



FC44 Foundation, Inc.

REFLECTION AND THANKS FROM JAY MURNEN

FC44 Supporter –

It's hard to believe it has been 25 years. 25 years since Kurt lost his battle with cancer, since Kurt walked with us, and since I have seen and talked to my brother. The pain does not go away, but the degrees change over time. I still have anger and regret. I wish Kurt was still here to lean on, provide me guidance, and make me laugh. There are many milestones which I feel cheated out of. Kurt wasn't the best man at my wedding. Kurt never met my wife. My three daughters will never meet and know Kurt.

I think if we are being honest, the hope is when we are no longer here, we have made a mark on this world and will be missed, remembered, and celebrated by family and others. Since Kurt was taken from us at the age of 19, it was hard for us as a family to see this. We wanted to do something in Kurt's memory but wondered if anyone would care. This all changed for us in 2014 when we started the FC44 Foundation to celebrate and remember Kurt, perpetuate his legacy, and continue his fight against cancer. What we learned then and know now, is that even though it has been 25 years since Kurt has been with us, the people who had the opportunity to know him and witness his journey, still remember and care about Kurt and the lessons he taught all of us.

Besides being a father to my three girls, the work of FC44 has been the most rewarding experience of my life. For what this has provided to me and my family, all I can say is THANK YOU and extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude! Because of you, others have been helped in Kurt's name and his memory is alive. I can't tell you the amount of healing this journey has provided to me and my family.

Since 2014, FC44 has received over \$315,000 in donations from friends and family like you who still remember and care about Kurt. Today I can confidently tell you that with your help, FC44 is having a significant impact on the lives of others and in the fight against cancer in Kurt's name and memory. \$180,000 has been provided to Kettering Health to support the innovation of the utilization of physical therapy in the cancer treatment plan. Its inclusion has a profound and measurable impact on the patient's ability to endure the physical and mental challenges of treatment and reduce hospital stays and out-of-pocket costs. Kurt's name and legacy also lives on at Archbishop Alter High School. Kurt's #44 was retired. Over \$80,000 in Kurt Murnen Memorial Scholarships have been awarded to 22 students over the last ten years who have positively impacted others by demonstrating courage and strength in the face of adversity. Each year, we are able to see and remember Kurt in the current students of Alter either through their story, personality, and/or character.

For what you have provided to FC44 and our family over the last 10 years, all I can do is tell you how humbled and grateful we are. You have allowed us to heal. You have allowed us to know and see that Kurt is still remembered. You have allowed us to help others in Kurt's name and memory. Each year, my dad questions me whether or not what we are doing with FC44 is sustainable. And each year, thanks to the loyalty and generosity of people like you, the answer has been a resounding yes! Thank you for all the support you have shown us in the past, during this year's campaign, and in the years to come!

With Gratitude and Appreciation,

Jay Murnen
Kurt's brother
FC44 Foundation Inc., President





3/4 TO 4/4 FOR #44: CELEBRATING & REMEMBERING KURT'S MEMORY



Kurt Patrick Murnen **May 19, 1979 – March 4, 1999**

FC44 was formed in 2014 by the family and friends of Kurt Murnen to share and celebrate his story, to perpetuate his legacy and continue his fight against cancer. At the age of 19, Kurt lost his battle with Ewings Sarcoma, a pediatric bone cancer, on March 4, 1999. FC44 is kicking off our Annual Campaign to raise contributions to carry out our mission. The month-long campaign runs from March 4th through April 4th. The campaign starts on 3/4 the day we lost Kurt and continues to 4/4 for our #44.

During this year's campaign, FC44 will be recognizing and celebrating the 25th anniversary of Kurt losing his battle with cancer and the 10th anniversary of the formation of the FC44 Foundation. In the last 10 years, we have accomplished a tremendous amount together. Since 2014, FC44 has received over 1,500 donations totaling over \$315,000. With these funds, FC44 has been able to work to carry out our mission. Together, we are having a significant impact on the lives of others and in the fight against cancer in Kurt's name and memory. To date, FC44 has provided \$180,000 to Kettering Health to support the physical therapy program run by Maple Tree Cancer Alliance. In 2023, FC44 made a \$100,000 pledge over three years to solidify our commitment to the inclusion of physical therapy in the cancer treatment plan. FC44 has been at the forefront of this progression and innovation in the fight against cancer. FC44 has also provided over \$80,000 in Kurt Murnen Memorial Scholarships at Archbishop Alter High School to 22 students.

For 2024, FC44 will satisfy year two of our pledge to Kettering Health Foundation for Maple Tree Cancer Alliance. FC44 will also continue to provide the Kurt Murnen Memorial Scholarship at Archbishop Alter High School to a student for their senior year. These students have demonstrated some of the same positive characteristics of strength and courage in the face of adversity that Kurt did as a senior battling cancer positively impacting the people around them watching their journey.

FC44 Foundation's 2024 goal for the 3/4 – 4/4 for #44 campaign is \$44,000 to support our commitment to Maple Tree and the scholarship at Alter. Your gift not only helps continue Kurt's legacy, but you also are allowing us to have a significant impact on others' lives and in the fight against cancer.

All donations allow us to carry out our mission to celebrate and remember our #44, Kurt Murnen.

Checks made payable to FC44 Foundation should be mailed to
9321 Bennington Way. Centerville, OH 45458
Donate online **FC-44.org**



ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES FOR FC44 FOUNDATION

By the end of 2024, FC44 will achieve:

Over \$200,000 to KHN to support physical therapy in the fight against cancer

Over \$90,000 to 24 students in Kurt Murnen Memorial Scholarships at Alter

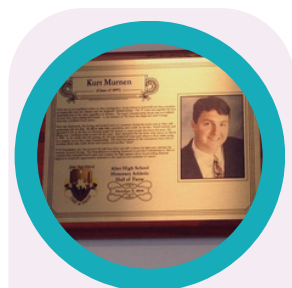
Over \$350,000 in donations, in over 1,750 donations, from more than 275 unique individuals and businesses

2014

2015

2016

2024



2014

- FC44 was formed in 2014 by the family and friends of Kurt Murnen to share and celebrate his story to perpetuate his legacy and continue his fight against cancer.
- Kurt was inducted in the Alter Athletic Hall of Fame in October 2014.



2015

- Kurt's #44 jersey was retired by Archbishop Alter High School.
- First scholarship recipient awarded at Alter.



2016

- The first gift was made to Kettering Health to support the STAR program, which focused on identifying patients who could benefit from physical therapy.



2019

- The STAR program evolved into the physical therapy program currently run by Maple Tree Cancer Alliance whose gym within the Cancer Center was opened and named in Kurt's memory.

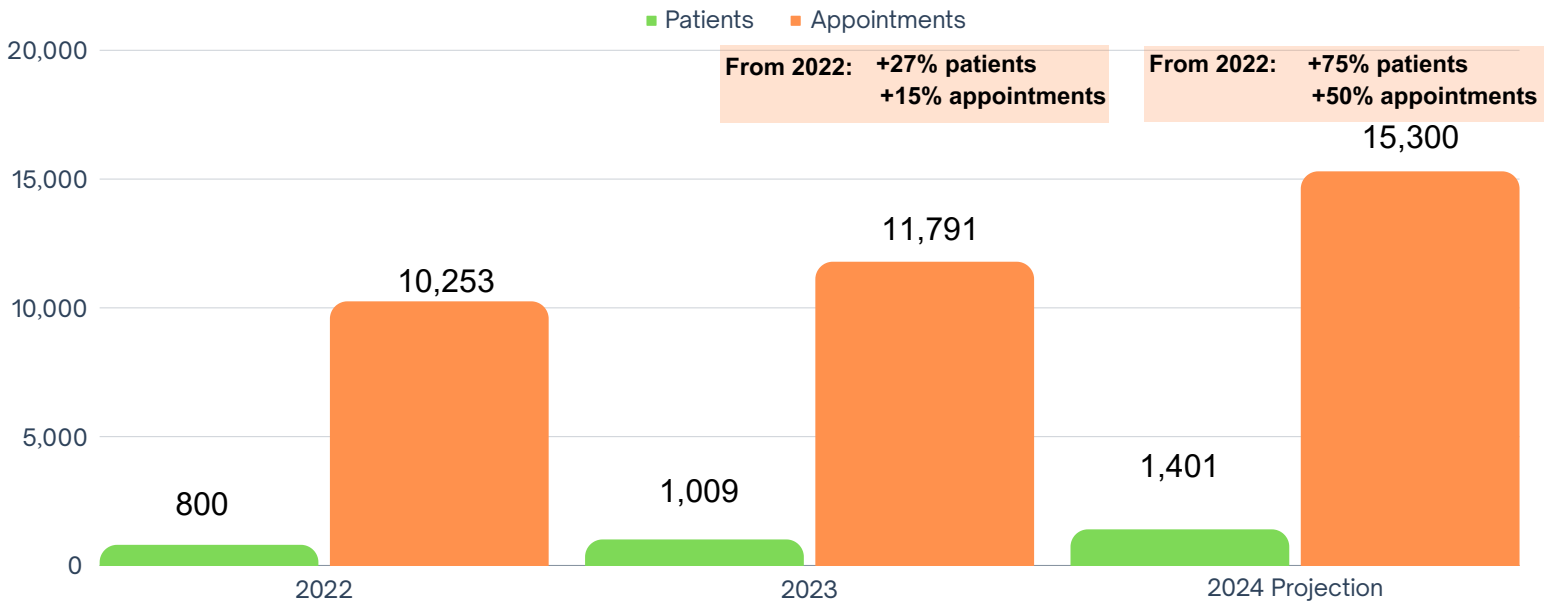


2023

- FC44 made a \$100K pledge to Kettering Health for Maple Tree Cancer Alliance payable over 3 years.

Current State

In 2023, FC44 committed \$100,000 to expand the services of Maple Tree Cancer Alliance at Kettering Health. This investment enhances access to physical therapy for Kettering Health oncology patients by allowing Maple Tree Cancer Alliance to expand its staff and serve even more patients. An additional therapist was hired in 2023 consistent with our commitment.



Future State

Since the beginning of FC44's partnership with Kettering Health, physical therapy has been the centerpiece. We have invested in programs that would identify patients who might benefit from physical therapy and expanded services. Thanks to our years of investment, the body of peer-reviewed research demonstrating the efficacy of physical therapy on cancer patients is growing. Just last year, Dr. Karen Wonders, founder of Maple Tree Cancer Alliance, published research in three new papers, a book chapter, and presented at 11 national and international conferences.

Our aim has long been to build enough evidence to lobby for insurance coverage for these services. Participating in physical therapy reduces a patient's out-of-pocket cost by 500%, their pain by 55%, and their readmissions to the hospital by 47%, among other outstanding impacts. Today, Maple Tree Cancer Alliance's physical therapy is provided to patients free of charge.

At the expense of Kettering Health, with support from generous donors like us, these services are provided because they improve outcomes. But, without insurance coverage, there is a limit to the number of patients who can be served. Imagine a future where all cancer patients receive physical therapy as part of their treatment, rather than as an optional supportive therapy if it's available or they can afford it.

Imagine how many more patients would thrive during and after active treatment. That future is within sight – Maple Tree Cancer Alliance is working in partnership with many other national organizations to apply for Medicare and Medicaid to cover these services. They anticipate submitting the application this year. With a successful application, these services could be covered as early as 2026. That future isn't certain, but it is possible, and thanks in part to the longstanding support that FC44 has provided, it is within reach!