

2024



CHAMPION CARES  
FOUNDATION

# CHAMPION CARES FOUNDATION

Impact Report 2024

Empowering Our Community &  
Amplifying Change



Champion Cares Foundation

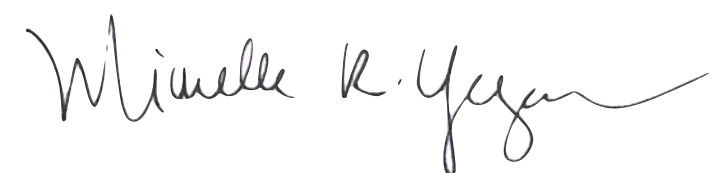
# Empowering Our Community & Amplifying Change

Last year, The Champion Cares Foundation celebrated its 10 year anniversary. Over the past decade we've had the pleasure of supporting many organizations in the Central Ohio community, including our long-standing partners such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, YWCA Family Center and Children's Hunger Alliance.

In 2024 we continued our partnership with Pelotonia, whose focus is to accelerate funding for innovative cancer research through a series of fundraising events each year, including its annual Ride Weekend. Pelotonia directs 100 percent of every dollar raised by participants to cancer research at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center. Partnering with Pelotonia allows Champion Cares to connect with those who fall under our Health & Wellness pillar, where we look to partner with organizations that focus on health, which could be rehabilitative health, disease and disorder treatment, medical research or mental health and crisis intervention.

Other ways we were present in the Central Ohio community in 2024 included completing construction on another home for a deserving family with Habitat for Humanity, serving meals at the YWCA family center, and packaging weekend meal boxes for students experiencing food insecurity through Children's Hunger Alliance.

As always, thank you to all who support The Champion Cares Foundation in our efforts to lift up those organizations that address our community's greatest needs. Together we're empowering our community and amplifying change.



**Michelle Yeager-Thornton**  
The Champion Cares Foundation





Members of the Champion team helping out with a Habitat for Humanity house build.



2024 Impact Report

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[championcaresfoundation.com](https://championcaresfoundation.com)



# Who We Are

The Champion Cares Foundation supports organizations serving Central Ohio in the areas of Health, Human Services and Youth Development. Champion Cares leverages its extensive network of public, private and non-profit groups to create partnerships that address the community's greatest needs. By making connections and raising awareness, Champion Cares combines world-class expertise with philanthropic support for its partner organizations. To date, Champion Cares has given back \$4.5M and 10,000 volunteer hours to the community.



## Our Mission

To equip and empower organizations meeting our community's critical needs





Champion Cares Foundation

# Champion Cares Snapshot 2024

In 2024 Champion Cares stayed engaged with long-time partners, as well as formed relationships with newer causes, which allowed us to maximize team member volunteer participation and further diversify our financial support.

2024 Team Member  
Donations

\$39,070

Round up Your Rent Program  
Community Donations

Includes Champion Cares Foundation Match

\$24,980



## Notable Beneficiaries 2024

Beneficiary	2024
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Ohio	\$101,500
The Tim Tebow Foundation, Inc.	\$100,000
The Ohio State University Foundation - The James Cancer Hospital	\$86,500
Families Flourish Inc.	\$50,000
YWCA Family Center	\$45,200
Columbus Children’s Charity	\$25,000
Cristo Rey Columbus High School	\$22,667
Children’s Hunger Alliance	\$20,000



**\$595,467**  
Total Grants 2024

Team Member Volunteer Hours

**628**





## Giving Spotlight Cristo Rey

### GIVING SPOTLIGHT

#### Cristo Rey + The Champion Companies

The Cristo Rey Professional Work-Study Program allows high school students to gain crucial professional work experience that prepares them for life beyond school. Every Cristo Rey student takes a full course load of college-preparatory classes in addition to working one day each week in the professional offices of the work-study partners. The Champion Companies has participated in this program for 6 years, starting with the 2018-2019 school year, and is proud to partner with Cristo Rey to give students vital experience working in an office setting.



#### Q&A With Cristo Rey Student: Ashanti

##### What has been your favorite part of the Work Study Program?

“My favorite part of the Work Study Program has been draft day! There is so much excitement and mystery about receiving our new job placements and it’s really fun to find out where we’ll be working for the school year!”

##### Looking back what do you wish you would have known before starting this internship?

“One thing I wish I would have known before starting my internship with Champion is how much I would like it here!”

##### What new skills, techniques, and/or knowledge did you gain through the Work Study Program?

“I’ve gained confidence in talking to new people and having difficult conversations, and trying new things that are outside of my comfort zone - and able to feel comfortable asking for help on new tasks.”







## Giving Spotlight

# Cristo Rey

### Q&A CONTINUED

#### How would you describe your experience with Champion to others?

“I would describe my experience as very fun, exciting, and rewarding. I can truly say that I have met amazing people at every site that I have been placed at and they have become some of my biggest cheerleaders both at work and outside of work. I also feel challenged when approaching new tasks, but it’s an exciting challenge because I know that my team has my back even when I fail.”

#### What is one lesson you have learned while working at Champion?

“One lesson that I have learned while working at Champion is to be very patient and understanding when talking to people, especially residents who may struggle to get their point across due to language barriers, and to always be willing to jump in and help wherever is needed.”

#### What was a time that you felt proud during your internship?

“Out of many moments of feeling proud during my internship, I would have to say the two moments that stand out are when I worked at Worthington Ridge. I was able to plan, organize, and execute a resident event for the entire community. Another proud moment for me was when I took my first solo tour that resulted in an application, and receiving my first processing fee that got us to our monthly goal!”

#### How would you describe Champion’s company culture?

“I would describe it as one big group of people that treat each other like friends and family. One of the things I like most about this company is that it isn’t all about the job. We talk about personal lives and things outside of work that make everyday more interesting and fun. Everyone is very supportive and wants to see everyone succeed.”



#### How do you think this experience will help you after graduation?

“This experience will help me immensely after graduating high school because now I feel more confident as a young adult in the workforce with my social skills, professional skills, and ability to adapt to new situations at any moment.”





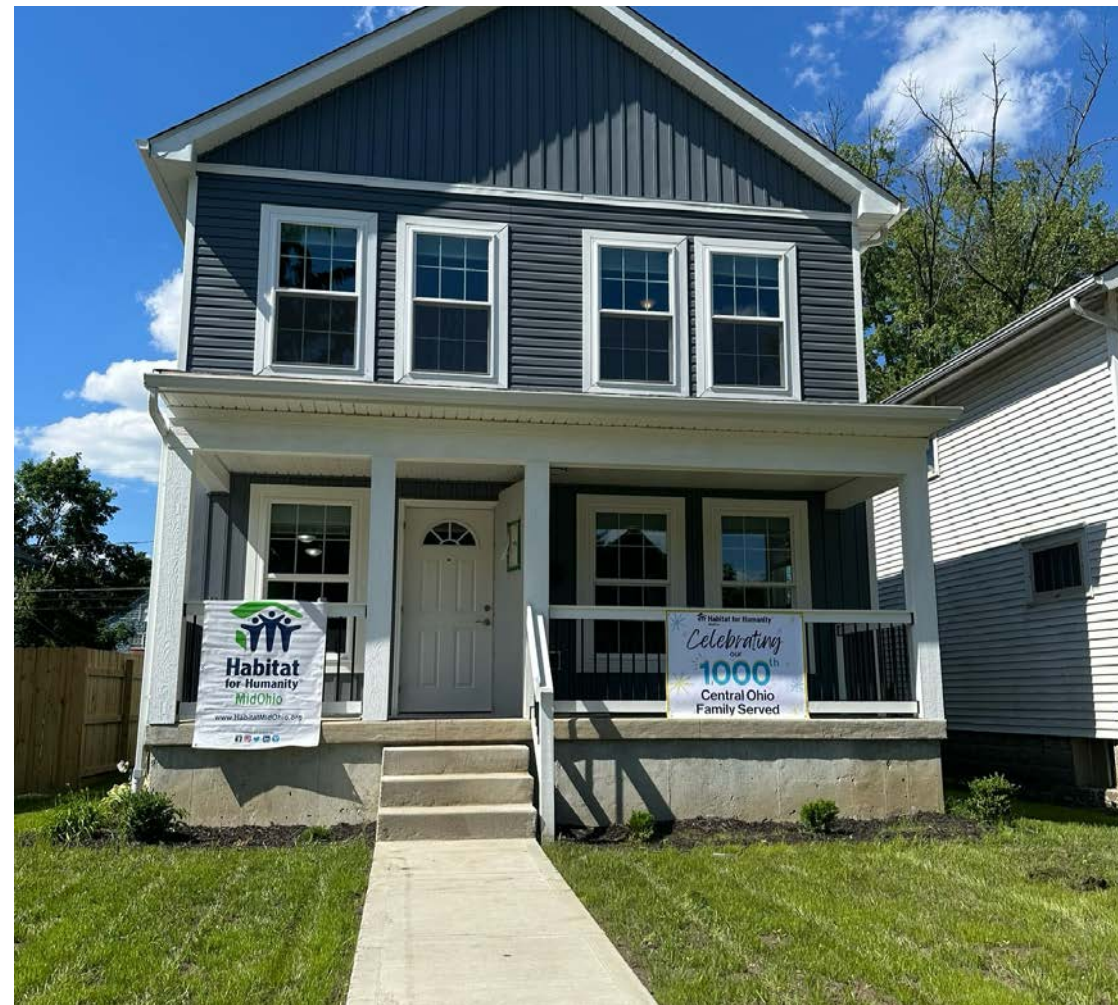
## PELOTONIA

Team Champion had 10 riders go 806 miles throughout Central Ohio and raised \$60,918 for cancer research!

**Team Champion has raised over \$225,000 all time.**



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



In 2024 we built another home with Habitat for Humanity. **This home marked the 1,000th Central Ohio family served by Habitat!**

This build was also the 17th Women Build Home, which aims to create an inclusive environment where volunteers are encouraged to learn new skills!







The Champion Cares Foundation

# Who We Helped

**Champion Cares Foundation surpasses \$4.5+ Million given**

## **Children's Hunger Alliance**

The Champion Cares Foundation was proud to partner with CHA to pack weekend meal boxes which are intended to complement meal services currently provided by school districts, childcare facilities or youth-serving organizations. In 2024, Champion Cares packed over 3,800 weekend meal boxes for students who experience food insecurity.

## **A Kid Again**

We partnered with the Feazel Foundation on their annual fundraiser to support A Kid Again, which is a Central Ohio organization that exists to foster hope, happiness, and healing for children with life-threatening conditions and their families. It provides children who are in and out of hospitals opportunities to have fun and be a kid again.

## **YWCA Family Center**

The Champion Cares Foundation continued its support with a 2024 contribution to the YWCA Family Center, to help them house homeless families and children in Central Ohio, providing meals, a safe place to sleep, personal necessities and programs to help parents get back on their feet. In addition to these services, The Champion Cares Foundation provided funding and volunteers for the Safe and Sound summer youth field trip program.





*Members of the Champion team receiving  
a 2024 Corporate Citizenship Award  
presented by Columbus Business First.*

### **Champion Companies Milo-Grogan Boys and Girls Club**

Champion Cares partnered with Boys and Girl Club of Central Ohio to bring a state-of-the-art facility, including a brand-new gymnasium, to Central Ohio. The Club offers kids an inclusive space to learn and grow with next-level amenities and programming.

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio**

We sponsored Bowl for Kids' Sake, which is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio's biggest mentoring engagement event of the year. For over 40 years, funds raised through this event have supported their mission to ignite the power and promise of youth.

### **The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center-James**

We sponsored the Harvest of Hope, a fundraiser with proceeds benefiting Ohio State's Department of Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics. This newly formed department is accelerating progress toward innovative scientific discoveries that will lead to life-saving cancer treatments and contributes to OSUCCC - James' Ohio State's commitment to understanding, preventing and curing cancer.



The Champion Companies

# Programmatic Pillars

Champion Cares leverages its extensive network of public, private and non-profit groups to create partnerships that address the community’s greatest needs.



## Human Services



Human services organizations help people find stability, including help with basic needs like food and shelter, and also guidance, counseling, and treatment that promotes self-sufficiency and happiness in people's daily lives.

## Youth Development



Youth development organizations help prepare young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood and to achieve their full potential.

## Health & Wellness



Organizations that focus on health could mean rehabilitative health, disease and disorder treatment, medical research, or mental health and crisis intervention.



# \$4.5M+

Total grants since inception



# Financial Report

Beneficiary	Amount
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Ohio	\$101,500
Children’s Hunger Alliance	\$20,000
Columbus Children’s Charity	\$25,000
Cristo Rey	\$22,667
Families Flourish Inc.	\$50,000
Feazel Foundation	\$10,000
Ohio Cancer Research	\$10,000
Pelotonia	\$10,000
The Ohio State University Foundation - The James Cancer Hospital	\$86,500
Tim Tebow Foundation, Inc.	\$100,000
YWCA Family Center	\$45,200
& other organizations	\$114,600
2024 Total	\$595,467

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio** - [bbbscolumbus.org](http://bbbscolumbus.org)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio is a non-profit prevention-based agency that serves the community by providing quality mentoring relationships to children and youth in need of a friend. Big Brothers Big Sisters has a rich history of nurturing friendships between caring adult volunteers and promising children and youth. For more than 75 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has served many thousands of children and youth in Franklin, Delaware and Union counties through its mentoring and camping programs.

**YWCA Family Center** - [ywcacolumbus.org](http://ywcacolumbus.org)

YWCA Family Center is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA Family Center provides emergency shelter and critical services to stabilize homeless families in Central Ohio. A national model, more than 70% of the families who use the YWCA Family Center are able to find housing within 21 days of entering the program.

**Children’s Hunger Alliance** - [childrenshungeralliance.org](http://childrenshungeralliance.org)

Children’s Hunger Alliance is known for feeding hungry minds and bodies. CHA works to ensure all children are fed regular and nutritious meals and develop lifelong healthy eating habits. CHA does this by directly feeding children, increasing easy access to nutritious food, and educating children about healthy food choices and physical activity.

**Pelotonia** - [pelotonia.org](http://pelotonia.org)

Pelotonia is an annual bicycling tour and nonprofit organization based in Columbus, Ohio that raises money for cancer research at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute. 100% of the funds donated to Pelotonia go directly toward funding cancer research.



# Our Partnership with The Columbus Foundation

## The Columbus Foundation Snapshot

**Top 10**  
Asset Ranking Among Foundations in U.S.

**\$3.15 Billion**  
Grants Since Founding

The Columbus Foundation serves nearly 3,000 individuals, families, and businesses that have created unique funds and planned gifts to make a difference in the lives of others through the most effective philanthropy possible.

The Columbus Foundation is committed to strengthening the central Ohio community by providing services to donors, advancing the impact of nonprofits, and serving as leaders and conveners in the community. As a comprehensive, community-focused organization, we are built to respond to shifting community needs and opportunities, all thanks to the generosity of donors and philanthropic members of our community.

Source: The Columbus Foundation



## The Columbus Foundation Mission

To assist donors and others in strengthening and improving our community for the benefit of all its residents.



“We feel it’s our purpose to empower people and make a difference in the lives of others.”  
BRIAN YEAGER

Brian Yeager and Michelle Yeager-Thornton  
The Columbus Foundation spotlight





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