



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.

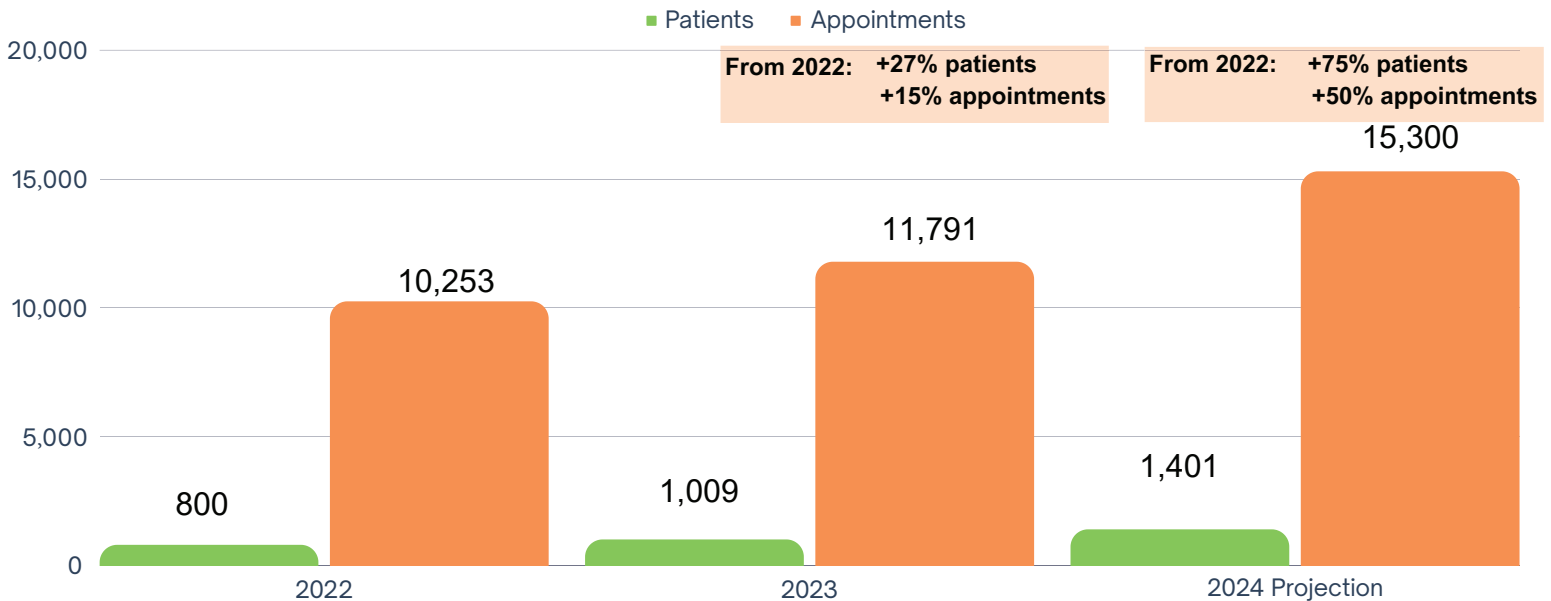


2023

- 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!