

# kesem<sup>®</sup>

*A child's friend through and beyond a parent's cancer.*

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## 2022 DONOR IMPACT REPORT

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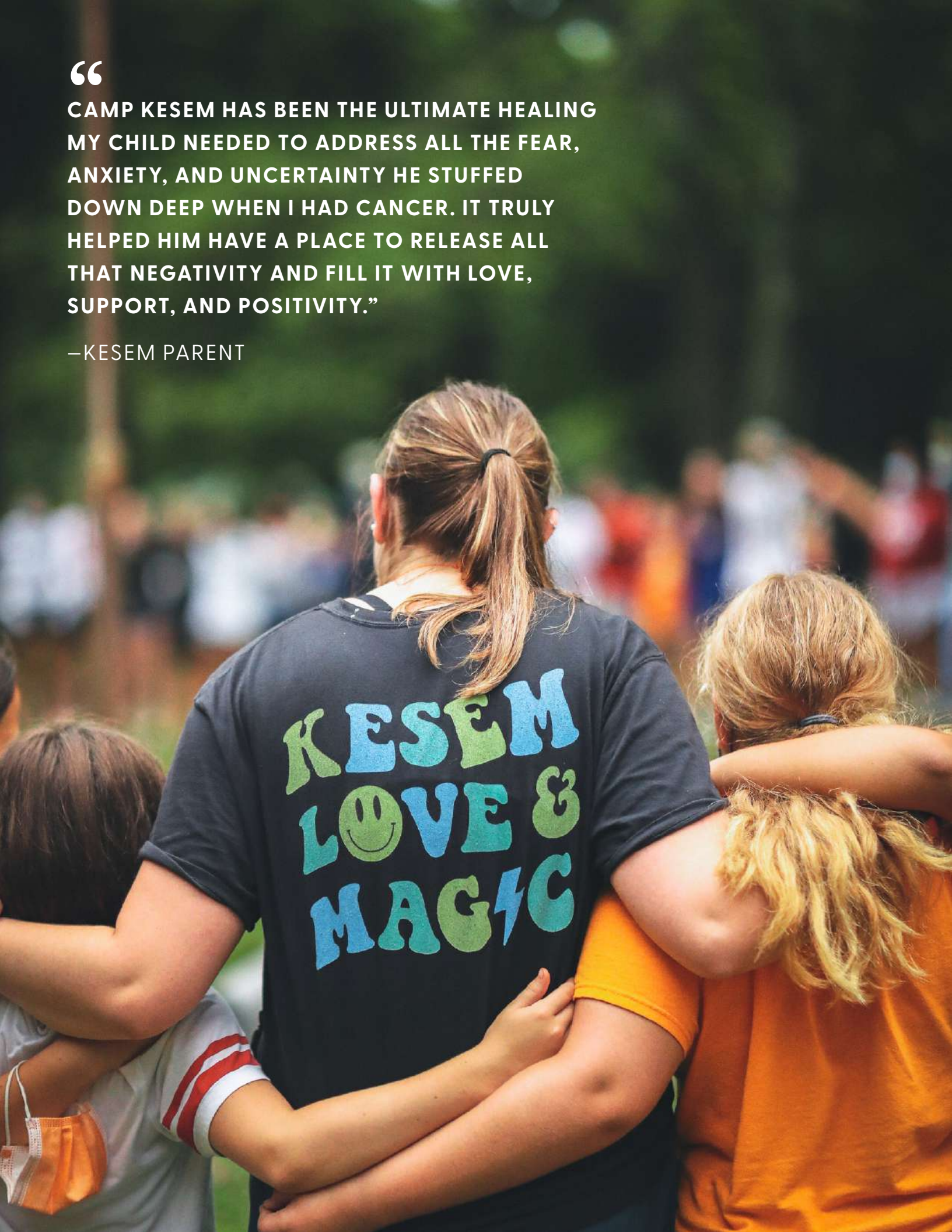




“

CAMP KESEM HAS BEEN THE ULTIMATE HEALING MY CHILD NEEDED TO ADDRESS ALL THE FEAR, ANXIETY, AND UNCERTAINTY HE STUFFED DOWN DEEP WHEN I HAD CANCER. IT TRULY HELPED HIM HAVE A PLACE TO RELEASE ALL THAT NEGATIVITY AND FILL IT WITH LOVE, SUPPORT, AND POSITIVITY.”

—KESEM PARENT



## OUR TOMORROW STARTS TODAY

Dear Kesem Friends and Family,

Kesem’s vision is that every child impacted by a parent’s cancer is never alone. How incredible is that? We envision a world where all of these five million children are supported, more resilient, and able to be their best selves—thanks to Kesem. Can you see it too?

Join us on an ambitious and exciting journey as we put into place our boldest strategic plan to grow our community and realize our vision.

We served nearly 7,000 children across the country this year at no cost to their families. While we were so proud to return to camp this summer, we are moving forward focused on our bigger ambitions. We’re expanding the number of children we serve and cultivating life-long skills in our incredible student leaders. We are also developing new programs to support even more children. Thank you for making all of this possible. As we expand to fulfill our mission on a greater scale, we’re excited to have you on this journey with us.

Kesem believes that all children facing a parent’s cancer deserve the chance to fully experience the joys of childhood. We are often asked how we amplify joy and hope during a parent’s cancer journey. It’s hard to describe this Kesem magic, but let us try:

Empowerment is one of the few times at camp where kids can choose to share about their parent or caregiver’s cancer journey. During Empowerment, we cry, we hug, and we support each other. And do you know what we do next? We have a dance party. We celebrate the parents and caregivers in our community, we lean into hope and joy, and we LIVE. We can hold both our sorrows and our joys in the same hands. This is the magic of Kesem.

Thank you for creating Kesem magic with us. Together, we will create a transformational community and ensure that every child affected by a parent’s cancer has the empowering support of Kesem.

Alicia Kabir  
Chief Executive Officer

Jay Stilwell  
Chair, National Board of Directors





# KESEM IN 2022

We served nearly **7,000 kids** through Camp Kesem

We successfully **recruited, supported, and developed the leadership skills** of more than **4,000 student volunteers**

We introduced a new **brand identity** to increase relevance, authority, and resonance in our field

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Kesem is an organization deeply committed to fulfilling its mission. We focus our support on a population that is often overlooked and isolated—children with parents who have or had cancer. A dark cloud settles over a family with a cancer diagnosis. Life as usual for both parent and child becomes overwhelming and scary, and it demands superhuman levels of courage. Over 20 years ago and in support of these families, we found a magic potion, bottled it in the form of summer camp, and began delivering it to children and families in need of myriad things: a break, some fun, a friend. We then also developed services so that Kesem’s magic could be shared year-round.

### WHAT’S NEXT, STARTS NOW

This year was our first year back to in-person Camp Kesem programming since 2019, and it reminded all of us of just how meaningful Kesem is to the families we serve and our broader community. Kesem really is magic, and we are focused on sending more kids to camp each summer. We’re also innovating to enhance our year-round support, including creating new programs and experiences outside of sleepaway camp. We’re in motion, moving closer to a world where every child impacted by a parent’s cancer is never alone.



### THE NEED FOR KESEM: ALLEVIATING THE HARDSHIP

The **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychology** found that grieving children may show one or more of these signs:

- loss of interest in daily activities
- inability to sleep
- loss of appetite
- fear of being alone
- acting much younger for an extended period
- withdrawal from friendships
- drop in school performance or refusal to attend school

One in 15 children are grieving because their parent has cancer. Kesem is the leading national nonprofit that supports these children.







“  
I WISH THE WHOLE  
WORLD WAS A BIG  
CAMP KESEM.”  
—KESEM CAMPER



# YOUR IMPACT ON CAMPER

99%

OF CAMPERS FEEL  
THAT THEY MADE  
FRIENDS THROUGH  
KESEM

97%

OF CAMPERS FELT  
INCLUDED WHILE  
THEY WERE AT  
CAMP

99%

OF CAMPERS WOULD  
RECOMMEND  
KESEM TO  
OTHER KIDS

“  
KESEM IS A PLACE WHERE I DON'T  
HAVE TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO ANYONE.  
EVERYONE AT CAMP KNOWS WHAT  
IT'S LIKE TO HAVE OR HAVE HAD A PARENT  
WITH CANCER. **I CAN HAVE FUN AND  
LAUGH, BUT I CAN ALSO BE SAD AND  
TALK ABOUT THOSE FEELINGS AS WELL.**  
I FEEL AS IF I KNOW THESE PEOPLE  
MUCH MORE THAN OTHER PEOPLE I  
KNOW, EVEN THOUGH I ONLY SPEND A  
WEEK WITH THEM.” —KESEM CAMPER



“

I'VE BEEN GOING TO KESEM SINCE I WAS 6 YEARS OLD  
(I'M NOW 17) AND THERE ISN'T ANYTHING THAT I LOVE  
MORE. I HAVE MADE SO MANY NEW FRIENDS THROUGH  
THE YEARS. **BECAUSE OF KESEM, I HAVE BECOME MORE  
CONFIDENT IN MYSELF AND MY FEELINGS—AND HAVE BEEN  
OPEN TO SHARING THEM, TOO.** I HAVE LEARNED MANY  
THINGS BY BEING A PART OF KESEM, AND I'M HOPING TO  
USE THOSE ONE DAY WHEN I BECOME A COUNSELOR AND  
IN MY FUTURE. THE KESEM COUNSELORS/LEADERS HAVE  
MADE A HUGE IMPACT ON MY LIFE, AND THERE AREN'T  
ENOUGH 'THANK-YOUS' IN THE WORLD FOR THOSE PEOPLE!  
KESEM WILL HAVE A PIECE OF MY HEART FOREVER.”

—KESEM CAMPER



# OUR NEW STRATEGIC VISION & PATH FORWARD

While we acknowledge the challenging few years that we and the world have endured, we now look ahead to all of the important work that we still have yet to do. We're no longer looking back, and we have an exciting new vision and set of values to guide our work.

**Our tomorrow starts today.** We are moving with a greater purpose and active commitment to achieving our vision of a world where no child has to face a parent's cancer alone. We encourage you to join us on this ambitious and exciting journey. Let's innovate, invest, and experience the joy and hope that comes from collective action to ensure that every child affected by a parent's cancer has the empowering support of a transformational community.



## OUR STRATEGIC PILLARS

### PILLAR 1: CAMP KESEM

Continue to grow our core program, Camp Kesem, and other year-round services to support more children each year.

### PILLAR 2: KESEM CHAPTERS

Sustain and strengthen Kesem chapters and improve the student leader and volunteer experience to build the next generation of empathetic and resilient leaders.

### PILLAR 3: THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Demonstrate Kesem's expertise in serving children impacted by a parent's cancer to increase awareness and advocacy for the families we serve.

### PILLAR 4: NEW PROGRAM

Design and deliver a new, compelling program informed by families to expand Kesem's reach.

### PILLAR 5: REVENUE

Create more meaningful and impactful donor and supporter experiences to grow our impact.

## OUR CORE VALUES



### CONTINUOUS LEARNING

WE OPERATE WITH CURIOSITY AND A WILLINGNESS TO TRY NEW THINGS, AND WE SEE OUR SUCCESSES AND SETBACKS AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

WE ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVANCING OUR MISSION.

### RESILIENCE

WE EMPOWER AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER THROUGH CHALLENGES WHILE FOSTERING A SPIRIT OF JOY AND HOPEFULNESS.

### EMPATHY

WE SEEK TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE OTHER PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PEER SUPPORT ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH:

Kesem offers children the opportunity to connect with peers who can truly empathize with their situation. Peer support offers a level of acceptance, understanding, and validation not found in many other relationships.

### Peer support is demonstrated to:

- Improve an individual's quality of life
- Improve an individual's whole health (including chronic conditions)
- Help people realize that they are not alone
- Build confidence and an understanding that better days are ahead
- Reduce the overall cost of service
- Serve as a resource for people seeking additional levels of care to complement their treatment within healthcare settings





Arizona State University  
Auburn University  
Augustana College  
Ball State University  
Bellarmine University  
Berkeley  
Boise State  
Boston University  
Bradley University  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Central PA  
Chapman University  
Chestnut Hill  
Christopher Newport University  
Claremont Colleges  
Clemson  
Colorado State University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College  
Denison University  
DePaul University  
Duke University  
East Atlanta  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
Florida International University  
Florida State University  
Fresno State  
George Mason University  
George Washington University  
Grand Valley State University  
Greater Cleveland  
Hamline University  
Harvard Undergraduate  
Indiana State University  
Indiana University  
James Madison University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Long Beach State  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola Marymount University  
Marquette University  
Miami of Ohio  
Michigan State University

Middle Tennessee State University  
Mississippi State University  
MIT  
Mizzou  
Montana State University  
New Mexico State University  
New York University  
North Carolina State University  
Northern Arizona University  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University

Southern Utah University  
Stanford  
Stony Brook University  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
Teton Valley  
Texas A&M University  
Towson University  
Tufts University  
UC Davis  
UC Irvine

University of Florida  
University of Georgia  
University of Houston  
University of Illinois  
University of Iowa  
University of Kansas  
University of Kentucky  
University of Maine  
University of Maryland  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
University of Mississippi  
University of Nebraska  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
University of Nevada, Reno  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Oregon  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Richmond  
University of South Alabama  
University of South Florida  
University of Southern California  
University of Texas - Austin  
University of Texas - Dallas  
University of Toledo  
University of Utah  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Utah Tech University  
Utah Valley  
Vanderbilt University  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Tech  
Washington University in St. Louis  
West Virginia University  
Western Carolina University  
Whitworth University  
William & Mary  
Yale University

**KESEM CHAPTERS**

**OVER 4,000**  
STUDENT LEADERS  
VOLUNTEERING AT

**OVER 130**  
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY  
CHAPTERS IN

**44 STATES**  
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Notre Dame  
Nova Southeastern University  
Ohio State University  
Princeton  
Rhode Island  
Rice  
Rowan University  
Sacramento  
Saint Louis University  
San Diego State University  
San Francisco  
Santa Clara University  
Seattle University

UC Riverside  
UC San Diego  
UC Santa Barbara  
UC Santa Cruz  
UCLA  
UNC - Chapel Hill  
University of Alabama  
University of Arizona  
University of Arkansas  
University of Chicago  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Connecticut

# QUICK LOOK

## KESEM'S FREE PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND YEAR-ROUND SUPPORT

Kesem chapters at colleges and universities across the country host **CAMP KESEM**—week-long summer camp programs. At camp, we focus on creating fun experiences that help children escape—even if for a short time—the challenges of coping with a parent's cancer diagnosis. Applications are **now open** for 2023.

### YEAR-ROUND SUPPORT

**KESEM WARM WELCOME** Families receive an immediate welcome—along with a care package—upon joining the Kesem community.

**KESEM FRIENDS + FAMILY DAY** Existing and interested families, Kesem student leaders, alumni, and community supporters attend a local event in the spring and fall for a day full of fun activities, education, and community building.



**KESEM SPECIAL DELIVERIES** Campers receive personalized messages for birthdays and other events by traditional or electronic mail as a consistent touchpoint throughout the year.

**KESEM ONLINE RESOURCES** Families gain access to thoughtfully curated resources online, as well as through Kesem's social media accounts to keep them connected and informed.

**KESEM BY YOUR SIDE** Families are offered customized support through our college student leaders to help children through the many challenges associated with a parent's cancer journey including difficult news, recurrence, loss, and anniversaries. This is an impactful way Kesem shows our families they do not have to walk through these adversities alone.

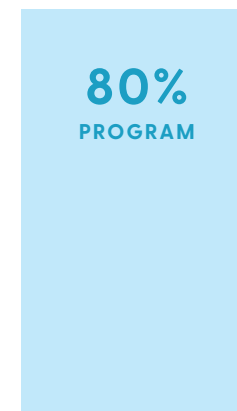
## YOUR GIFT IN ACTION

**PROGRAM 80 percent\*** of our expenses were used for programming.

**MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL 9 percent\*** of our expenses were applied to management and administrative costs.

**FUNDRAISING 11 percent\*** of our expenses covered outreach and fundraising efforts.

\*These figures are estimated.







**98%**

OF PARENTS FELT THEIR CHILD BOTH 1) HAD FUN AND 2) ENGAGED IN NEW ACTIVITIES WHILE THEY WERE AT CAMP KESEM

**98%**

OF PARENTS FELT THEIR CHILD WAS POSITIVELY IMPACTED BY CAMP KESEM

**96%**

OF PARENTS FELT KESEM DIRECTLY IMPROVED THEIR CHILD'S (AND THEIR OWN) MENTAL HEALTH

## YOUR IMPACT ON PARENTS

“

THIS WAS SUCH A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR DAUGHTERS TO FEEL LIKE NORMAL KIDS WHILE BEING SUPPORTED BY KIDS/TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS THAT ‘GET IT.’ THEY HAVEN’T FELT THAT WAY SINCE BEFORE CANCER BLEW UP THEIR WORLD. I COULD SEE THE CHANGE HAPPENING IN THEM IN THE NIGHTLY PICTURES POSTED ON THE CLOSED FACEBOOK GROUP. I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THIS EXPERIENCE FOR THEM. IT’S WHAT THEY’VE LONGED FOR SINCE THEIR DAD DIED.” **—KESEM PARENT**

“

I STILL CAN’T BELIEVE THE DIFFERENCE IN MY CHILD BEFORE AND AFTER CAMP. TRULY KESEM MAGIC!”

—KESEM PARENT

“

THIS WAS THE BEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR DAUGHTER SINCE MY HUSBAND’S DIAGNOSIS 2 YEARS AGO. SHE STILL TALKS ABOUT IT DAILY. I CAN’T EXPRESS HOW IMPORTANT AND PIVOTAL THIS EXPERIENCE AND THE FRIENDS/COUNSELORS SHE MET HAS BEEN FOR HER MENTAL HEALTH. THANK YOU!!!”

—KESEM PARENT





# OUR PARTNERS

These leading organizations and strategic partners have invested to expand Kesem's services and support more children impacted by a parent's cancer.

**AG COX CHARITY TRUST**



**ALEXANDER M. AND JUNE L. MAISIN FOUNDATION**

**THE BERENICE GATES HOPPER FAMILY FUND**



**BOULDER CANCER FIGHTERS**



**Caroline's**  
NON PROFIT THRIFT SHOP



**The Coleman**  
FOUNDATION



**DEAN AND MARGARET LESHER FOUNDATION**



**FRED AND DAVIS WILLIAM FOUNDATION**

**FOSTER FAMILY FOUNDATION**



**GUTH-PASTA CHARITABLE FUND**



**HELLMAN FOUNDATION**

**The Horace W. Goldsmith**  
Foundation

**JFC BREATHE FOUNDATION**



**THE LEBENSFELD FOUNDATION**



**THE LOUIS & SANDRA BERKMAN FOUNDATION**

**LOUISE B. COCHRANE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**



**MASSEY CHARITABLE TRUST**

**MAXINE AND JACK ZARROW FAMILY FOUNDATION**

**MOM'S CLUB OF IRON COUNTY UT**

**NIKOH FOUNDATION**



**PRITZKER PUCKER**  
FAMILY FOUNDATION

**randy shaver**  
CANCER RESEARCH & COMMUNITY FUND



**SISSY'S KIDS FUND**



**TAMBOUR FOUNDATION**



**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI GREEK WEEK**

**WALTER WILLIAMS FOUNDATION CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST**

**THE YVETTE & ARTHUR EDER FOUNDATION**



**KESEM IS GRATEFUL FOR OUR INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS. YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDE A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE FOR THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN EXPERIENCING A PARENT'S CANCER. THANK YOU FOR BEING A VITAL PART OF CREATING AND SUSTAINING A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY THAT LET'S KIDS BE THEIR BEST SELVES.**



**OCTOBER 1, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.**

**TRAILBLAZERS  
(\$40,000+)**

Astellas  
Tambour Foundation  
Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation  
SlabStox Charity Night  
Patrick Smith  
Pfizer, Inc.  
Toni A. Wisne Foundation  
The Yvette & Arthur Eder Foundation

**LEADERSHIP CIRCLE  
(\$25,000+)**

Anonymous Donor  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Century Men's Society  
The Coleman Foundation  
The Foster Family Foundation  
Harri Hoffmann  
Family Foundation  
Horace W. Goldsmith  
Foundation  
Novartis  
University of Missouri  
Greek Week  
Walter Williams Foundation  
Charitable Remainder Trust

**SONG LEADERS  
(\$15,000-\$24,999)**

Alexander M. and  
June L. Maisin Foundation  
Anonymous Donor  
The Berenice Gates Hopper  
Family Fund  
Jeff and Maria Brenner  
Eisai  
Pat and Stacy Fitzgerald  
Hellman Foundation  
Heath Koch  
Nita Kulkarni and  
Iqbal Brainch  
Lilly

Lauren MacKrell  
Maxine and Jack Zarrow  
Family Foundation  
Betsy Morton and  
Bryan Libbin  
Nikoh Foundation  
Mary Ellen Penicook  
The Robert W. and Susan T.  
Brown Family Foundation  
Sean D. Biggs  
Memorial Foundation  
Soul Ryeders  
Jay Stilwell and Mia Freund  
Tara Troy

**CAMPFIRE CIRCLE  
(\$10,000-\$14,999)**

AG Cox Charity Trust  
Mark and Carolyn Agnew  
Anonymous Donor  
Boulder Cancer Fighters  
Briggs Equipment  
Caroline's Non-Profit  
Thrift Shop  
Crescent Park  
Management, LP  
CoGenerate  
Dean and Margaret  
Leshner Foundation  
Catherine Finke  
Fred and Davis  
William Foundation  
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The Louis & Sandra  
Berkman Foundation

Louise B. Cochrane  
Charitable Foundation  
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Companies  
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William Meeryeck  
University of Miami  
Mom's Club of Iron  
County UT  
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Grumman Foundation  
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Good Foundation  
Omidyar Network Fund Inc  
Rob Plotkowski  
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Cancer Research and  
Community Fund  
Richard M. Schulze  
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Jane and Jay Saccaro  
Gary and Debra Schotz  
Sissy's Kids Fund  
Skyhawk Therapeutics and Drag-  
only Therapeutics Inc  
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Pharma Oncology, Inc.  
Erin and Matt Vollmer  
Samantha and Fred Williams

**CABIN BUILDER  
(\$5,000-\$9,999)**

Ian Aaron  
The Alan J. Hirschfield  
Family Foundation  
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Outfitters Inc.  
American Family Insurance  
Anonymous Donor  
Apple Inc.  
Azelby Family Fund  
Bank of America  
Kye Bargiachi  
Don Bartecki

Neha Biggs  
Blacksburg Battles Cancer  
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DCU for Kids  
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Corporation  
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Pickles Group  
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Douglas Schuerer and  
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Kelly Bounds  
Shell Family Fund  
Shop Talulah  
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Carlyn and  
Christine Solomon  
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Jon Sundt  
Superior Labor Solutions  
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Association  
Tempe Diablos  
Texas Medical Center

Thomas and Ellen Hogue Family  
Foundation  
Bart Tinsley  
Stephen Tucker  
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University of Michigan  
Jason Vargas  
Gary Vaynerchuk  
Ventas Charitable Foundation  
Karina Vogen and  
Karen Harrington  
Von Arx Family Foundation  
Scott and Katie Vroman  
The Wawa Foundation  
Laurence Weithers  
Williamsburg Community  
Foundation  
Moirra Wilson  
Hannah Wynn

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE  
(\$2,500-\$4,999)**

Bridget Akinc  
Lee Albertson  
Larry and Tania Albuquerk  
Almeida Carreira Foundation  
Amgen  
Kathleen Andert  
Anonymous  
Christine and Gary Aochi  
Arthur G Armstrong  
Associated Students, Inc. CSU  
Long Beach  
Rashi Battula  
Patrick Baumhart and  
Alex Hire  
Ben Bentzin  
Sara and Ira Bernstein  
Dipak Bhakta  
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Cathy Birkeland and  
Greg Marton  
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Xi Kappa Chapter  
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Katie Edwards  
Madeline Eichten

Robert Ellis  
Facility Concession Services  
Isaac N. Farrell  
Michael Feldman and  
Christine Glastonbury  
Naomi Ficken and  
Naomi Lotman-Ficken  
Melissa Fields-Tugwell  
Shelley Fishkin  
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Mary Grace and  
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Mary Galante  
Shane Garman and  
Nicole Malcolm  
Lauren Gavisier  
Chris and Susie George  
Givinga Foundation  
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Foundation  
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Jacob Gumer  
Jeanette Haley  
Hamline University  
Matthew Hanley  
James Hartung  
Connell and Shelby Hasten  
Jill Hollenbach  
Jim and Gloria Hopper  
Imperiali Charitable Fund  
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Jenny and David Jones  
Karen and Bob Jones  
JP Morgan Chase & Co  
Steve Julian  
Kimberly Kaspar  
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Kiwanis Club of  
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Richard Klaskin  
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Carla Koren  
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Andy Laats  
Sam and Nichy Laws  
Legends Hospitality, LLC  
Dean Legg  
Gustavo Leone  
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Lyon Family Foundation  
Aurelie and  
Brendan MacDonald  
Renee Maloney  
Ginger Jo Martin  
Jose Martinez  
Catherine Matthews  
Kevin McAdam  
Elise and Keith McDonald  
Courtney McDonough and  
Mark Nicholson  
Rori and Tom McDougal  
Travis McEvoy

Josephine and James McGill  
Lee Ann McGuire  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
& Froedtert  
Michelle Meier  
Jim and Laura Mena  
Summer Miller  
Gary Millikan  
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Alisa Prantner  
Tushar Mittal  
Craig and  
Stephanie Miyamoto  
Diana Montgomery  
and Preston Raisin  
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Nashville Predators  
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Nike  
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Our Lady of the Snows  
Parochial School  
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Ami Patel  
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Richard Paul  
Saundra Pelletier  
Bob and Amy Polachek  
Ann Louise Puopolo  
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Robert Ramsdell  
Leah Recht  
Elizabeth Reust  
Robin Reynolds  
Doris Richter  
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Terry Roe  
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David Schellhase  
Annette and Achim Schmidt  
Schneider Electric  
Al Sever  
Kavita Shah and Keith Kinch  
The Sharks Foundation  
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Erin and Keith Spatz  
Stad's Crabfest Inc.  
Sundt Foundation  
Brian Tahmoush  
TASC - Total Administrative  
Services Corp  
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UNC Health  
Eaton Vance



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Julia Williams  
Shona Wilson  
Nicole Wojtowitz  
Jessica Worrall  
Yishin Yang  
Jeslyn Zakes

## THE 2022 KESEM NATIONAL

### LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Join us in honoring Kesem's National Leadership Class: made up of exceptional students from the Class of 2022 who go above and beyond in living our Kesem values.

Nominated by their peers within the Kesem community, these leaders uphold and represent the vision and ideals of our organization – from expressing gratitude to paying it forward as a camper-turned-student leader to cultivating and growing a new Kesem chapter. We are so grateful to them for their commitment to Kesem, and for all that they have done and continue to do to support children impacted by a parent's cancer.

It was our joy to recognize them during our third-annual Kesem National Senior Night, and to celebrate them with you now.



#### CARES DEEPLY AWARD

Ashlynn "Minion" Hall, Utah Valley

#### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AWARD

Madyson "Wawa" McDougal, Notre Dame

#### EMPOWERS OTHERS AWARD

Olivia "Sesame" Hermesen, UW-Madison

#### GRATEFUL AWARD

Danielle "Tink" Palmieri, Augustana College

#### LASTING AND POSITIVE IMPACT AWARD

Charlotte "Lottie" Brereton, Grand Valley State University  
Ryan "Arrow" Mohamadi, University of Kansas

#### OPTIMISM AWARD

Zoya "Proton" Surani, Harvard Undergraduate

#### THROUGH AND BEYOND AWARD

Nathan "Rev" Perez-Espitia, University of Connecticut

#### IRIS WEDEKING AWARD

Arukshita "Cosmos" Goel, University of Toledo

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AT KESEM

Check below for some upcoming events and ways to get involved at Kesem, and make sure to keep checking [kesem.org](https://kesem.org) for the most recent updates and new additions.

#### DISNEY PRINCESS HALF MARATHON WEEKEND

February 23–27, 2023

#### CHICAGO MAGIC BALL

March 4, 2023

#### LOS ANGELES MARATHON AND CHARITY HALF MARATHON

March 19, 2023

#### UNITED AIRLINES NYC HALF MARATHON

March 20, 2023

#### RUNDISNEY SPRINGTIME SURPRISE WEEKEND

April 13–16, 2023

#### BOSTON MAGIC BALL

May 19, 2023

#### BMW BERLIN MARATHON

September 24, 2023

#### BANK OF AMERICA CHICAGO MARATHON

October 8, 2023



# kesem<sup>®</sup>

*A child's friend through and beyond  
a parent's cancer.*

**Kesem's mission of supporting children through and beyond a parent's cancer, and our vision of ensuring that every child impacted by a parent's cancer is never alone, can only be realized through an ongoing, steadfast commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in every part of our organization.**

**To that end, Kesem makes the following commitments:**

To continually expand the communities we support and work with—our camper families, volunteers, staff, alumni, partners, donors, and boards—with attention to engaging communities we are not currently reaching.

To strive for equity in delivering a transformative, fun, and empowering community that recognizes and embraces our differences.

To aspire to create shared spaces that are safe for every member of the Kesem community to feel valued and respected.

Kesem will engage in continued meaningful learning in order to better support our mission, and our growing Kesem community.



**2023 CAMP KESEM APPLICATIONS  
ARE OPEN NOW!**

Platinum  
Transparency  
2022

**Candid.**



Charity  
Navigator



★ FOUR-STAR ★

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