

Carrying  
Families  
Through Times  
of Need Since  
2007



The Piggyback Foundation  
Newsletter

Table of Contents

Director’s Message.....01

PBF Impact.....02

Family Stories.....03

When Pigs Fly.....04

Volunteer Spotlight.....05

Personal Reply.....06



Dear Friends of the Piggyback Foundation,

When I think about the Piggyback Foundation in 2025, one word comes to mind: GRATITUDE. What started as a little idea close to my heart has grown into something so much bigger than myself. And that’s because of all of you.

This year, I’ve watched volunteers give their time with joy, donors share with generosity, and families welcome us into some of the hardest moments of their lives.

Whether you’ve shopped at When Pigs Fly, made a donation, or simply shared kind words—you have made a difference.

Together, we’ve been able to ease burdens, create special memories, and simply remind families that they are not alone. That is the heart of the Piggyback Foundation.

Thank you for believing in our mission, for walking with us, and for helping families carry what feels too heavy to bear on their own.

Joyfully,  
Lisa Hiler





## PBF Impact



	2025 -YTD	2007-YTD
Dollars Raised.....	\$131,920.....	\$2,371,358
Dollars to Families.....	\$143,400.....	\$2,020,620
Families Served.....	61.....	849
Children Served.....	136.....	1,841

### *This Year, The Piggyback Foundation...*

#### **Gave**

- \$200 to 27 families (Easter)
- \$100 to 23 moms (Mother's Day)
- \$100 to 17 dads (Father's Day)
- \$150 to 25 families (Back-to-School)
- \$100 to 23 families (Halloween costumes & candy)
- \$300 to 69 children (Christmas)
- Over \$4,000 to children (Birthday Celebrations)
- \$18,000 to children (Wrestling, Basketball, Volleyball, Band, Fishing, Camping, Baseball, Dance, Track, Driver's Education, Football, Soccer, Horseback Riding, Golf, & Cross Country)
- Almost \$4,000 to children (Summer Camps)
- Over \$14,000 to 10 families (Rent and Mortgage)
- Over \$4,000 to students (Scholarships)

**Surprised** 4 children with laptop computers

**Sent** Trey and his family to Put-in-Bay and on a helicopter ride

**Helped** Mason and his family celebrate his recovery with a trip to the Grand Canyon

**Provided** fun nights at Tran Siberian Orchestra, Disney on Ice, Huron County Fair, Movie Nights, Toledo Zoo Lights, and Colossalcon

**Hosted** a Farm Market Day at Farmer Jones Market

**Hosted** a Fall Family Photo Day at St. Peter Lutheran Church with Darrel Moll Photography

**2025:** 98% of funds raised went directly to families in need.  
2% was spent on administration expenses/fundraising





## Family Stories

### *Madelyn's Story*

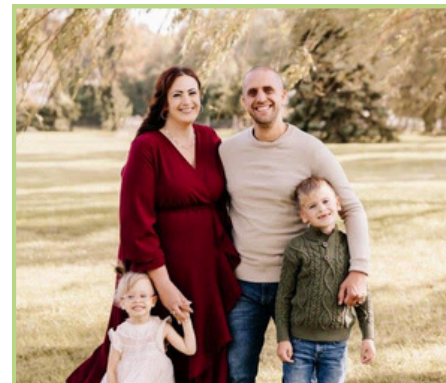
Our daughter Madelyn was diagnosed with NF1 (neurofibromatosis type 1) as a baby, and in 2023, we also learned she had bilateral optic pathway gliomas (tumors on both optic nerves, which can affect vision, hormone levels, and overall brain function). Since then, she's undergone weekly chemotherapy. It's been a challenging road—balancing treatment, travel, work, and parenting two young kids. Life shifted dramatically, and it's something for which no family is ever really prepared.

The Piggyback Foundation brought light to our lives in a difficult season. They helped us take a magical North Pole train ride at Christmas, supported birthdays, and aided in the enrollment of my son, Clay, in sports.

It's not just the gifts or experiences—it's the way my liaisons, Amy Parcher and Laura Winkler, show up. They came to birthday parties, fundraising events, and continue to check in on us. That kind of love and consistency is rare, and it means the world to us.

Maddie is continuing her chemo treatments and being closely monitored. She just finished her first year of preschool and will be moving up to the 4s Pre-K class this fall! She amazes us every day with her resilience and joy.

There are so many moments Piggyback made brighter, but that North Pole train ride is one we'll never forget. In the middle of a season that felt heavy, it gave our kids pure magic. Seeing Maddie and Clay laugh, smile, and be kids without worry—that's something I'll treasure forever.



### *Bud's Story*

On June 15th, 2024, my husband, Bud, was diagnosed with cancer to the liver. The only option for treatment was a liver transplant, but to proceed, the primary source of cancer must be removed and a year must pass to see if he qualifies to be put on the transplant list.

It was difficult to ask for help. We were a hardworking, independent family. But The Piggyback Foundation did not make us feel ashamed. And they have, without a doubt, lifted so much stress off our family during this difficult time.

They have allowed our children to continue participating in school activities and extracurricular sports. Our daughter graduated last May. The Piggyback Foundation

helped her with prom and graduation. Our son was able to continue playing the sports he loves without worrying about equipment. We have been supported with meals, fun activities, and words of encouragement and prayer. We were even introduced to another family who had gone through similar circumstances, with kids close in age to ours, and they have become amazing friends.

I can't say enough about this organization. They are heaven-sent to our family while going through such a difficult time in our lives. We are still praying and fighting for a miracle that Bud can beat this awful disease! We remain optimistic and hold our Lord close.



## When Pigs Fly -Upscale Resale & Retail Shop-

53% of The Piggyback Foundation Funding is raised at *When Pigs Fly*

100% of *When Pigs Fly* earnings goes to The Piggyback Foundation



### When Pigs Fly

**LOCATION:**

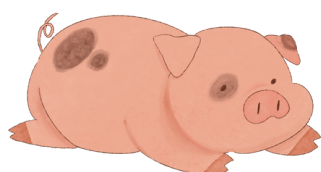
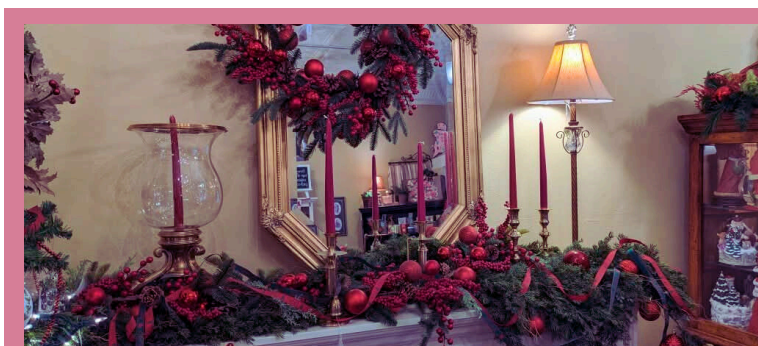
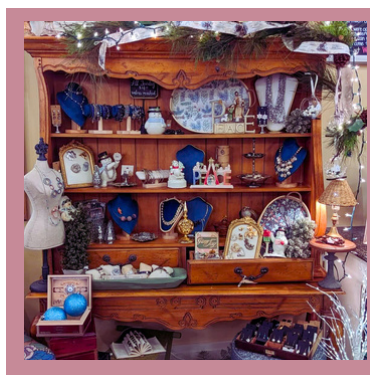
31 E. Main Street, Norwalk, Ohio

**HOURS:** Tuesday – Saturday  
10:00-4:00

**PHONE:** Shop: 419-660-1932  
Cell: 419-577-1932

**VOLUNTEER:**

[thepiggybackfoundation.org/  
involvement](http://thepiggybackfoundation.org/involvement)



*Donations accepted during business hours on  
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays*







## Why Should You Volunteer?



### *Carol Fries*

I started volunteering in 2012, shortly after the store opened. I love volunteer work, but there is another reason I choose to be here. My niece struggled with an inoperable brain tumor. She was a single mom with two teenage daughters and just wanted to live long enough to see them graduate high school. The Piggyback Foundation's help allowed her to do that. The meals provided, mini vacations, and everything else to ease the stress has always been my reason for giving back to this amazing organization.

Not much keeps me from being at When Pigs Fly. The girls are my family. We laugh, we cry, and we support each other. Most importantly, we share why we do what we do. Knowing the purpose of the store brings in so many regulars and friends that we now call by name!

### *Cindy Malcolm*

I have been at When Pigs Fly since its opening. My friend, Carol Fries, told me all about The Piggyback Foundation, and their mission inspired me to jump right in.

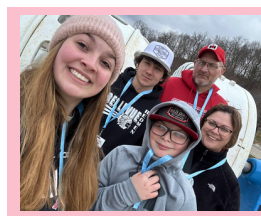
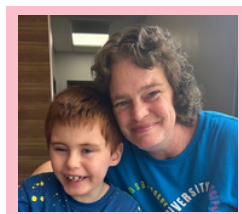
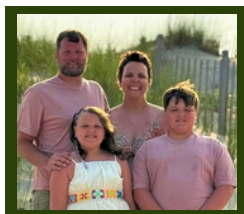
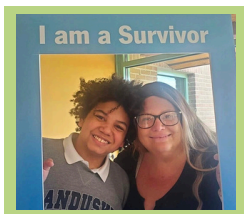
Volunteering at the store is fulfilling and rewarding. I meet wonderful and caring people every day. I listen to their stories, I laugh, I cry, and I learn. It is a privilege to serve, knowing that when I walk out that door at the end of the day, my time helped families and children in need.

Working alongside Lisa Hiler and my fellow volunteers is a blessing. We have become family. More volunteers are always needed, and if you are interested in doing something to make a difference in the lives of others, look no further than When Pigs Fly.

**Volunteer at:**

*[thepiggybackfoundation.org/involvement](http://thepiggybackfoundation.org/involvement)*





## 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.*

