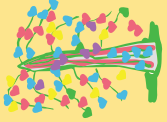


2023 Annual Report

Kate's Kart, Inc.



Kate's Kart
Books from the Heart
KatesKart.org
10376 Leo Road, Suite A
Fort Wayne, IN 46825



Books from the Heart



16TH ANNUAL



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

JUNE 22 & 23, 2024

Save the Date

Join us on June 22 & 23, 2024

A celebration at various locally owned ice cream shops.

2024 Participating Shops...more to come!

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Blue Moon | Old 27 Ice Cream Shop |
| Barking Cow | Ritter's Frozen Custard, Warsaw |
| Chillz Delights | Rusty's Ice Cream |
| Classic City Creamery | Scoops Ice Cream |
| Grabill Dairy Sweet | Sugar Creek Meats and Treats |
| Handel's Fort Wayne North | Sundaes on Sylvan |
| Handel's Fort Wayne Southwest | Sweet Sanity |
| Iceburg Ice Cream | Sweets On Main Ice Cream |
| Jeb's Ice Cream Shoppe | The Brown House |
| Just Cream Ice Cream Boutique | The Stand Cones & Crème |
| Kuehnert Milk House | The Tasty Spoon |
| Lucy's Vedio Twist | The White Cottage Sweet Shoppe |
| Magic Wand Restaurant | Toppings Ice Cream Parlor |
| Oh Five Scoop Shop | Tutti Frutti |

Join us for a day of celebration as we all eat ice cream at shops across Northeast Indiana to support Kate's Kart. Volunteers will be on-site at each location sharing our story, mission, and needs, new books from the Don Wood Foundation and accepting donations.

Visit kateskart.org for a current list of ALL participating shops.

A Message from the Director



Looking back on 2023, our 15th year and our most impactful year to date, leaves a smile on my face. These 15 highlights tell our story of 2023:

We went “global”, well maybe just regional, by expanding 2 Karts into Ohio.

We had our largest book distribution of 48,587 books, increasing by 7,600 books over 2022.

We experienced a full year with Grace, a 2nd full-time employee who brought her many gifts to the organization.

We gifted our 400,000th book and are now well on our way to HALF A MILLION!

We hosted an amazing Ice Cream Social fundraiser, bringing in over \$100,000 to support our mission.

We purchased a 2nd van...a delivery vehicle to meet our expanding mission.

We welcomed a team of 16 County Champions, volunteers from each county we serve who are helping us share our mission and keep the Karts stocked and looking beautiful.

We focused on equipping our Board of Directors to strategically lead us into the future.

We finished the year strong financially...even with adding staff, hospitals and expenses.

We created a video that beautifully shares our story and lasting impact.

We collaborated with the Don Wood Foundation for our very first LEGO DAY, where hospitalized kids got not only a LEGO Building book, but a set of LEGOs with the book.

We created our first Bookmark Design Contest which allowed kids to be the creative mind behind the bookmarks handed out with each book.

We met countless families who came into the office, bearing books and monetary gifts, paying it forward from their Kate’s Kart experience.

We welcomed 10 new volunteers to our team, joining with 63 others to complete our amazing hospital Kart pusher team.

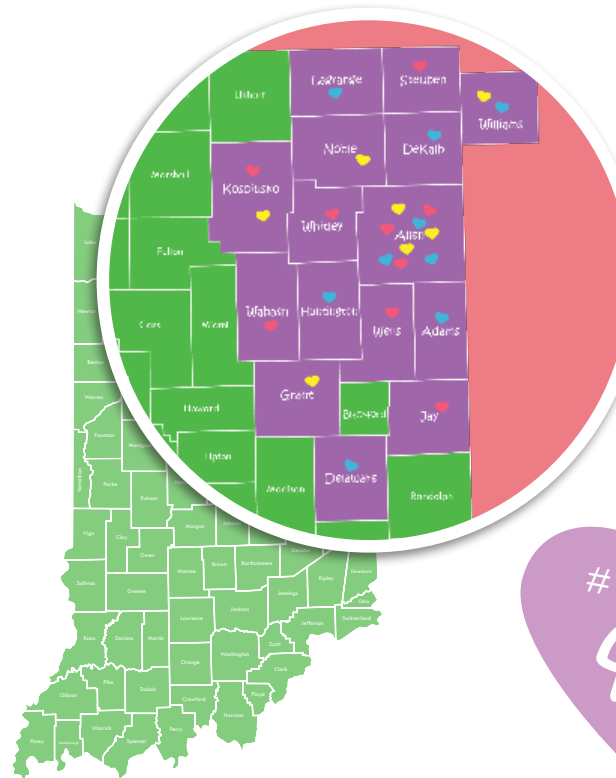
We celebrated 15 years by looking back...celebrating our growth and those who have been with us during the journey.

The key word in each of these milestones is “WE”. It takes a huge team to accomplish all of this. WE couldn’t do it without you and the part YOU played in making 2023 another successful and impactful year for Kate’s Kart. We are grateful for you and your gift of time, talent or treasure. Thank you for being a part of our team! WE can do BIG things...lookout 2024!



Krista

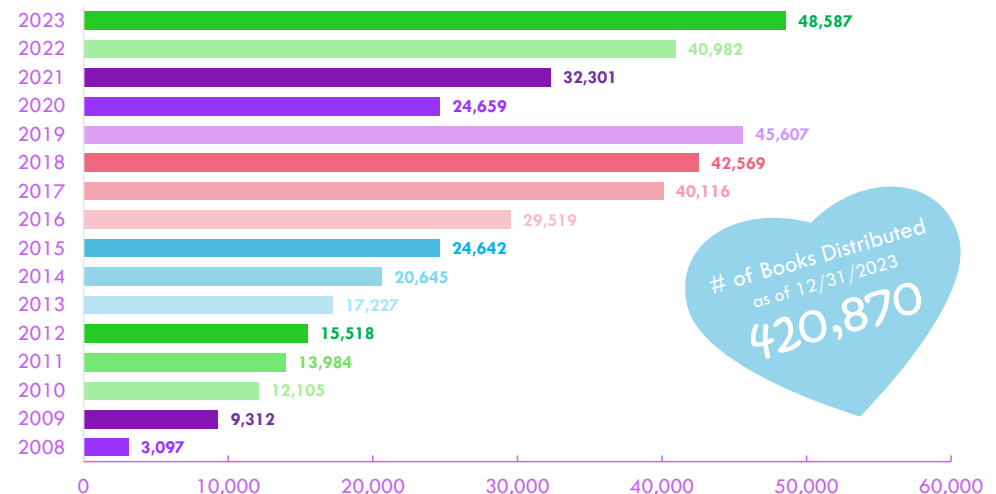
Krista Layman
Co-Founder & Executive Director



As of December 2023, Kate’s Kart provided free books to hospitalized children in 25 community hospitals in 15 counties in Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio.



Books Distributed 2008-2023



Kate's Kart Touching Hearts

The Ginder Family

We had the privilege of meeting Wendy and Kris (GiGi & Pops) Ginder for the first time at the Kate's Kart Office in December 2022. This special family had hosted a book drive in memory of their grandson, Levi David, after receiving books throughout his NICU stay, alongside his twin brother, Hank Daniel. The Ginder Family continues to support us and touch our hearts. Here is their story:

"Our journey with Kate's Kart began on January 28, 2021, with the unexpected emergency birth of our 2 grandsons, who were identical twins. Micro-preemies Levi David and Hank Daniel certainly made a grand entrance at Dupont Hospital and brought several challenges, but to us, they were absolutely perfect."

During the long NICU journey at Dupont Hospital, visits from Kate's Kart were a highlight in some very long days and nights. Wendy, being a special education teacher and administrator for 36 years, understands first-hand the importance of reading books—how books increase cognitive development, help young readers gain confidence, and give children an opportunity to think and dream about something else in very tough times.

Levi David Ginder passed away peacefully on March 12th, 2021.

"Losing Levi was the hardest thing we have ever gone through as a family. We miss him every day. But out of those NICU stays, we are determined to give back to Kate's Kart annually in honor of our Angel Baby Levi and Sweet Boy Hank. During desperate times, knowing that Kate's Kart is close by to bring some cheer and smiles to children is all worth it."

Thank you for remembering Levi in this special way, Ginders!



GiGi, Pops, and Hank with their 2023 donation of books to Kate's Kart



Levi David Ginder
January 28, 2021 – March 12, 2021



The Ginder Family

Kate's Kart Touching Hearts

The Shields Family

When asked what three words describe Gabi Shields, her family answered, "joyful, resilient, and strong". We couldn't agree more. This amazing family was first introduced to Kate's Kart over 5 years ago, and has been a blessing to us ever since. This is Gabi's story:

At just two days old, Gabi was unexpectedly admitted to the NICU, needing a feeding tube, oxygen, and around-the-clock care. For two weeks, Gabi remained in the NICU with no official diagnosis or answers. Fabi, Gabi's mom, remembers the loneliness of their stay... how the beeping sounds were oftentimes the only thing she could focus on.

The bright light throughout their stay: Kate's Kart books. Fabi shares, "At home, Kelly (Gabi's Dad) does bath time with the girls, reads a book, and then puts them to bed. Having Kate's Kart books to read in the NICU felt like a piece of normalcy and routine we could keep. It made a huge impact on our sanity throughout that difficult time."

Gabi spent many more days in the hospital in her first year of life, including at Cincinnati Children's Hospital due to her low muscle tone and weakened immune system. Since then, doctors have discovered she has a protein deletion, though an official diagnosis remains unclear as she is the very first individual with this condition. Doctors all around the world are studying her case, and Fabi and Kelly hope that as they navigate the many unknowns, they can provide hope for other families who have a child with a similar diagnosis in the future.

Gabi is now 5 years old and as full of joy and life as ever. She loves ballet, reading her Kate's Kart books*, and spending time with family. We are truly blessed by Gabi and the entire Shields Family for their continued support and generosity to the mission of Kate's Kart.



Gabi enjoying ballet class



Happy 5th Birthday, Gabi!



*See Gabi featured in our new Kate's Kart Video by scanning the QR code on Page 12.

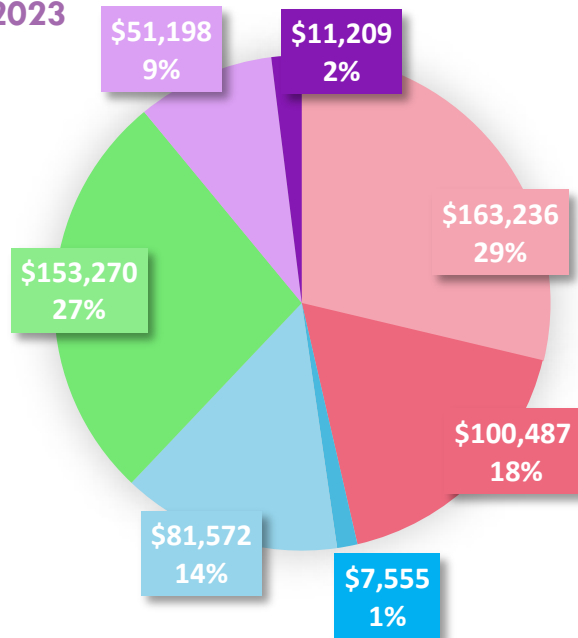


Kate's Kart
Books from the Heart

Revenue

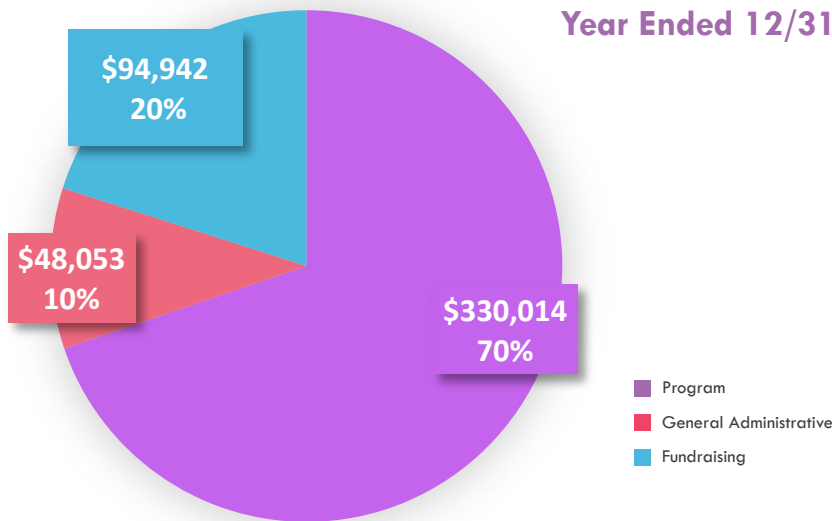
Year Ended 12/31/2023

- Corporate/Individuals
- Ice Cream Social
- Other (Kroger, Facebook, Amazon)
- In-Kind Donations
- Foundations/Grants
- Annual Fund
- Misc/Interest



Operating Expenses

Year Ended 12/31/2023



2023 year-end total assets: \$660,449

Donate

Monetary donations are the most needed and most effective type of donation. With your cash, check, or credit/debit card donation, we can purchase the types of books that we currently need most. And as a non-profit organization, we have the power to purchase at a significant discount in bulk which makes your money go further! To donate online, visit kateskart.org/donate, Paypal: info@kateskart.org, or Venmo: [@KatesKart](https://www.venmo.com/KatesKart).

Of course we always need donations of brand new books too! Books with popular characters, best sellers, current movies and classic read-alouds are the types we need most. New book donations may be dropped off at the Kate's Kart Office during office hours. Visit our Amazon Wishlist to see the type and quality of books we gift.



10 Free Ways You Can Support Kate's Kart

1. Share a photo of your little one in or out of the hospital holding their Kate's Kart book.
2. Share the Kate's Kart, Inc. Facebook page with your circle of influence. Can we reach 10,000 followers this year?
3. Follow us on Instagram at [@kateskartbooks](https://www.instagram.com/kateskartbooks) and LinkedIn at [@Kate's Kart, Inc.](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kates-kart-inc)
4. Submit a 5-star review of Kate's Kart on Facebook or Google.
5. Link your Kroger card with their community rewards program at <https://kateskart.org/shop-kroger/>.
6. Register for a Fort4Fitness race and choose Kate's Kart as your charity partner.
7. Tell your family and friends about the impact Kate's Kart made on your hospital stay. Stop in and get as many bookmarks as you'd like to pass out to your friends and family.
8. Organize a Kate's Kart Book Drive or Fundraiser. Visit www.kateskart.org/fundraisersbook-drives/ for helpful information.
9. Invite us to share our story through a PowerPoint presentation or tabletop display with a group you're involved with—school, church, sorority, workplace, etc.
10. Submit a testimonial to kateskart.org by sharing your story and how Kate's Kart positively impacted your hospital stay. These are incredibly helpful for our grant writing and reports.





2023 Ice Cream Social Recap

On Saturday, June 24th we celebrated our 15th Annual Ice Cream Social with supporters in 24 partnering ice cream shops across 14 of the 15 counties we serve. Over 150 volunteers spent the day at each shop meeting Kate's Kart supporters, sharing our mission, and giving away new STEM-friendly books to kids, thanks to the Don Wood Foundation. It was a fun-filled day, hearing the stories of impact from families who received a book, and sharing a sweet treat with many who were hearing about us for the first-time.

Together, we raised a grand total of over \$108,000.00 for Kate's Kart. It was our most successful Ice Cream Social Fundraiser yet, surpassing our goal by over \$23,000 and exceeding last year's total by over \$37,000. We are truly grateful for the generous support of so many that is making a difference in the lives of hospitalized children.



Thank You 2023 Ice Cream Social Shop Partners

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Sweets on Main Ice Cream (Fort Wayne) | Iceberg Ice Cream (Albany) |
| Rusty's Ice Cream (Fort Wayne) | The Brown House (Auburn) |
| Just Cream Ice Cream Boutique (Fort Wayne) | Scoops Ice Cream (Angola) |
| Oh Five Scoop Shop (Fort Wayne) | Jebi's Ice Cream Shoppe (Roanoke) |
| Handel's Ice Cream (Fort Wayne) | Tutti Frutti (Portland) |
| The Stand Cones & Crème (Fort Wayne) | Living In Joy Café (Dunkirk) |
| Grabill Dairy Sweet (Grabill) | Chillz Delights (North Manchester) |
| DeeZertz (Berne) | Ritter's Frozen Custard (Warsaw) |
| Sweet Sanity (Huntertown) | The Magic Wand (Churubusco) |
| Sugar Creek Meats & Treats (South Whitley) | Sundaes on Sylvan (Rome City) |
| Old 27 Ice Cream Shop (Decatur) | Toppings Ice Cream Parlor (Bluffton) |
| The Tasty Spoon (Hartford City) | Ashley's Ice Cream Café (Marion) |

Ice Cream Social Sponsors

Banana Split Level \$5,000+

Don Wood Foundation
Jennifer & John Haines
Parkview Health
The DeMarchis Foundation

Sundae Level \$2,500+

Law Office of Travis J McConnell
Peoples Charitable Foundation
Parco, Inc.
Shields & Roussel Families
Surack Family Foundation
Steel Dynamics

Strawberry Level \$1,500+

3Rivers Federal Credit Union
Barkley Builders
Brotherhood Mutual
Bushey's Windows and Doors
Marie & Rory Moehnke
Team Nickelson
Gehres & Associates PC
Marion Health
Manchester University
McDonald's of Northeast Indiana
Lutheran Health Network
Pediatrix Medical Group

Chocolate Level \$1,000+

Baden Gage & Schroeder LLC
Cameron Memorial Community Hospital
Doug & Mikala Roth
Glenbrook Dodge
In Memory of Elliot Rumschlag
Mainstay Solutions
Metal Technologies
Professional Emergency Physicians (PEP)
Post Modern Barbershop
Pure Dance Works
Scott & Stacy Jester
Star Financial Bank
Sweetwater

*For a complete list of donors go to kateskart.org/donors



To become a 2024 Ice Cream Social Donor please visit KatesKart.org.

Karts Added in 2023

In 2023, our fleet of Karts not only grew in Fort Wayne, but also expanded across state lines into Northwest Ohio! 4 Karts later, we are now up to **40 Karts** in **25 hospitals** across **15 counties**.



Kart #37 Parkview Regional Medical Center - Premier Surgery Unit
September 2023



Kart #38 Parkview Southwest ER
October 2023



Kart #39 Parkview Montpelier ER
December 2023



Kart #40 Parkview Bryan ER
December 2023



After 6.5 years of partnership, and over 7,300 new books given to pediatric patients in the ER, our Kart at the IU Health Blackford Hospital in Hartford City said its goodbyes as the hospital closed its emergency room and ended inpatient care services in October.

We're thankful to the nurses, doctors, and hospital staff for using the Kart as a resource over the years, and wish them the best of luck as they continue to make a positive impact at neighboring hospitals!

Giving Tuesday 2023

Giving Tuesday Recap

Giving Tuesday 2023 was one to remember. In just one day, supporters in-person and online donated a total of \$20,014 to Kate's Kart. Plus, Santa Claus came to town and stopped by the Kate's Kart Office for a few hours while families joined us for photos, crafts, and hands-on "Santa's Workshop" activities in the office.

From those who stopped by the office to donate and meet Santa, to those who gave online, hosted Facebook Fundraisers, Kate's Kart Book Drives, and everything in-between, thank you.



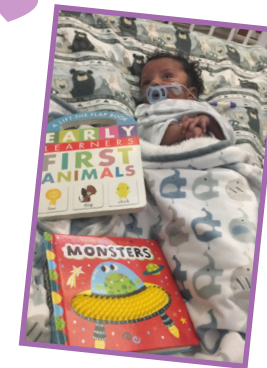
Kate's Kart Touching Hearts

Beals Family Spotlight

"Kate's Kart means the world to us. From infusions, blood draws, hospital stays, to surgeries we are at the hospital a lot. When we see Kate's Kart volunteers smile at our kids and us, it gives us hope that everything will be ok again. Choosing a book that our children get to keep and read the rest of their lives is remarkable. Kate's Kart brings joy to dark places. They make you feel seen as a person and not just a family in the hospital." - The Beals Family



The Beals Family at our 2023 Giving Tuesday Event



Ezekiel with Kate's Kart Books, July 2020



Grace making strides, Jan 2024

Kate's Kart Board of Directors & County Champions

Our Board of Directors continues to propel our organization toward a sustainable future. Made up of 12 working professionals, our Board helps strengthen donor relations, oversees financial planning and decision-making, and strategizes for long-term growth. We are grateful for their time and talents that are helping build a bright future for Kate's Kart.

- Trent Diller, President** - Insurance Management Group
- Rory Moehnke, Vice President** - Retired, Regal Beloit, Kate's Kart Hospital Volunteer
- Hollie Mitchell, Treasurer** - Steel Dynamics
- Kate Miller, Secretary** - STAR Financial Bank
- Ed Derdzinski** - TTI, Inc.
- Stacy Jester** - Lincoln Financial Group
- Andrew Kuehnert** - Kuehnert Dairy Farm
- Courtney Leach** - Parkview Health
- Kristin Smith** - 3Rivers Federal Credit Union, Kate's Kart Hospital Volunteer
- Marcus Price** - Baden, Gage & Schroeder, LLC
- Armando Rangel** - Coldwell Banker Real Estate Group
- Sarah Somers** - Lutheran Health

Our newly formed County Champion Volunteer Team launched in the Fall of 2023. This team, made up of 16 passionate volunteers in each of the counties we serve, is responsible for helping manage and stock the Kart in their county, garnering local sponsors and donors, and representing Kate's Kart at community events. We can't wait to see how they will help grow our mission's awareness and support in each of the counties we serve.

- Alyssa Estep**, Adams County
- Amanda Broward**, Adams County
- Andrea Sponhower**, DeKalb County
- LeAnn Neel-Romine**, Delaware County
- Dylan Garrett**, Elkhart County
- Arica Doughty**, Huntington County
- Heather Keller**, Jay County
- Kelly Abrams**, Kosciusko County
- Joni Webb**, LaGrange County
- Jami Reeve**, Noble County
- Summer Kohne**, Steuben County
- Allison Garman**, Steuben County
- Christine Hauptert**, Wabash County
- Christin Hartman**, Whitley County
- Lisa Hauth**, Whitley County
- Shari Tomac**, Wells County



2023 Creative Ventures

"A Moment of Home" Kate's Kart Film

How do you sum up 15 years of Kate's Kart into 2 minutes? We had no idea how anyone could tackle this challenge, but were completely amazed by the work of Upper Valley Film Company who so beautifully did just that. Thank you to our video volunteers, families who had been Kate's Kart book recipients in the hospital, alongside Matt, Ruth, and the entire video crew for capturing our story.



Watch "A Moment of Home" Here!



New Bookmark Designs

Our 2023 bookmarks were extra special—designed by kids for kids in our first ever Bookmark Design Contest! The winners were 7-year-old Malcolm and 9-year-old Simone from East Elementary School, and 10-year-old Kinley from Aspen Meadows Elementary whose thoughtful designs captured our hearts. Thanks to our Designer, Taylor, we were able to digitalize these designs for hospitalized children all across Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio to use when they receive a new Kate's Kart book.



2023 Donor List

Kate's Kart acknowledges the generosity of donors who made gifts between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023. These gifts fuel our determination to provide a comforting diversion to hospitalized children in Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio.

We appreciate all donations to Kate's Kart. For a complete list of all donors, please visit our web page at KatesKart.org/donors.

Groups, Companies & Foundations

\$25,000+

Parkview Health
RMSM Foundation

\$20,000 - \$24,999

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Alvin Glick Foundation
Don Wood Foundation
The James Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Community Foundation of Grant County
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne
Do it Best Foundation, Inc.
EPR Properties
Ian & Mimi Rolland Foundation
Meijer, Dupont
Meijer, Lima
M.E. Raker Foundation
New Leaf Recreation LLC
Noble County Community Foundation
Olive B. Cole Foundation, Inc.
The Portland Foundation
Raker Foundation
The Tim & Beth Shields Foundation
The William & Bonnie Hefner Foundation
Walmart Foundation
Zollner Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

3Rivers Credit Union Foundation
Adams County Community Foundation
Adams Memorial Hospital Foundation
Amazon Smile Foundation
Avilla Elementary School
Community Foundation of Wabash County
Disque Foundation
F&M Bank
Franklin Electric Foundation, Inc.
First Christian Church, Bargain Shop
Fort Wayne Sports Car Club of America
Fort4Fitness, Inc
Huntington County Community Foundation
James R. Shields Private Foundation
Kosciusko County Community Foundation
Kroger Community Rewards
LaGrange County Community Foundation
LGA Retail, Inc.
Lincoln Elementary School
Lippert
Little Lights Preschool
Marion Health
MCH Poultry Service LLC
McMahon Best-One Tire & Auto
Medical Protective Company
Ossian Elementary
Person 2 Person Ministries

\$1,000 - \$4,999 (continued)

Regal Rexnord Charitable Foundation
The Porter Family Foundation
The Stand Cones and Crème
Thieme Family Foundation
Wabash Elks Lodge #471
Wells County Foundation

Gift in Kind Service Donors

Firehouse Santa (Our Santa for Giving Tuesday)
Gradient Graphics (Website Hosting & Maintenance)
JBG Photography (Headshots & Event Photos)
Mainstay Solutions (Computer Maintenance)
Pyromation (Spray Paints New Karts our Signature Pink)

Our Mission

Through the gifting of new books, Kate's Kart strives to provide a comforting diversion to hospitalized children and their families; and to foster a love of books, and ultimately literacy, by encouraging kids to read and parents to read to their children.



Thank you!

Thank you for your support of Kate's Kart. Every effort has been made to maintain accuracy in the preparation of the Annual Report. Unfortunately, mistakes and omissions may occur. If you should find an error in the report or online, or wish to be removed from our mailing list, please notify us so that our records can be corrected: (260) 999-6173 or info@kateskart.org.

Volunteer Hours

2,146 hours given in 2023
41,537 hours given since 2008
73 Hospital Kart Pushers
17 County Champions
15 Office Volunteers
12 Board of Directors