2022 YTD Giving

\$62,964

35% of PBF funding is raised by WPF

78% Gross profit is given to PBF

It's All About the Joy

Gave \$5,000 in scholarships—Back to school funds—purchased 2 computers for students—helped 22 children with sports fees, horseback riding lessons, music lessons, acting classes—arranged and delivered 21 Halloween Buckets - over \$13,000 sent to 21

PBF to help with Christmas in 2021—helped 5 families with a Disney vacation—provided financial assistance for a trip to New York, Niagara Falls, school trip to D.C., trip to Texas to visit family, Cedar Point trips—Limo ride to celebrate ringing the cancer free bell—provided gas cards to families—paid for 14 kids to attend Camp Patmos—Cleveland Air Show tickets



How to Help a Friend

By Tricia Ebner

As a former Piggyback family and now as a board member/family liaison, I have experienced firsthand the “Do’s and Don’ts” of managing a life-threatening illness. When life gets messy some people retreat. It isn’t necessarily that they do not care, but often times they are scared and don’t want to do or say the wrong thing. Here are a few suggestions that were helpful for my family during my health journey:

Acknowledgement—Acknowledge the situation.

It is ok to say, “ I don’t know what to say but this is awful and I want you to know I care.” Acknowledge that you may not understand their current situation, but you wish you could make things better. As friends, we want to make things better, but we sometimes can not. Avoid saying things like “Look on the bright side” or give advice when you are not the expert. Well-meaning but nonapplicable advice or stories about your sister’s mother-in-law may make you feel as if you are relating to your friend, but it can actually make him/her feel more isolated. Verbal affirmation that this is a scary time brings comfort and shows your loved one that you love them enough to be willing to listen. Initially, if conversation is too scary, consider sending them a card every week until you are ready to have a conversation with them. Don’t NOT do anything!

2 Corinthians 1:4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God

Pray!! - The power of prayer is real!

Lift your friend/family member up in prayer! With their permission, add him/her to a prayer chain or on a prayer list at your church. (The purpose for asking permission is to ensure you don’t reveal anything too personal.) Consider inviting your friend to church or doing a bible study with them, text scripture regularly, and remind them that you are praying.

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

Family Support

When someone is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, the whole family is affected. The spouse is often alone and feels isolated. He/she is expected to be the rock of the family while their world is in crisis. It is also important to remember that all people handle stress differently! Some may act like everything is going well on the outside, but be falling apart on the inside. Take them out for coffee, go shopping or to a baseball game, offer to help with a project around the house. Remind them that they are not alone; ACKNOWLEDGE that they too are going through something scary.

Young kids need to be kept busy and need outlets to burn their endless amounts of energy. Offer to take them to the park or out to lunch with a playland area. It is important for kids to feel normal, have fun, and get out of the house. Older children in the home also need attention and love. Consider a gas gift card so they can visit friends, a gift card to the movies or out to dinner.

One Important piece of advice: Although you may have good intentions, you are not to be the child’s counselor. This is the job of the parents—sick or healthy. You may want to offer advice or suggest a professional to help the family, but please do not overstep your boundaries as a family friend—you may cause more harm than good.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them fall down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Vintage Fashion & Tea Party Fundraiser

The Piggyback Foundation, along with Mousie Mae Vintage Boutique, hosted a fashion show and tea party in May of 2022 with great success. It was wonderful to see so many ladies enjoying fashion from previous decades, all while raising money to support the Piggyback Foundation.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, raffle donations, The Village Barn, Mousie Mae Vintage Boutique, and all the volunteers that helped make this event a success!!

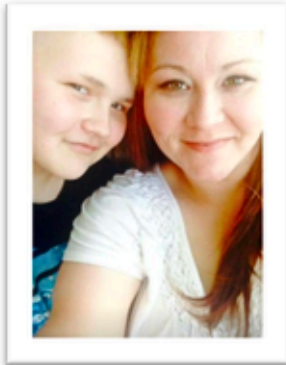


MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Lisa Bogan

Board Member/Family Liaison

Lisa joined our board summer of 2022, but has been a part of the Piggyback family for a long time. She is kind and compassionate and is an asset to have as a volunteer for The Piggyback Foundation. Here is her story.



The Piggyback Foundation is very near and dear to my entire family! We had a sweet angel boy in our lives till age 17. He fought a rare joint cancer from age eight on.

Piggyback adopted our Spencer as their own. From birthday parties, to an iPad for prolonged hospital stays, Piggyback was there every step of the way! Not just for Spencer, but for his siblings too!

Spencer resides in Heaven now, since September 17th, 2019. Piggyback framed all of his art for his last debut.

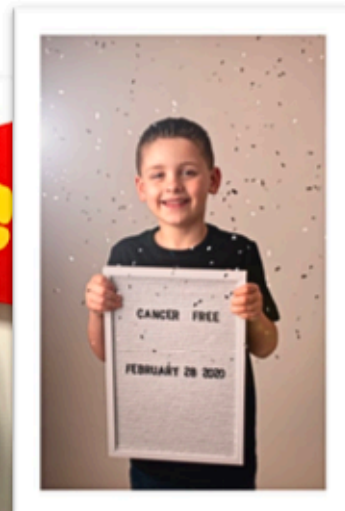


Natalie Wechter

Board Member/Family Liaison

The Piggyback Foundation was my saving grace back in 2017 when my son Preston was diagnosed with ALL leukemia. I had just recently moved to Norwalk from Columbus and was also in the midst of a divorce. The Piggyback family embraced us with open arms and helped us through one of the most difficult times of our lives. They helped us with birthday parties, holidays, bills, gas, groceries and everything else in between. They helped my daughter with her dance classes, paid for a family membership to the rec center to take the kids swimming and most memorably, arranged for us to take the kids on the Polar Express in a VIP train car with just our family in order to minimize his contact with others during a critical time in his chemo treatment.

There will never be the right words to express the gratitude that I have for this foundation, however, joining the board was just one small step that I was able to take to help pay it forward. It is a blessing to have the opportunity to help offer other families the sense of support, love and security that we were once granted at the time when we needed it the most. One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone and this absolutely embodies everything that this foundation stands for and I am blessed and honored to be a small part of that.



Amon's Story

Our son Amon was diagnosed with Acute B-Cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia in July of 2020, one month after he had turned 3. He was always a healthy little boy, as far as we knew, so this was a shock to our family. At the time of his diagnosis, we were told that Amon's bone marrow was comprised of about 77% Leukemia cells. Amon remained hospitalized for a few weeks before he was able to receive regular outpatient chemotherapy treatments, Which continued until just last month when he was able to ring the bell of treatment completion!

Amon took part in a clinical trial where he had to wear a backpack with a pump to deliver continuous chemo for many weeks. He was hospitalized several times throughout treatment due to complications from the side effects of his medications, or from illness as a result of his compromised immune system. Each hospital stay, appointment, routine Covid swab before each procedure, and every blood draw took place at Main Campus in Cleveland. Despite all of the struggles, our family of six is extremely fortunate and we feel this deeply.



Amon is a Kindergarten student, and since he stopped his daily oral chemotherapy medications just a few weeks ago, his energy and stamina have noticeably

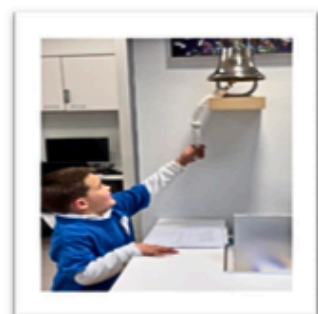
changed. We are incredibly lucky to know that he will be able to live a carefree, full childhood, while also feeling good. A long time ago we were told that a period of "post traumatic growth" is often observed after going through an experience like his, and we are seeing this already.



"The day before my child was diagnosed, I wasn't a cancer parent either." I saw this on an awareness post during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and it really resonated with me. It was extremely distressing to go through the few weeks and months after Amon was diagnosed, but it was compounded even more because this all took place right in the heart of 2020 when we were completely separated from any other families. There were no support groups or even conversations in the waiting room. At no point could family members, including siblings, participate in anything at the hospital. In other words, we didn't know what we were missing, until we felt what it was like to feel connected and supported, and we found that with the Piggyback Foundation.

This was well over a year after we began the journey. I was given the name of this organization from another mother from Vermilion whose daughter was a Stage IV Rhabdomyosarcoma survivor. Her family was a "Piggyback Family"

and when we connected on the phone, she spoke at length about how wonderful and supportive they had been. She also has four children, so she expressed her gratitude at Piggyback's mission to support families in special ways, such as helping to fund extracurricular endeavors for siblings. All of these extras such as athletics, music lessons and camps add up quickly, but they also provide a balanced sense of fun and enjoyment in the lives of siblings. My daughter often reminds me that I can really take the fun out of things when I dwell too much on the financial aspects, and so this year we have been so blessed to be under the care of Marty who is our outreach member from the organization. She has been so warm and caring. She has come to our home and kept in touch with us throughout the months. She checks in around appointment times, and I'm able to request help when needed, which allows our children to live in a state of relative normalcy. I remember very fondly when my late Grandmother would fold a crisp \$20 bill into her hand, and pass it into my hand in a handshake. "Here some 'mad money'", she would say. I'd know it to mean that I could use it to enjoy life. Treat myself to something. And if it was something that I needed anyway like gas for my car or groceries, well, the burden was lifted that she was treating! I feel that same "warm fuzzy" feeling with Marty and the amazing group of women that make up this organization. Thank you for helping us to feel connected, supported and loved.





31 East Main Street
Norwalk, Ohio 44857

419-660-1932

Store Hours
Tuesday—Saturday
10:00-4:00

Check us out on Facebook for special
holiday hours and sales!!

www.whenpigsflynorwalk.com

When Pigs Fly Giving

2021 Yearly Sales—\$425,092

2022 (Jan-Sept) Sales—\$253,627

2021-2022 Giving—\$62,964

Total Amount Given to PBF since
2007—\$497, 182



When Pigs Fly By the Lake



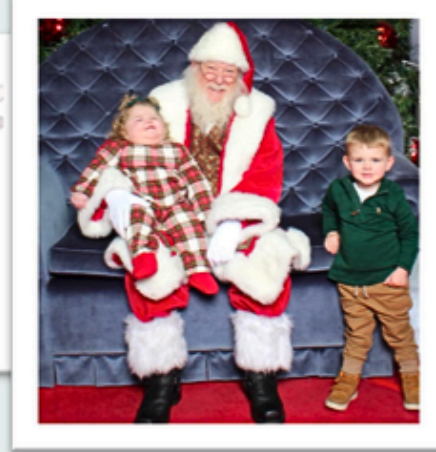
509 Main Street
Huron, Ohio 44839

Shop: 419-616-5288

Cell: 419-602-2661

Store Hours
Wednesday – Saturday
10:00 - 4:00

Call for donation times



WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PIGGYBACK FOUNDATION

- 1) **Make a Donation**—We are graciously accepting all gently used and new household items everyday during store hours. When Pigs Fly is always looking for items such as furniture, artwork, frames, dinnerware, jewelry, and much more! We also except monetary donations, which can be donated through our website, mailed, or dropped off at any of our stores.



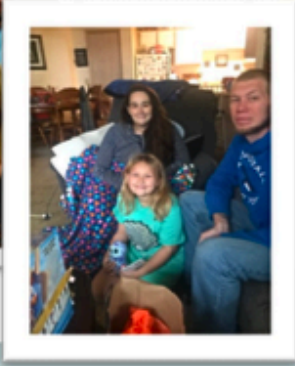
Scan the QR Code to make a donation on the Piggyback Foundation Website.

- 1) **Share your talents**— Quilting, knitting, decorating, furniture repair—If you have a special talent you would like to share, we would love to hear from you!
- 2) **Prayers**—Our Piggyback families need all the prayers they can get! If you are unable to donate or volunteer your time, please consider praying for our families. Never underestimate the power of prayer. For a list of families to add to your prayer list, check out The Piggyback Foundation’s website or stop by and ask one of our volunteers today.

PBF Executive Board: Lisa and Dirk Hiler, Lisa and Matt Herner,
Tom and Laurie Schmuhl

PBF Working Board: Lisa Bogan, Linda Camp, Natalie Wechter, Marty Long, Julie Murdock, Melissa Murphy,
Deb Lucal, Tricia Ebner, Krista Schafer

Advisory Board: Brian Lonz, Jodi Stang, Nancy Kaczor, Anne Hiler, Sheri Glennaman



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:

_____ \$25.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ \$75.00 _____ \$100.00 _____ \$300.00

Other: \$ _____

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.

\$300.00
Supports a child for
Christmas

