

A Future That Puts **FAMILY FIRST**



ANNUAL REPORT
24 | 25

From our Founder and Board Chair

For Pete's Sake was founded 25 years ago when Marci's husband Pete Bossow, Jr. passed away from cancer at just 30 years old.

From that heartbreak came a dream that has impacted thousands of families.

Pete dreamed that everyone facing cancer would have the chance to have respite: some time away to live, love, and laugh together during the arduous journey with cancer and be present in mind, body, and soul. We at For Pete's Sake have put his dream into action, working with oncology professionals to create a Family Health Model that is proven to improve relationships and outcomes during the cancer battle for patients, caregivers and children. Cancer survivors experienced improved spousal communication, family hardiness, joviality and coping efficacy, and we were honored to be featured in the journal *Academia Mental Health and Well-Being* through a paper by Dr. Hamrick et al. highlighting these findings earlier this year. Yes, FPS is published!

Even as we celebrate how far we've come and the thousands of cancer patients and their families who have been given the gift of respite, we are looking towards the next chapter for this organization. We have begun work on the nation's first Cancer Respite Center in Hawley, PA, and are excited to begin vertical construction next year. We continue to grow our Respite Reinforced programming which works with FPS patients and families after their Respite Experiences to provide additional resources, webinars, and chances to connect as a community. And we're working on growing our impact by expanding our reach beyond the five states we've historically served throughout our history.

All of this adds up to one thing: an organization that puts family first.

We don't know precisely what the next 25 years holds for us, but we're excited to head into it with a clear goal: To build the nation's first Cancer Respite Center and serve more families facing cancer with a Respite Experience.

Thank you for supporting For Pete's Sake as we provide transformative Respite Experiences to cancer patients and help families recognize it is love, not cancer, that defines them.



Marci Schankweiler

Marcella B. Schankweiler, Esq.
Founder and CEO



Meghan Patton

Meghan Patton
Board Chair



mis • sion

/ˈmiʃ(ə)n/ noun

For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite Foundation (FPS) enables cancer patients and their loved ones to strengthen, deepen and unify their relationships by creating unforgettable and lasting Respite Experiences

vi • sion

/ˈviʒHən/ noun

FPS strives to enhance cancer care by supporting the entire family unit through the familial, physical, psychological, emotional, financial and spiritual challenges that accompany a cancer diagnosis

res • pite

/ˈrespət/ noun

a short period of rest or relief from something difficult

res • pite ex • pe • ri • ence

/ˈrespət ik-ˈspir-ē-əns/ noun

1 a carefully curated getaway that offers pause, rest and reconnection for families navigating the weight of a cancer journey

2 *travel respite* — a community experience hosted at Woodloch Resort, a top-rated lakeside destination known for warm hospitality, delicious meals and activities for all ages

3 *staycation respite* — for advanced-stage cancer patients unable to travel that offers comfort, connection and relief at home

Celebrating 25 years of respite!

This year, we celebrated the power of one person's vision: Pete Bossow Jr.

Pete's passing marked the beginning of a mission to bring respite to young adult cancer patients and their families. The next 25 years revealed the power of a community with a shared vision, highlighting the importance of supporting families during the cancer crisis.

From the first respite gifted to Pete and Marci by their loved ones, to reaching the milestone of serving our 12,000th individual, every achievement has been made possible by the unwavering support of our FPS Community.

For that, we say a heartfelt THANK YOU!



1999

Pete Bossow, Jr. passes away from testicular cancer at age 30, launching the creation of For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite Foundation.



2000

The first patient travels on an FPS Respite to Sea Isle City, NJ.



2019

The first community respite model at Woodloch Resort is piloted.



2024

Sept 1, 2024 marked 25 years of For Pete's Sake, and with it came an announcement of the nation's first Cancer Respite Center!

The Next 25 Years:

THE NATION'S FIRST CANCER RESPITE CENTER

FPS is taking a monumental step to realize Pete's vision with the creation of the nation's first Cancer Respite Center. This state-of-the-art center will serve over 4,000 patients, caregivers and their families annually, providing a dedicated space where they can step away from the constant cycle of medical treatments and focus on healing and reconnection.



RESPITE *Transformed*
PETE'S VISION REALIZED AT WOODLOCH



Pictured on the right: Pete Bossow in July 1999, just two months before his passing. During this time, he outlined his original vision for the respite center. The blueprints above, created shortly after his death, capture that vision.



Senator Lisa Baker, Respite Recipient, Jen Coleman, Woodloch Owner, Bob Kiesendahl and FPS Founder and CEO, Marci Schankweiler at the site of the future Cancer Respite Center

This groundbreaking initiative has raised \$17M towards a \$32M goal for the Respite Transformed Campaign. This will fund the \$25M facility and add an additional \$7M endowment for long-term sustainability.

In November 2024, the campaign received a generous \$3.5M Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant from Governor Josh Shapiro with the endorsement of Senator Lisa Baker. We are also grateful to our private donors that have generously contributed to this endeavor.



View campaign progress and construction updates by visiting respitetransformed.org

FPS Health Model

By addressing these areas of a family's health, the Respite Experience yields improved communication, stronger relationships, greater community support, reduced anxiety, better treatment adherence, an enhanced outlook on life and healthier coping with a cancer diagnosis.

FAMILY HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH

PHYSICAL HEALTH

PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH

SPIRITUAL HEALTH

FINANCIAL HEALTH

WHO WE SERVE

- The mean age of the patients we serve is 37
- 68% of patients exhibit advanced stages of cancer
- 84% of our families are under financial duress

HOW WE SERVE

Oncology professionals nominate patients between the ages of 21 and 55 with all cancer types and stages

STATES SERVED



"The friendships I've made on respite have given me a sense of belonging that I didn't even know I was missing. And it's just the beginning.

I feel lighter and more optimistic about my life, and empowered to continue living it to the fullest."

ABBY
44, CARCINOMA

Family Health Model: In Practice

Under the direction of Dr. Natalie Hamrick, Research Psychologist, FPS conducted a five-year study on the impact of respite on family health. Dr. Hamrick, et al. wrote a paper entitled "Real-world holistic care for adult cancer survivors and their families: improved family dynamics and positive outlook" which was published in the journal *Academia Mental Health and Well-Being*.



STUDY FINDINGS:

- Cancer survivors improved on spousal communication, family hardiness, joviality and coping efficacy.
- Caregivers improved on spousal communication, child communication, joviality and coping efficacy.
- Children experienced increased joviality.

MEASURABLE IMPACT:

- 49% increase in patient's coping ability
- 44% increase in caregiver's coping ability
- 50% increase in child's coping ability
- 36,249 touchpoints with patients, caregivers, and families

Families pause, breathe, and reconnect: mindfulness and yoga in action during a Respite Experience



A Year of Community!



PETER R. BOSSOW, JR. MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

For the first time ever, FPS filled two courses for our golf tournament! It was a beautiful day on the greens, supporting families facing cancer.



Gala

Our generous community celebrated 25 years of FPS with an energetic "horse" race, a lively night of dancing and our most successful Fund a Family appeal yet.

NYC Happy Hour

Nearly 300 supporters gathered at for an energetic evening, raising over \$170,000 for our mission, marking it as our most successful Happy Hour ever!



FOR PETE'S SAKE
WALK!
STRIDE FOR RESPITE

On April 27, we came together at Citizens Bank Park with over 2,000 members of the FPS community, with fundraising totals coming in at over \$256,000!

A Year of Community!



Community Tailgate and Phillies Game

Thank you to the hundreds of FPS community members who joined us in May for our community tailgate! We gathered over cornhole and Uncle Oogie's pizza, and our top Walk fundraiser Sharon Colbridge threw out the first pitch!

Ladies Luncheon

Thank you to Alice Anne Bossow and our ardent supporters who hosted a beautiful Ladies Luncheon at Flourtown Country Club raising over \$9,000 for FPS.



Captain Bill Gallagher Island Run

Our active community formed a team of runners down in Sea Isle raising money and getting a workout in together!



Pancakes for Pete

Our FPS community gathered together in February for our annual Pancakes for Pete event celebrating For Pete's Sake Day!



Our Finances

Thank you for entrusting us with your donations and support. We have a commitment to transparency, and you can view all of our audited financial reports and disclosures on our **website**.

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE[^]

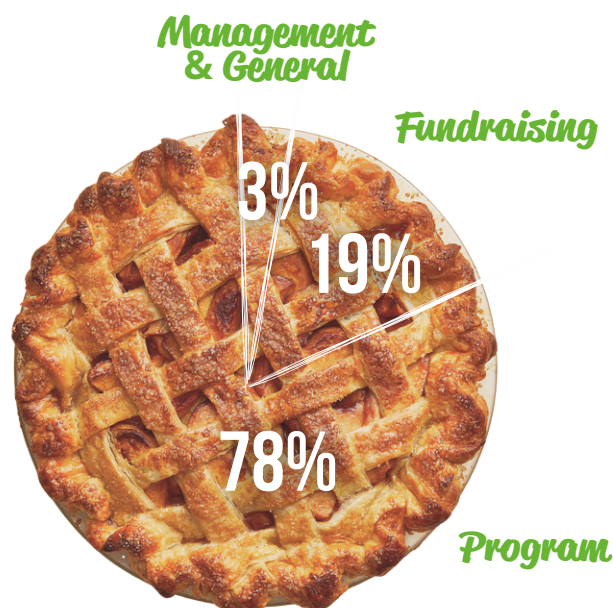
APPEAL TYPE	REVENUE
Annual Appeal	\$1,528,164
Community Events	\$89,584
Grants	\$247,185
Respite Transformed*	\$8,623,964
FPS Events (net of expense, does not include annual appeal)	\$386,204
In-Kind (does not include event related gifts)	\$695,156
Other Income**	\$496,838
Total	\$12,067,095

[^] Unaudited Financials

* Gifts made to our Respite Transformed campaign, includes \$3.5MM RACP grant and \$1MM planned gift. Learn more at www.respitetransformed.org.

** Other income includes investment and unrealized gains

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



In June, Mayleen was gifted a respite, just in time to celebrate a special milestone: her birthday.

She marked the moment surrounded by her family and friends made on respite, even getting a sweet surprise at dinner!



MAYLEEN
46, STOMACH CANCER



Our Finances

Giving Communities

INDIVIDUAL

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION

RESPIRE TRANSFORMED

LEGACY DONORS

MEMORY MAKERS

ENDOWMENT

55,872

hours of respite

3,880

meals provided

482

people served

119

families
traveled on
respite

"My entire family benefitted from this Respite Experience. My daughter Layla took her first steps while I was recovering from my craniotomy. Since she's been walking, Layla's unknowingly been sacrificing some of her childhood because of me having cancer. This respite gave her the chance to get to enjoy things other kids her age are enjoying.

Shai, my partner and caregiver, has selflessly dedicated his 31st year of life to taking care of me and our baby girl. He has been so strong for me, and this week allowed him to finally be taken care of.

I've really been able to take a step back and process feelings that I've been ignoring during treatment and start dealing with what we went through with these past few years. I'm just so thankful to get to experience this amazing opportunity!"



JENNIFER
33, BRAIN CANCER



Board of Directors

Meet our Staff

Reflects members that joined and transitioned during the 24-25 fiscal year

Marcella Bossow Schankweiler, Esq.
Founder and CEO

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Meghan Patton
Chair

Charles Greenberg
Board Member

Joseph Manion
Vice Chair

Bob Kiesendahl
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Board Member

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Board Member

Dr. Christopher Selgrath
Board Member

Christopher Condon
Board Member

Kristin Bello Williamson
Board Member

Caroline Duffy
Board Member

At 24, Julia had just finished college, married her partner, and was excited to settle into their new home.

Then everything changed with her diagnosis, abruptly turning her world upside down. She received an FPS Respite, which gave her a chance to reconnect and enjoy time together.

"This respite helped me feel like a person rather than just a patient. For the first time since my diagnosis, we had fun together without the overwhelming stress of cancer and treatment."



JULIA
24, BREAST CANCER



Gifts were made in memory of these special people.

Dr. John Karrat
Michelle M. Adams
Donna Albitz
Makala Ashmar
Daniel Aten
William Baudendistel
Lisa Bavuso
Pete Bayles
Kevin Behm
Paul Black
Pete R. Bossow, Jr.
George Boyd
Dawn Brenkert
Rebecca Brown
Paul W. Budd
Patricia M. Burkett
Jonathan Butler
Lorraine Carey
Patrick Carr
Nick Casale
Louis Cerritelli
Tung-Hp Chen
Gabe Cole
Emma Comly
Jovita Corace
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Christina Dech
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Jessica Divietro
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Kathi Donia
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Amy Egrie
Susan Fazio

Lisa Forlini
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Georgie Gavioli
Dianna Gavlak
Richard Geppert
Rachel Gerner
Jason Giani
David Godin
Elline Gonzalez
Rafael Gonzalez
Alison Hadden
Jen Hartman
Patrick Hasson
John Haupt
John Hayes
Joseph Heim
John Helwig
David Henderson
Robin J. Hendricks
Flavia M. Herzog
George Hoffmann
Terry Horne
Liam Houck
Dan Howard
Andy Jasner
Jackie Jeter
Joan Kiesendahl
Carolyn Kinnard
Thomas Kopach
Sara B. Laganelli
Mildred Largoza
Nancy Lelli
Peter Linn
Cindy Litzinger

Rose Lukoff
Jennifer Lyons
William Martino
Jeff Matyas
Sally McCracken
David McDonnell
Joanna McErlean
Bernard McLafferty
Sandy McMahan
William J. McMahon
Barbara Miller
Marilyn Miller
Joanne Moore
James Moran
Deborah Moyer
Dolores Mullen
Joseph Murphy III
Joseph Narehood
Theresa Newcomb
Dylan Newman
John Niemiec
Tehmina Noble
Mary Nolan
Paul Nutt
Kathy O'Beirne
Kevin O'Brien
Richard O'Donald
Joseph O'Neill
Kevin Oleksiak
Kerry Osterman
Daphne Paladini
Chad Peters
Helene Pileggi
Ronald Pinkos
Keith Pinto
Frank Porter

Brandon Prasse
Liz Preston
Crystal Pudleiner-Garrett
James F. Quigley
Marie Reed
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William Reynolds
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Donna Van Buren
Peter Vigna
John Wagstaff
Stacy J. Wehrenberg
Fred Weiner
Brent Williamson
Elizabeth Woolfolk
Nicole Woomer
Ron Zimmerman

Gifts were made in honor of these special people.

Caitlin Amprim

Jeff Boyle

Maryann Brophy

Kimberly Brown

Mary Casper

Natalo Cerniglia

Cristen Charnley

Jocelyn Cunningham

Stephanie Gleave

Sinnika Hansen

Helen Heany

Julie Hlebik

Michael Kadawathage

Catherine Koch

Carl Lahetta

Phillip Leduc

Jerry Lezynski

Peter Ma

Marty Markey

Amber Mercado

Robert Metroke

Kevin O'Brien

Ana O'Donnell

Robert O'Donnell

Alma O'Donnell

Nicole Papenmeyer

Gabbynick Peters

Paula Rose

Marcella Schankweiler

Mitchel Schear

Wendy Sendef-Lesher

Carmine Soldano

Sharon Sweeney

Meredith Tarditi

Justin Thomas





Volunteer



Donate



Young Professional Society



Partner With Us



Host a Fundraising Event



Leave a Legacy

Get Involved!

Thank you to everyone who has supported this mission and helped create life-changing Respite Experiences for the families we serve. We could not do this without our incredible village of supporters, staff, Board Members, volunteers, nominators, and advocates who help ensure a brighter future for families facing cancer. We hope you'll get involved and join us as we change the continuum of care for cancer patients and their families. Contact tom@takeabreakfromcancer.org to learn more about how to leave an impact, today.

Visit Us

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www.takeabreakfromcancer.org



@takeabreakfromcancer



Our recipients proudly showcase their creations from Paint N Sip, an activity that sparks creativity and demonstrates the healing power of art as therapy.