



*Since 1937* 



# **Message from Leadership**

**Dear Friends,** 

As we look reflect on the past year, we are filled with immense gratitude for each of you—our supporters, partners, and friends. Your generosity has empowered us to continue creating life-changing experiences for kids and adults alike, whether through leadership development programs, outdoor education for students, or summer camps for children facing poverty or medical challenges. Each campfire, team-building session, and life lesson shared is made possible because of you.

This year, we've seen the costs of providing safe, enriching outdoor experiences rise sharply, as the need for more structured, supportive environments requires additional and experienced staff—the most significant part of our budget. Additionally, we continue to navigate post-pandemic challenges, with participation down as our partner organizations regain their footing. Your contributions are more crucial than ever, ensuring that we can meet these challenges without compromising the quality or safety of our programs.

On behalf of our entire team and the many lives you touch, thank you for being a part of this journey with us. We look forward to another year of making a difference—together.

Joyfully,

Jen Eismeier

**Executive Director** 

Brian Lawlor

**Board President** 



# **About Camp Joy**

Since 1937, Camp Joy has provided camp experiences outdoors and experience-based learning programs for underserved children, children experiencing foster care, and children with unique medical challenges from Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. The mission of Camp Joy has not wavered over the last 87 years in providing quality programs for those in need.

At Camp Joy, we believe every child deserves the chance to connect with nature, discover their inner strength, and experience the magic of camp. Through a variety of tailored programs, we create a safe and welcoming environment where campers can step away from the challenges they face and embrace the healing power of the outdoors. Whether it's roasting marshmallows by the campfire, making new friends, or gazing at a star-filled sky for the first time, these experiences spark joy, hope, and resilience that leave a lasting impact.

Our programs are designed with intentionality to meet the unique needs of the children we serve. From summer camps that bring together children experiencing foster care to medical camps for those with chronic illnesses, Camp Joy provides a space where kids can be kids. Through team-building activities, adventure challenges, and creative outlets, campers develop confidence, social skills, and a sense of belonging—all while supported by a compassionate team of staff and volunteers dedicated to their growth and success.



The heart of Camp Joy's mission is its unwavering commitment to inclusion and empowerment. By partnering with community organizations and generous donors, we ensure that financial barriers don't prevent children from accessing life-changing experiences. Every moment at Camp Joy—whether it's a smile shared, a skill learned, or a memory made—reinforces the importance of creating opportunities for underserved youth. As we continue to grow, we remain focused on our legacy of impact, ensuring that Camp Joy remains a beacon of hope and transformation for generations to come.









## A Place of Firsts

For many campers, Camp Joy is where they experience their first campfire, their first hike, or even their first glimpse of a starry sky. These moments are not just memorable—they're transformative. Camp Joy provides these "firsts" to children from a variety of backgrounds, each bringing unique experiences and challenges.

For children in foster care, Camp Joy offers a rare opportunity to feel grounded and safe, surrounded by the beauty of nature and the support of a caring community. It's often their first chance to build positive connections in an environment free from judgment, where they can simply be kids.

Children with chronic medical challenges find a place where they are not defined by their diagnosis but celebrated for who they are. Through specially designed medical camps, they get to experience the thrill of adventure and the peace of stargazing—moments that many never thought possible due to their health conditions.

Underserved youth from urban and rural areas are given the opportunity to explore the outdoors for the first time, stepping away from the stresses of daily life. Here, they can hike trails, paddle on our ponds, and gaze at the night sky—discovering a sense of wonder and hope that only nature can provide.

At Camp Joy, these "firsts" spark something greater: a sense of belonging, resilience, and the belief that anything is possible. For every child who steps foot at camp, these moments are the beginning of a brighter, more hopeful future.









# **Outdoor School Program**



The Outdoor School Program (OSP) at Camp Joy is a transformative educational experience designed to bring learning to life in the great outdoors. Tailored for school groups, this program combines hands-on activities, nature exploration, and team-building exercises to foster personal growth, environmental awareness, and academic engagement.

Through our program, students step out of the classroom and into an immersive environment where lessons are experienced rather than memorized. Whether they're conducting experiments in our outdoor science labs, hiking trails to study ecosystems, or engaging in team challenges that promote critical thinking and collaboration, students develop a deeper connection to the natural world and their peers.

Our highly skilled facilitators work closely with teachers and schools to align activities with educational standards and curriculum goals, ensuring that each visit complements classroom learning. The program focuses on key developmental areas such as problem-solving, leadership, and interpersonal skills, while also inspiring a lifelong appreciation for the environment.

















### **OSP - Day Programs**

- Comparative Ecology
- Entomology
- Everchanging Earth
- Forest Ecology
- Garbology Conservation
- Group Initiatives
- Herpetology
- High Ropes Courses

- Mammalogy
- Map and Compass
- Ornithology
- Pioneer Life
- Rocks and Minerals
- Wetland Ecology
- Wilderness Survival

Camp Joy's Outdoor School Program is more than just a field trip—it's an unforgettable journey of discovery. By stepping out of their comfort zones and into nature, students leave with renewed confidence, meaningful memories, and skills they'll carry into their futures. Whether it's their first hike, their first night away from home, or their first time exploring the stars, every moment at Camp Joy is a stepping stone toward growth and adventure.

























# A Journey of Dedication: Commitment to Camp Joy and His Community



For Timothy, the connection to Camp Joy runs deep. As an educator and assistant principal at Dayton Elementary School, he has spent the last 25 years serving the same community in which he grew up. This dedication is mirrored in his 20-year tradition of bringing students to Camp Joy, a place that has become integral to his students' growth and development.

"I grew up and lived in Dayton, and that's the school I'm teaching at and where I'm the assistant principal," Timothy shares. His passion for helping kids is evident as he recalls his own experiences at Dayton High School, where he was inspired by the positive role models around him—teachers, coaches, and community leaders. These influences guided him towards a career in education, where he could give back to the community that had given him so much.

Timothy 's journey with Camp Joy began two decades ago when he first brought his students to camp. "This is our 20th year of coming to Joy. I started this trip personally as a teacher 20 years ago, so I'm very prideful of the fact that that's been a long tradition." Over the years, the program has evolved, expanding from a one-night stay to a more immersive two-night, three-day experience. This tradition has had a lasting impact, with students often recalling their time at Camp Joy as one of the fondest memories of their school years.

The challenges faced by the students Timothy works with are significant. Many come from single-parent households or are being raised by grandparents. These students often carry the weight of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which can affect their emotional regulation and resilience. Timothy is acutely aware of these challenges and works tirelessly to support his students both in and out of the classroom. "There have been times even today that I had to go to a student's house to get the final forms turned in. There are times when I've gone to kids' houses to pack for Camp Joy because they didn't have that support."

Timothy 's dedication extends beyond the logistics of organizing trips. He sees Camp Joy as a vital tool in leveling the playing field for his students, especially through activities like the high ropes course. "The high ropes course for us is a game changer because it helps to level the playing field. I've had kids...who maybe are not as popular, now able to be on the same level and they can say things like, 'Hey, dude, I saw you, you were upset, you were frustrated just like I was upset and frustrated. I overcame that obstacle and you did too.'"













The impact of these experiences is profound.

Timothy reflects on how the lessons learned at

Camp Joy extend into the classroom and beyond.

"We had many conversations about what we
learned here at Joy about teamwork and

communication. Being the assistant principal, I get
to see the side of when there is conflict and we can
talk about the positive risks that we learned at the
high ropes course. What are positive risks you're
taking and how do we work through conflict and
compromise?"

Timothy 's connection to Camp Joy is not just professional; it is deeply personal. He draws inspiration from the camp's philosophy and implements many of its ideas in his school. "I take a lot of the ideas here at Joy and I try to implement them at our school. Not all of them, but some of them, because they're so open-minded and so supportive of the kids."

Reflecting on his journey, Timothy emphasizes the importance of the partnership between Camp Joy and his school. "Without the Camp Joy Foundation, we wouldn't be here today. The support from the foundation and the community has ensured that every kid can attend Camp Joy, regardless of their financial situation."

Timothy 's story is one of dedication, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to his students.

Through his efforts, countless children have had the opportunity to experience the transformative power of Camp Joy, a place where they learn, grow, and create memories that last a lifetime. "All for the love of the kids," Timothy says simply. And it is this love that continues to drive him, year after year, to bring his students to a place that he knows can change their lives.





Every moment becomes a memory, every challenge sparks growth, and every connection builds a community where kids discover their strengths and embrace the joy of simply being themselves

# **Camps**



The Camps Program at Camp Joy lies at the heart of our mission to inspire joy, resilience, and hope in children and families. Designed for underserved youth, children in foster care, and kids with unique medical challenges, our camps provide life-changing experiences in a safe, supportive, and nature-filled environment.

The Summer of 2023, dubbed the "Summer of Possibilities," exemplified the spirit of Camp Joy, offering a season of growth, adventure, and endless possibilities. Each camp session was designed to empower campers to explore new horizons, build lasting friendships, and discover their potential in a nurturing environment. From outdoor adventures like hiking, canoeing, and high ropes courses to creative arts and team-building exercises, every activity was an opportunity to build confidence, foster personal growth, and create unforgettable memories.

Our programs are tailored to meet the unique needs of every child we serve, offering specialized medical camps for kids with chronic illnesses, respite camps for children in foster care, and inclusive experiences that embrace children from diverse backgrounds. In 2023, campers were encouraged to step out of their comfort zones, whether conquering their fear of heights on the climbing wall, mastering wilderness survival skills, or expressing creativity in art workshops. Each day was filled with challenges and triumphs, leaving campers with a renewed sense of possibility and a deeper connection to themselves and the natural world.



### **Activities**

- Archery
- **Cabin Adventures**
- **Camp Crafts**
- Campfire & S'mores
- Canoeing
- Chalk Murals

- Field Games
- Fishing
- Fort Building
- Gaga Ball
- Group Activities

- Hiking
- **High Ropes Courses**
- Kids Kitchen
- Kayaking
- Greenhouse Gardening Nature Center Exploration Tie-Dyeing
  - Obstacle Courses

- Scavenger Hunts
- Slip N' Slide
- Stargazing
- **Swimming**

The emphasis on community and inclusivity remains a defining feature of Camp Joy's Camps Program. Around the campfire each evening, children shared their day's achievements, celebrated one another, and built bonds that will last a lifetime. Camp Joy is more than just a getaway it's a place where kids can dream big, embrace challenges, and find a sense of belonging that stays with them long after their time here. Through the magic of campfires, starlit skies, and shared adventures, we continue to inspire the joy and hope that every child deserves.















### **Venture Out!**



Venture Out! at Camp Joy is a dynamic program designed to inspire growth, strengthen connections, and develop leadership through experiential team-building and outdoor adventures. Tailored for corporate teams, schools, and community organizations, Venture Out! provides an unforgettable opportunity to build trust, improve communication, and foster collaboration in a supportive and engaging environment.

Nestled within Camp Joy's expansive natural setting, Venture Out! offers a variety of activities that challenge participants to step out of their comfort zones and discover their potential. From navigating high ropes courses and solving group challenges to creative problem-solving workshops and leadership simulations, every experience is crafted to meet the unique goals of each group.

Our skilled facilitators work closely with participants to customize programs that align with their objectives, whether it's strengthening workplace dynamics, enhancing school leadership, or simply fostering camaraderie. By combining thoughtful reflection with exciting activities, Venture Out! transforms moments of challenge into opportunities for growth and insight.





### **Leadership and Team Building**

- Building Stronger Teams
- Developing Leadership Skills
- Improving Communication
- Boosting Confidence & Resilience
- Strengthening Relationships

Venture Out! doesn't just focus on team-building—it's about creating lasting impact. Proceeds from the program directly support Camp Joy's mission to serve underserved youth, children in foster care, and kids with unique medical challenges. By participating in Venture Out!, your team not only gains valuable skills but also helps provide life-changing experiences to children in need. At Venture Out!, every adventure has a purpose, and every connection leads to greater possibilities.



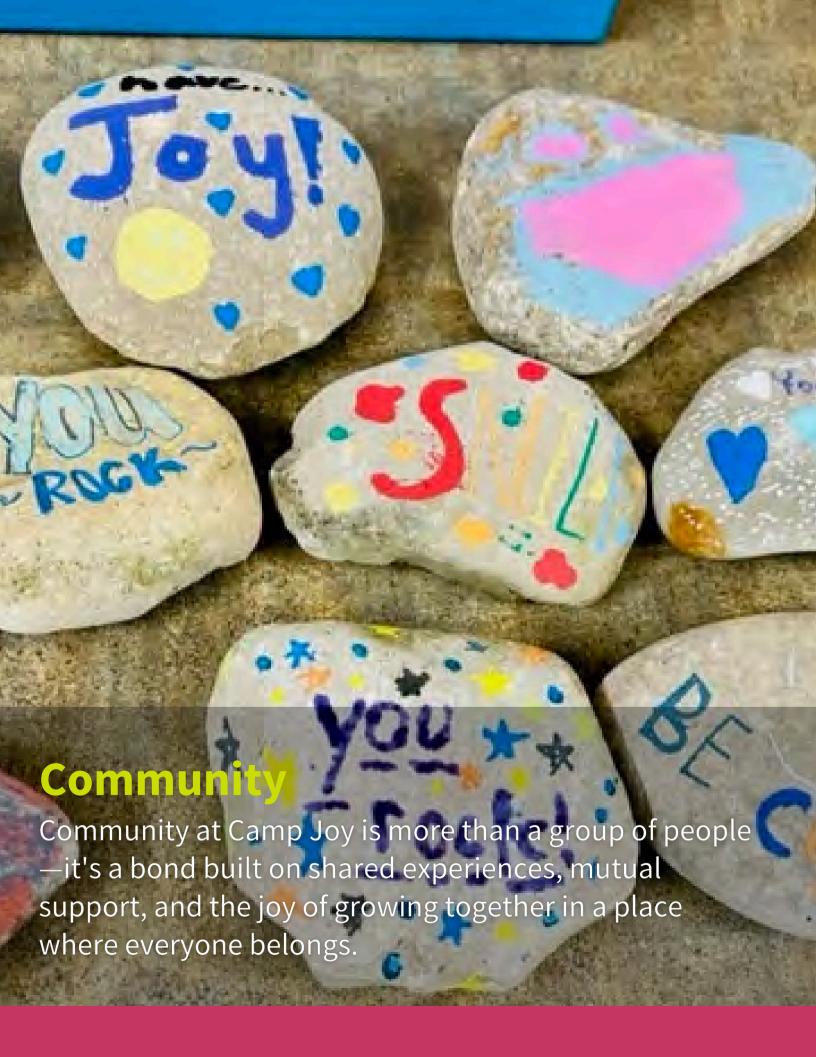




























# A Day of Community, Connection, and Adventure

Camp Joy's Harvest Fest 2023 was a heartwarming celebration that brought together families, friends, and the community to embrace the joys of childhood, learning, and thriving in a nurturing environment, all while enjoying the spirit of the autumn season. The event was a vibrant mix of activities that catered to all ages, from the excitement of hayrides and pumpkin painting to the peacefulness of nature walks through the stunning fall foliage. Attendees enjoyed a range of free activities, creating lasting memories and a sense of connection that is at the core of Camp Joy's mission.

In addition to the free activities, Harvest Fest 2023 also offered a variety of paid experiences that added an extra layer of adventure and discovery. Guests had the opportunity to embark on the Pioneer Tour, explore the trails during a guided Nature Hike, observe the wonders of the sky with Solar Scopes, dig into the past with Fossil Find, and challenge themselves on the high ropes and other Challenge Courses. These experiences allowed visitors to immerse themselves more deeply in the natural beauty and history that Camp Joy has to offer.



\$54,641.70

### **Free Activities for The Whole Family**

- Archery
- **Barrier Course**
- Carmel Apple Designs
- Cider Press
- Face Painting
- Hayrides
- Live Music

- Nature Moments
- Open Play Areas
- Pumpkin Bowling
- Scavenger Hunt
- S'more and Stories
- Swing By Choice

This year's Harvest Fest was more than just a day of fun; it was a testament to the community spirit that Camp Joy embodies. The event offered everyone a chance to experience the beauty of the outdoors, the warmth of shared moments, and the joy of participating in both traditional fall festivities and unique, enriching activities. Harvest Fest 2023 was a resounding success, raising an incredible \$54,641.70, reinforcing Camp Joy's dedication to providing inclusive, engaging, and joyful experiences for all. It was a day that perfectly captured the essence of what Camp Joy stands for—community, connection, and the celebration of life's simple pleasures, with a touch of adventure.





### **Thanks to our Sponsors!**





















# Honoring Cory's Memory The Ehrnschwender Family's Generous Gift



This year, our hearts were deeply touched by the extraordinary generosity of the Ehrnschwender family. In honor of their son Cory, who tragically passed away, the family presented a \$30,000 check to Camp Joy. This remarkable contribution, fueled by their tireless fundraising efforts, provided lifechanging, week-long camp experiences for 30 children.

Cory's love for the outdoors and the joy he found in nature lived on through the children who benefited from this gift, creating an enduring legacy of happiness and exploration. The Ehrnschwender family's commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others was truly inspiring, and we were humbled to have them as part of our Camp Joy community.

We were immensely grateful for their support and for helping us carry forward our mission of transforming lives through nature and community. Thank you, Ehrnschwender family, for your generosity and for keeping Cory's spirit alive through this impactful gift.









# Halloween at Joy

In 2023, Camp Joy staff embraced the Halloween spirit with a lively costume contest that brought out their creativity and sense of fun. From spooky to whimsical, the costumes were as diverse as the staff themselves, making for a day filled with laughter and unforgettable memories.





### Wellness Committee: Building a Supportive and Balanced Workplace

The Wellness Committee at Camp Joy was formed to prioritize the health and well-being of our staff, creating a supportive and balanced work environment. By organizing activities and initiatives, the committee promotes physical, mental, and emotional wellness, ensuring that our team remains energized and motivated.



Through their efforts, the Wellness Committee enhances team morale, encourages healthy habits, and strengthens the sense of community within Camp Joy, ultimately contributing to a more positive and productive atmosphere.

Above: The Wellness Team brought everyone together with their favorite mugs, offering warm beverages and snacks. The cozy setting encouraged camaraderie and provided a well-deserved break from the year-end hustle. #MuqClub



Capturing the spirit of Camp Joy—our team knows how to mix hard work with a whole lot of fun! Here's a glimpse of our crew embracing the holiday cheer during the annual all-staff holiday photo, with a little silliness and a lot of joy.

### Striking Success: Camp Joy Team Building at the Royal Z Lanes



Bowling Night wasn't just a memorable team-building event for Joy staff; it brought out the competitive spirit in everyone. More importantly, it provided a chance to unwind, and reinforce the strong sense of community that defines our team.

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Pam & Dana Ollier Rev. Benji Sayre

Robert English

**Shannon Lee Carter** 

Joe Dehner & Noel Julnes Dehner

#### In Memory of

**Ann Eismeier** 

Mearl Eismeier

**Audrey Davis** 

Charlie & Kelly Rogliatti David & Kathy Schooley

Jim & Karlyn McPike Robert & Colleen Boff

Todd & Sara Green

**Blake Kamstra** 

Elizabeth & Garrett Kamstra

**Bob and Mickey Swigart** 

Robin Kofler

**Connie Holbrook** 

**Amy Fuller Amy Thompson Beverly Cinnamon** 

**Cathy Minges Christy Montoya** 

Debra & Timothy Beck Gunner & Anne Blackmore

James & Evelyn Booker Janice Bryant

Jennifer & Dan Allen

Joan Browning Joseph & Louise Dafler

Mark & Anita Lutz

#### **Connie Holbrook**

Marty & Bonnie Butler Paul & Debra Dav Raymond Rardon

Rick Sauerland Sharon McNabney

Teri Alesbury Terri Nemann

Thomas Booker

#### Cory Ehrnschwender

Aileen Nebel

Corv Ehrnschwender Memorial David & Celine Ehnrschwender

Harry & Marjorie Meyers

Jeff & Jodean Yancey

Steven & Leah Erhnschwender

Susan Street Whaley

**David Lanier** 

**Bradley Orr** 

Matt Auman

Helen E. Johnson Gloria Kinney

**Isaac Muchmore and** 

**Kate Muchmore Earley** 

Earl & Patricia Brewer

Jane Kallmyer

**Daniel Nolting** 

**David Parris** 

John & Carol Gomolski

John & Carol Gomolski

Linda Zierolf

Lynn Weisgerber

Pam Kallmyer

Robert Kroeger

St. Columban Church

Susan Shereda

Susie Shereda

Tony & Marilyn McClain

**Mabel Hunt** 

Jacqueline Willis

**Mary Pat Bourne** 

Susannah Horwitz



#### **Legacy Society**

**Anonymous (2 Donors) Anderson Foundation Bryan and Nanci Lindholz Camp Joy Alumni Fund Will Caston Memorial Fund** Jack and Sally Chapman **John Davies** Jane Garvey and John Lanier **Priscilla Reed Gamble Drew Gores and George Warrington Dick and Anne Harrison Debbie Huffman Thomas and Martha Huheey Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trusts John and Debbie Kramer John Shepherd Leigh Prop Marianne and Snowden Rowe Marianne Rowe** Mike and Julie McGinty **Dave and Sharon Palm Rick and Peggy Stepien** 



#### **Camp Joy Policy on Donor Names:**

Camp Joy does not share or sell donor names or information. This policy reflects our commitment to maintaining the highest level of integrity, protecting donor privacy, and fostering personal relationships with each and every supporter.

#### **List Accuracy Statement:**

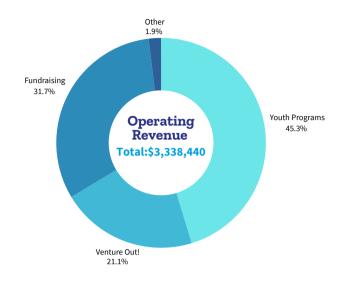
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these names. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions. We request that you contact Codi Hunter at codihunter@campjoy.org with any corrections.

### Recognition of Third Party Donors:

Camp Joy greatly appreciates the generosity of individuals who designate Camp Joy through entities such as the United Way, Thrivent Financial, Benevity, YourCause, and other corporate and organizational giving platforms.

- \* Camp Joy 20-Year Giving Society
- (G) Funds of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- \*\* Camp Joy's 20-year giving society & The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

# **Financials**



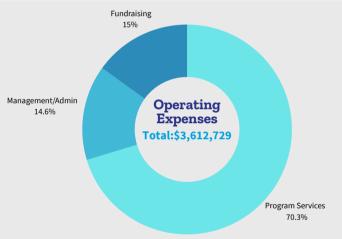
#### **Operating Revenue**

 Youth Programs
 \$1,511,973.00

 Venture Out!
 \$703,471.00

 Fundraising
 \$1,059,922.00

 Other
 \$63,074.00

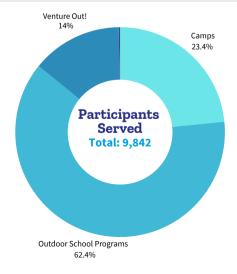


#### **Operating Expenses**

Program Services \$2,925,609

Management/Admin \$609,209

Fundraising \$626,200



0

#### **Participants Served**

Camps2,310Outdoor School Programs6,155Venture Out!1,377

0

Assets	Total
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,963,940
Contributions Receivable	\$122,900
Investments	\$4,653,179
Property and Equipment, net	\$2,491,994
Other Assets	\$269,704

Total Assets \$9,501,717

Liabilities and Net Assets Liabilities	<b>Total</b> \$307,903
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions Operating Reserves Property and Equipment Board Designated	\$1,370,283.00 \$161,310.00 \$2,555,574.00 \$2,049,795.00
Subtotal With Donor Restrictions Total Net Assets	\$6,136,962.00 \$3,056,852.00 \$9,193,814.00

Total Liability and Net Assets \$9,501,717



### **Celebrating Our Board of Directors**



The strength of Camp Joy lies not only in its programs and the children we serve but also in the unwavering dedication of our Board of Directors.

These visionary leaders bring their expertise, passion, and commitment to ensuring Camp Joy thrives as a beacon of hope and opportunity for the youth and families we serve. In 2023, their steadfast support and strategic guidance helped us achieve new milestones, adapt to evolving challenges, and expand our mission's impact. From enhancing our program offerings to strengthening partnerships, the Board's efforts have been instrumental in making this a "Year of Possibilities."

We are profoundly grateful for their time, talent, and resources. Whether advocating for our mission in the community, guiding us through significant decisions, or celebrating the success of our campers, their leadership inspires us to dream bigger and aim higher. Their belief in the transformative power of Camp Joy is the foundation upon which we continue to grow, and we extend our heartfelt thanks for their unwavering commitment throughout this extraordinary year. Together, we look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to make a lasting difference in the lives of so many.

### **Executive Committee**

**Brian Lawlor (Chair)** | 2019 – present The E.W. Scripps Company, President of Scripps Sports

**Ernie Hayes (Vice Chair)** | 2019 – present Air Transport Services Group Inc, Vice President, Human Capital

**Ron Beerman (Secretary)** | 2015-present Chief Network Officer, altafiber

**Joe Roman (Treasurer)** | 2019 – present Macy's Inc., Senior Director of Finance

**Katie Johnson (Member)** | 2020 – present EY, Partner

### **Board Members**

**Brett Meager** | 2022-present Paycor, Chief Customer Experience Officer

**Cacki Jones** | 2016-present AAA Allied Group, Travel Agent

**DaVona Chapman** | 2023 – present Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Improvement Science Education Director

**Diane Jordan** | 2018-present Thembi Speaks LLC Management Consulting Services, President/CEO

**Dr. Shantel Thomas** | 2023-present A Sound Mind Counseling, CEO

**Eric Combs** | 2023 – present Dinsmore and Shohl, LLP, Partner

**Jeff Fisher** | 2022-present PNC Bank, Senior Vice President & Managing Director

Mary Eppstein | 2020-present Fifth Third Bank, Vice President and Senior Private Banker

**Nick Rosian** | 2022-present Messer Construction, Operations Vice President

**Nikki Williams** | 2022-present Hamilton County Community Action Agency, Chief of Staff, Vice President Community Relations

**Susan Street Whaley** | 2022-present Hamilton County Community Action Agency, Chief of Staff, Vice President Community Relations

