

2020

# Annual Report

Kate's Kart - Books from the Heart



Kate's Kart

Books from the Heart  
KatesKart.org

10376 Leo Road, Suite A  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825



Kate's Kart 13th Annual Ice Cream Social

## Save the Date

Join us on Saturday, June 26, 2021

All day at various locally owned Ice Cream Shops



Join us for a day of celebration as we all eat ice cream and support locally owned ice cream shops. Help us celebrate 300,000 books and Kate's Birthday! Kate's Kart volunteers will be on-site at each location giving out goodie bags and prizes.

A complete list of participating ice cream shops is available at [Kateskart.org](http://Kateskart.org) and on our Facebook Page.

Due to the success of our 2020 Event and for the safety of our volunteers and guests, Kate's Kart Board of Directors has chosen to host a distanced event in 2021. We look forward to returning to our normal large gathering when it is safe for everyone.



Alex



Hagen



Zac Cheryl



Cook Sisters



## A Message from the Director

Oh what a year! Looking back on 2020 brings back so many memories. Memories of sadness and grief over the loss of many things. But at the same time...I saw the resilience of the human spirit and the generosity of our community shine brighter than ever before.

On March 13, I received emails from all the hospitals that our volunteers would no longer be allowed in the hospitals. I thought for sure that phone calls would come soon after... "For safety reasons, please remove your Karts from our emergency rooms and hospitals." But those emails never came. Instead, we heard from each hospital that they were doing all they could to continue delivering our books in a safe manner. They told us the kids NEED those books, now more than ever. Comfort was essential during a time when going to the hospital was even more scary than before. Everyone was hidden behind a mask and smiles couldn't be shared. But the gifting of a new book brought out the twinkle in the eyes of kids and parents. Kate's Kart Books became "essential" during this global pandemic that rocked all of our worlds.

We worked with the hospitals in figuring out ways to continue distribution in Emergency Rooms that now had more restrictions, as well as in the larger hospitals that we usually served through volunteers. We added a few more Karts to make distribution for the staff easier. Kate's Kart continued in all 20 hospitals...kids were still receiving the gift of new books to ease their hospital stay. And over the course of the year, our volunteers slowly returned to sharing the love of reading with kids and their families. We found our new normal and adapted.

At the same time, schools, organizations, and even small businesses closed or slowed down. Normally, our spring is filled with book and fund drives...but that came to a halt. Donations of books and funds were

down significantly. But thanks to the Community Foundation Of Greater Fort Wayne, a special GIVING TUESDAY NOW was held in April and we saw our generous community step up and support us with over \$6,000 in donations that went far in helping us through those first few months of COVID-19.

Fast forward to our summer and our normal fundraiser...an amazing celebration of Kate's Kart and ice cream...and 2,500 people. Our Board worked quickly to redesign our fundraiser to be distanced and safe. And once again, our community stepped up and supported not only Kate's Kart but 12 locally owned ice cream shops. We raised just as much money through sponsors and donations as we have with our normal fundraiser...Generosity at its best.

And it didn't stop...our Giving Tuesday campaign in early December continued to see the outpouring of support...once again easily surpassing our goal and reaching our match from McMahon Best One Tire.

Throughout the entire year, we continued to see generosity overflow through donations of funds and books to support our mission. In a year that took away so much, Kate's Kart was given so much. And although the financial support was essential to us continuing our mission, one thing meant the world to us. Kate's Kart placed 2nd in the Favorite Charity category in the Fort Wayne Newspapers Best of Fort Wayne. What we do matters and our community saw that and responded. Our hearts were humbled.

Every single book we gift has the potential to make a significant impact on a hospitalized family. Every book can create a memory that will last a lifetime...far surpassing the memories of 2020. Books just have that potential...and for the ability to gift over 24,000 new books in 2020 is a complete honor. THANK YOU for believing in us and our mission.

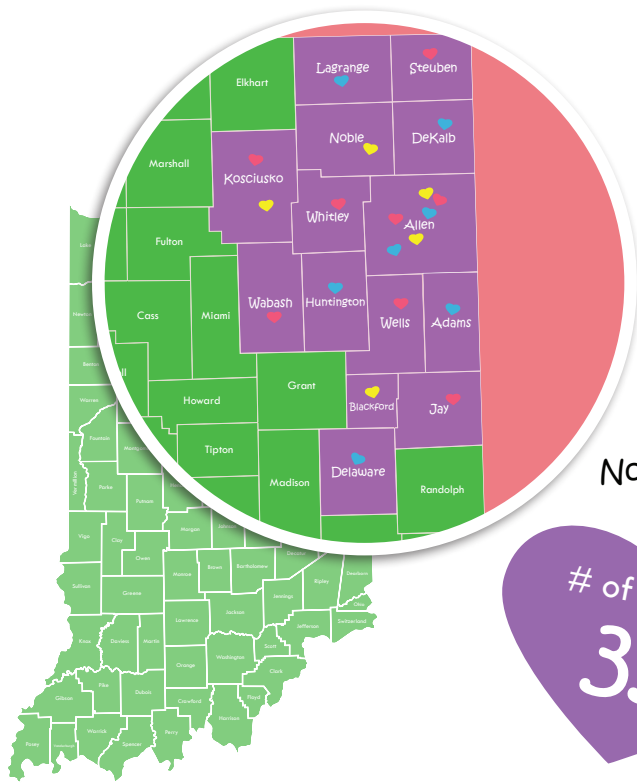


Krista



Krista Layman  
Co-Founder & Executive Director



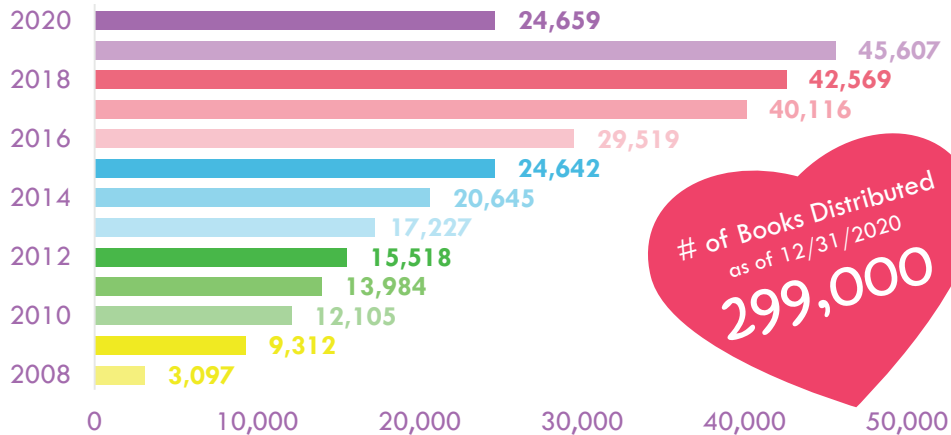


Kate's Kart is currently providing free books to hospitalized children in 20 community hospitals in 14 counties in Northeast Indiana.

# of Karts:  
**33**

## Books Distributed

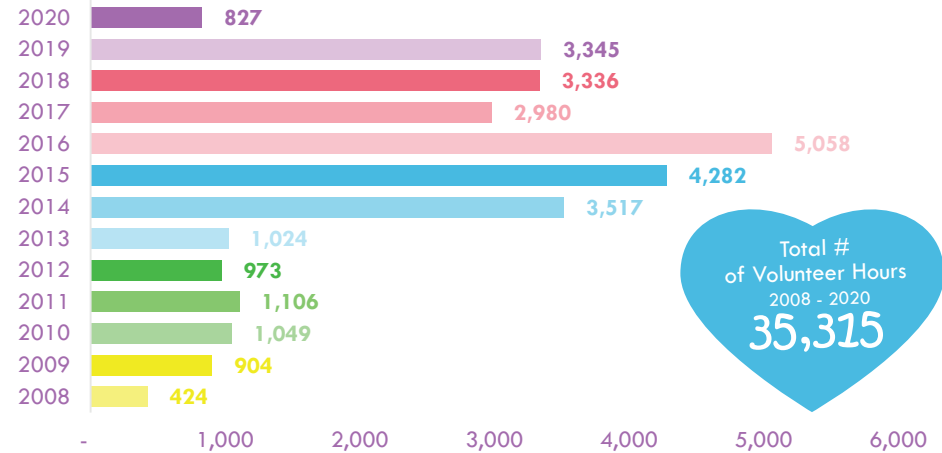
2008-2020



# of Books Distributed as of 12/31/2020  
**299,000**

## Hospital Volunteer Hours

2008-2020



Total # of Volunteer Hours 2008 - 2020  
**35,315**

2008-2013 represent hours given by volunteers distributing books at Parkview Regional Medical Center, Dupont Hospital, and Lutheran Hospital.

2014-present, in addition to distribution above, includes time spent in meetings and planning done by the Board of Directors and planning committees.

\*2012: Decrease due to closing of Parkview Randalia pediatric floors.

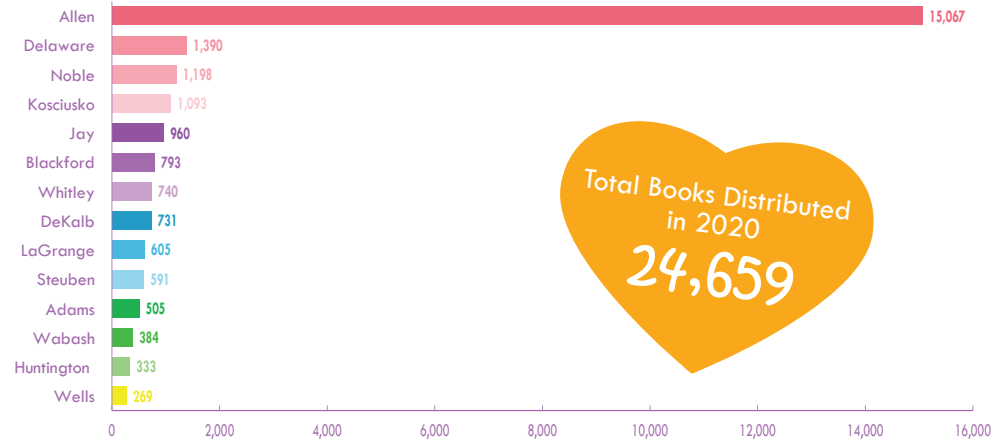
\*2017: Decrease due to hiring of part-time Administrative Assistant.

\*2018: Decrease due to hospital restrictions due to flu season.

\*2020: Decrease due to COVID-19.

## Book Distribution by County

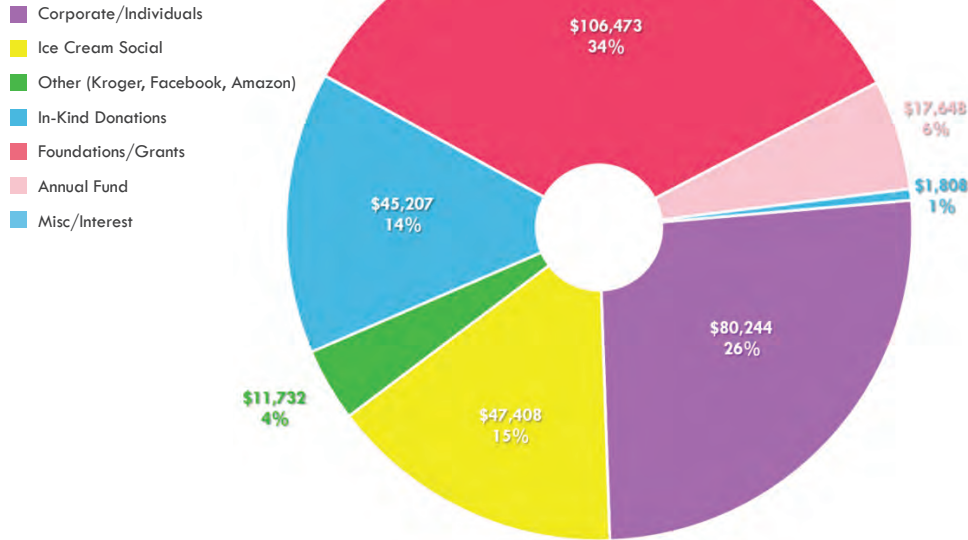
2020



Total Books Distributed in 2020  
**24,659**

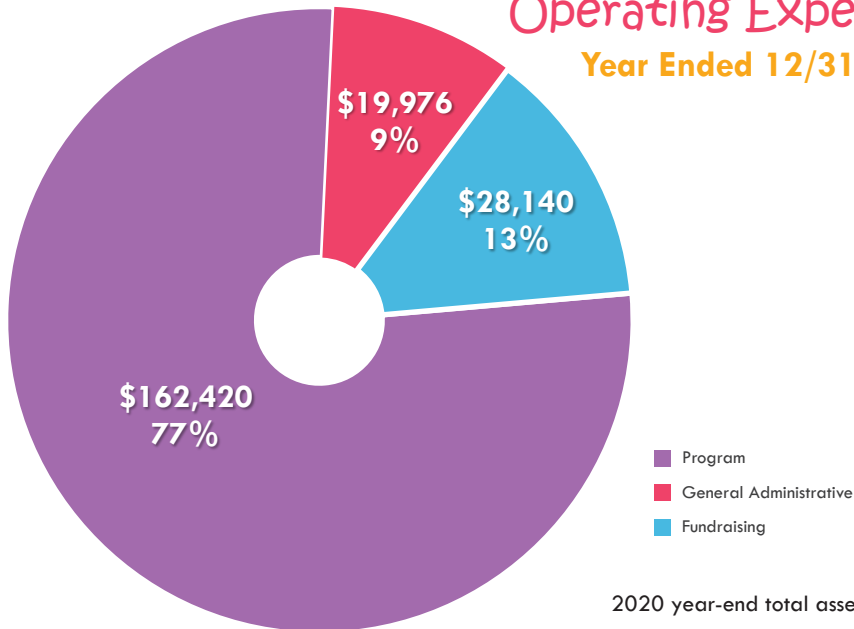
# Revenue

Year Ended 12/31/2020



# Operating Expenses

Year Ended 12/31/2020



2020 year-end total assets: \$322,333

# 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](https://kateskart.org/donate) or Venmo: @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. To see the current books we need most, visit [kateskart.org/our-wish-list](https://kateskart.org/our-wish-list).

# Additional Ways to Give Back

Holding a fundraiser or book drive to benefit Kate's Kart can be fun and rewarding! Challenge your group or organization to meet a pre-determined level. We're happy to come to your office or school and talk about what we do and why it is important to our community. We will also let you know what your organization can do to help.



If you shop at Kroger, supporting Kate's Kart is easy!! Simply link your Kroger Plus Card to our organization, and for the rest of the year, a percentage of your purchases will be donated directly to Kate's Kart! Instructions to link your card can be found at [kateskart.org/shop-kroger](https://kateskart.org/shop-kroger).

Love to shop at Amazon? When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Kate's Kart. Simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select Kate's Kart as your charity of choice.



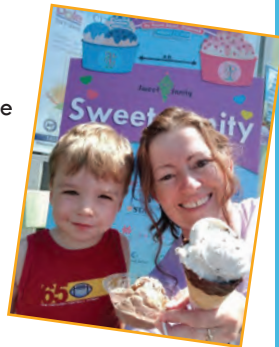
You shop. Amazon gives.

How YOU can help Kate's Kart



## 2020 Ice Cream Social...Distance Recap

In a year of the pandemic, our team was able to creatively offer an event unlike ones we have done in the past. By partnering with local ice cream shops we were able to create an event that received visibility from most counties where we have a presence. This event not only provided us with as much funding as our normal Ice Cream Social Event, but also allowed us to reach audiences in other counties across Northern Indiana.



Our 2020 Ice Cream Social...Distance was a huge success. We are so grateful to everyone who pulled together and allowed our major fundraiser of the year to be just as successful as in the past. We certainly missed gathering together at the park, but the smiles we saw on so many faces as they indulged in ice cream made up for our disappointment.

1. We partnered with 12 local ice cream shops. We estimate thousands came out for ice cream all over Northeast Indiana in celebration of Kate's Kart. All of you generously donated in our boxes on-site and many of the shops donated proceeds as well, allowing us to raise over \$8,000 that day.
2. Our amazing team of sponsors continued to give, even though our event looked different. In total, 38 companies donated \$32,000...funds that went directly to our operating expenses.
3. Together with our sponsors, t-shirt sales and donations, we were able to raise over \$47,000. We are grateful for your support.
4. Along with our sponsors and Prairie Farms Ice Cream, we delivered over 1,400 individually wrapped ice cream treats to all 20 hospitals we serve. Our hope was that the Emergency Room and Pediatric staff were encouraged by this little treat. We are so grateful for their continued partnership and helping us to distribute the books, especially when our volunteers weren't in the hospitals.

Due to continued safety issues with COVID-19 and large gatherings, Kate's Kart Board of Directors has made the decision to host our 2021 fundraiser in a similar fashion to 2020. We will once again be partnering with local ice cream shops and hosting a Go Eat Ice Cream Day on June 26. We plan to have giveaways and small games at each location. Stay informed by visiting [kateskart.org](http://kateskart.org) or our social media pages, especially Facebook.

## Thank You

### 2020 Ice Cream Social...Distance Shop Partners

Just Cream (Fort Wayne)	The Tasty Spoon (Hartford City)	The Bliss Dish (LaGrange)
Sweet Sanity (Huntertown)	Iceburg Ice Cream (Albany)	The Ole' Hitching Post (Larwill)
The Frozen Spoon (Leo)	The Brown House (Auburn)	Kelainey's (Winona Lake)
Old 27 Ice Cream Shop (Decatur)	Scoops, Ice Cream (Angola)	Chillz (North Manchester)

### Ice Cream Social Sponsors

<b>Banana Split Level \$2,500+</b>	<b>Ice Cream Sundae Level \$1,000+</b>	
DeMarchis Family Foundation	Barkley Builders	Doug & Mikala Roth
Jennifer & John Haines	Brandenberger Tree Care	Star Financial Bank
Peoples Charitable Foundation	Core Benefits, Inc.	
Sweetwater / Chuck & Lisa Surack	MainStay Solutions	<b>Ice Cream Social... Distance Donors</b>
	Marie & Rory Moehnke	
<b>\$1,500+</b>	Metal Technologies	
Brotherhood Mutual	Parkview Whitley & Warsaw	<b>\$1,000+</b>
Steel Dynamics	Pediatrix Medical Group	Jean & Rick Hartman
	PEP Professional Emergency Physicians	Rick & Karen Nickelson

\*see [kateskart.org/donors](http://kateskart.org/donors) for a complete list of sponsors



To become a 2021 Ice Cream Social Donor please visit [KatesKart.org](http://KatesKart.org).

# Why We Give!

The year 2020 seemed to take away so many things from many of us...family time, vacations, school activities, a sense of normalcy. And yet...we were overwhelmed by so many who gave generously in 2020, through their time, talents and treasures.



Donated 265 Usborne Books.

“We give because Kate’s Kart has given to both of our girls while they were hospitalized. They both love reading and receiving a new book was such a great distraction! With the help of Usborne Books and More’s generous funds matching program, we’re able to stretch our donations even further and help more children receive books!”

- Brandon, Allison, Julianne and Annalee Garman

Kate’s Nana, Judy King fired up her sewing machine and started making masks once COVID hit. She put a message on Nextdoor that she would make masks for a donation to Kate’s Kart. Throughout the year, she has made well over 500 masks for family, friends, and those willing to support Kate’s Kart and has given over \$1600 to support our mission.

Judy said, “What a great way to utilize all my free time, help the community and support the charity I so dearly love because of my sweet granddaughter.”

- Judy King, “Nana”



“Our family feels it is important to share God’s blessings. As a retired teacher and a supporter of children’s causes I know the joy of books. It is fulfilling to see the excitement a book can bring to a child in the hospital and the gratefulness of a parent. It is an honor to support Kate’s Kart by distributing books in the hospital, stickering books at the office as well as with our financial gifts.”

- The Menze Family



The Menze family supporting Kate’s Kart during our 2020 Ice Cream Social...Distance. Their daughter Anna serves on our Board of Directors and Allison helps in the office and gives regularly to support our mission.

“After meeting Krista and hearing her cause for Kate’s Kart, it was hands down a no brainer to help out. Having 3 kids of our own and once being in the NICU and Riley Hospital for our own babies, it was second nature to help children. Here at The Tasty Spoon Ice Cream Shop in Hartford City, we pulled out all the stops to bring folks out for such a great cause. We will continue to help year after year!”

- Tennille Stephenson, Owner of The Tasty Spoon



“I feel like giving is something we do to be inclusive in our community. It shows we care, we want to help, and we want to be part of a solution. Giving doesn’t have to be financial, giving of your time is equally important (maybe more so!) as a monetary commitment.”

- Kim McMahon



Kim and Bubba McMahon, as well as their entire team at McMahon Best One Tire, give generously to our community each and every year. We are so grateful to have them as Giving Tuesday partners for the past 2 years.

## Giving Tuesday 2020

Wow...what an amazing day we had on December 1<sup>st</sup> as we set out to reach our goal of \$4,000. Through Facebook we raised **\$4,550** and an additional **\$3,840** came in via our office and online giving. McMahon Best One Tire matched **\$4,000** bringing our total to **\$12,390!**

In April, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne hosted a Giving Tuesday Now, in response to Covid-19 and on that day, you all gave a generous **\$6,077!** We can't thank our amazing donors enough for helping us get through 2020.



## Kate's Kart Board of Directors

### Board Members:

**Amanda Garner, CPA** - Baden, Gage & Schroeder, LLC  
**Anna Menze, DO** - Lutheran Health Physicians  
**Holly Mitchell, Tax Supervisor** - Steel Dynamics  
**Karen Gize** - Former Physical Therapist, Kate's Kart Hospital Volunteer  
**Kate Miller, Secretary** - STAR Financial Bank  
**Katie Hartman** - Central Insurance Companies  
**Kevin Berning, MD** - Parkview Physicians Group  
**Kristin Smith, Treasurer** - 3Rivers Federal Credit Union, Kate's Kart Hospital Volunteer  
**Preston Short, Vice President** - Pro Products, LLC  
**Rory Moehnke** - Retired, Regal Beloit, PSI Leader & Kate's Kart Hospital Volunteer  
**Trent Diller, President** - Insurance Management Group

### Advisory Council:

**David C. Van Gilder** - Van Gilder & Trzynka, P.C.  
**Janet L. Leezer, MD** - Medical Director, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Dupont Hospital  
**Jayesh Patel, MD** - Parkview Regional Medical Center  
**Katherine Law** - Parkview Health  
**Sarah Somers, MS/CCLS/CPST** - Lutheran Children's Hospital

## Halsey's Story

"I remember escaping from a harsh reality into the fantastical worlds of books delivered by volunteers from a local organization called Kate's Kart. I eagerly waited for the smiling volunteers to appear with a new selection which was frequently the highlight of my week.

The stories were often chosen and read by my grandmother. My imagination brought them to life as a way to shelter my mind from what was actually happening.

An enchanted forest sprang up around me. An ugly old witch sat in a hollow tree, futilely chewing on the knots of her cursed rope. Mermaids stared up at me from beneath the surface of a lake. Fairies with butterfly wings danced before my eyes. I saw all of it almost as if it were real, but my reality consisted of five surgeries and a newly acquired feeding tube and tracheostomy."

This is an excerpt from a story I recently wrote for my SMA News Today column, From Where I Sit. In it, I chose to highlight some of my memories from a hospitalization in Lutheran Hospital's PICU ten years ago. Deciding which ones to share was a challenge, but there was one story that stood out in my mind from the moment I decided to write that piece. No matter what else I ended up putting into that column, I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that Kate's Kart was going to be a part of it.

I've been a self-proclaimed bookworm for as long as I can remember. I was the kid that carried a book with me everywhere and came home from the library with stacks of new reading material. As an adult, not much has changed. I have a fully stocked Kindle library that I carry with me, and it's nothing short of a miracle if I leave a bookstore without buying something.

Books are such powerful objects. They can teach us something new, transport us to a different world, speak to our souls, and so much more. And for the hospitalized children that Kate's Kart serves, books provide comfort.

The impact of a good book can last for many years. The impact of kindness and compassion can last just as long, if not longer. Kate's Kart gives all of these things to children and their families throughout our community. The people who have received a book from this wonderful organization have not forgotten that comforting experience. At least, I certainly haven't. - Halsey Blocher



# 2020 Donor List

Kate's Kart acknowledges the generosity of donors who made gifts between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. These gifts fuel our determination to provide comforting diversion to hospitalized children in Northeast Indiana.

We appreciate all donations to Kate's Kart. For a complete list of all donors, please visit our webpage at [KatesKart.org/donors](https://KatesKart.org/donors).

## Groups, Companies & Foundations

### \$10,000 - \$30,000

Edward D. & Ione Auer Foundation  
RMSM Foundation

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Bob Rohrman Subaru of Fort Wayne  
EPR Properties  
James R. Shields Private Foundation  
M.E. Raker Foundation  
William J. & Bonnie L. Hefner Foundation  
Zollner Foundation

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

3Rivers Credit Union Foundation  
Adams County Community Foundation  
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne  
Demarchis Family Foundation  
First Christian Church Kendallville, Bargain Shop  
Franklin Electric Foundation, Inc.  
General Shanks, Portland  
Huntington County Community Foundation  
Ian & Mimi Rolland Foundation  
Johnson & Johnson  
Kroger Community Rewards  
LaGrange County Community Foundation  
The Luminous Fund

McMahon Best-One Tire & Auto  
Medical Protective Company  
Noble County Community Foundation  
Olive B. Cole Foundation  
Petroleum Traders Corporation  
The Portland Foundation  
Tim & Beth Shields Donor Advised Fund  
Thieme Family Foundation  
Walmart Giving Foundation  
Wells County Foundation

## Individuals & Families

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Anna Menze  
Dianna Brown  
Gary Gorrell  
Greg & Mira Zimmerman  
Karen & Gary Gize  
Kelly & Fabiana Shields  
Ken & Karyle Whaley  
Jennifer & John Haines  
Jerry & Bonnie Gunckel  
Stanley & Joan Gray  
Ron & Diane Menze

## In-Kind Donors

A special thank you to the following companies and organizations for their generous in-kind gifts of services and products.

Jackson Pest Management  
MainStay Solutions

## 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 Donor List. 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](mailto:info@kateskart.org).



Kate's Kart Volunteers sent a special message to all of the hospital workers in appreciation of all they do.