

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



AMERICAN
childhood
CANCER ORGANIZATION



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*It doesn't start and end with a **Cure.***

The most that anyone could hope to do for a child with cancer is to make their cancer go away. However, defeating cancer can take years or a lifetime, and too many children lose the battle. In the time between a first diagnosis and the first cancer-free day — if that day ever comes — these children are facing the most intense challenge of their lives.



A cure is victory, but cancer is a battle.

At ACCO, we support children on the front lines in the fight for their lives. They all deserve a cure. But until that day comes, they will have our care.

Dear ACCO Supporter

ACCO is honored and proud to be leading the way as we work collaboratively to create change at the state, national, and international levels. From our expansion of ACCO's What About Kids Advocacy initiative from \$2.5 million appropriated in one state to more than \$120 million collectively appropriated in 7 states for childhood cancer research, to providing education and support to thousands of newly diagnosed children with cancer and their families, our mission stays strong fifty-five years after our founding.

Through it all, there has been one constant - **YOU**. You are what drives our passion every day and it is your support that has made the victories possible. And we thank you for that.



WHAT WE DO

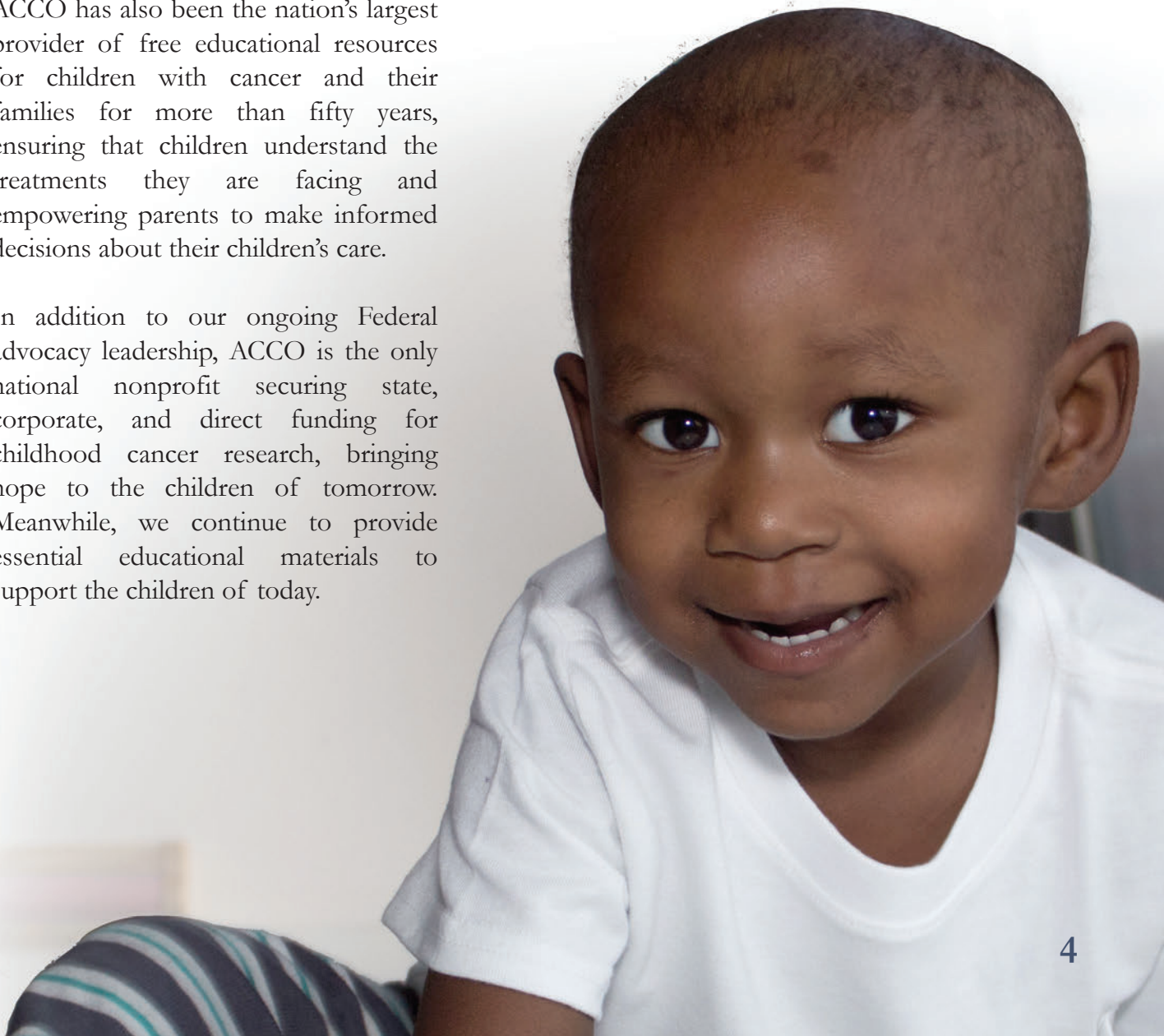


Since its founding in 1970 by parents of children with cancer, the American Childhood Cancer Organization (ACCO) has been uniquely positioned to serve as the leading voice for children diagnosed with cancer and their families - placing us at the forefront of childhood cancer advocacy.

For more than two decades, ACCO was the only organization on Capitol Hill championing efforts to secure federal appropriations for childhood cancer research funding through the National Institutes of Health.

ACCO has also been the nation's largest provider of free educational resources for children with cancer and their families for more than fifty years, ensuring that children understand the treatments they are facing and empowering parents to make informed decisions about their children's care.

In addition to our ongoing Federal advocacy leadership, ACCO is the only national nonprofit securing state, corporate, and direct funding for childhood cancer research, bringing hope to the children of tomorrow. Meanwhile, we continue to provide essential educational materials to support the children of today.



ACCO confronts childhood cancer through two missions - supporting families today, while driving the research discoveries that will save the children of tomorrow.

RESOURCES

ACCO provides information, support, and specialized resources for the children battling cancer right now, and their families.

All free of charge.



The average age of diagnosis for children with cancer is 8 years old.



The trauma of cancer can cause severe anxiety and depression.



Many treatments are physically painful or require long term isolation.



Cancer robs a child of birthdays, friends, school, and a normal childhood.

RESEARCH

ACCO secures funding for research into more effective, less toxic treatments that will improve prognosis and leave survivors with fewer late effects from treatment.



Cancer kills more children in America than any other disease.



Some childhood cancers remain fatal and incurable.



Most childhood cancer treatments have not changed in thirty years.



73% of childhood cancer survivors will suffer a chronic health condition.

SIGNATURE CAMPAIGNS



Pjammin®

Pajamas are the battle uniform of children with cancer. As they undergo critical treatments such as chemo and surgery, our smallest cancer patients live in their pajamas. They can be isolated for months or years at a time, missing normal childhood experiences like school or time with their family, as they battle cancer in their pajamas.

A Pjammin® event is a way to stand in solidarity with these cancer warriors, raise awareness of their struggle, and raise funds to support them. By organizing a Pjammin® day at your school or business, you can help spread the word of these children and their amazing courage, strength, and perseverance.



GO GOLD®

As the international symbol for childhood cancer, the gold ribbon represents a united stand in the fight and the ongoing search for new and innovative treatment options. Sadly, when asked, most people are not able to identify the gold ribbon as the symbol for childhood cancer awareness. We can't raise awareness of the importance of the Gold Ribbon without help from others across the country and across the globe.



A fun-filled GO GOLD® event is the perfect way to get a school or workplace to come together in the fight to beat childhood cancer and provide hope to those who need it most. Some examples of GO GOLD® events include a high school sports team wearing gold gear; a restaurant hosting a GO GOLD® party that encourages patrons to come in on a specific night dressed in gold; jewelry stores devoting specific items to childhood cancer awareness, and even breweries committing to the fight with new golden lagers.

RESOURCES



Every year, ACCO distributes tens of thousands of educational books, medical play therapy kits, and much more to children with cancer and their families, all free of charge. These resources are specialized to the struggles of childhood cancer.



Medical Play Kit

This free resource familiarizes children with many of the medical instruments and procedures they will encounter during treatment. Allowing children to play the role of doctor instead of patient gives them a sense of control, alleviating feelings of helplessness that produce stress.



Cozy the Cat

Cozy is a soft, snugly stuffed animal that serves as both a teaching tool and a companion for children before, during, and after their cancer treatment. With Cozy as a guide, children can use their medical play kit to see where a particular procedure will take place, or even watch Cozy have the procedure first!

Lab Coats for Kids

ACCO's little lab coats add another level of immersion to therapeutic medical play. These lab coats have no buttons or choking hazards, are available in several child-appropriate sizes, and come with child-safe glasses.

In 2025, ACCO distributed over **14,500** free resources to children and their families!



Books for Kids & Parents

One of the most powerful fears is that of the unknown. ACCO's specialized books alleviate this fear. Balancing reassurance and comfort with realistic information, these books explain cancer and its treatments in age-appropriate language. In a time when everything feels different and wrong, these books normalize new experiences to help children, teens, and their parents make sense of things.



Emotional Communication Kit

Cancer is a life-changing diagnosis, and the emotions it produces can be complicated and difficult for children to express. ACCO is proud to offer this emotional communication kit where children can use emojis to let their caregivers know how they're feeling. Historically, when caregivers want to know how a sick child is feeling they ask, "How much does it hurt, on a scale from one to ten?" Currently, there is no standardized way to gauge their emotional state. This kit will allow kids to easily share how they're feeling emotionally with their family, nurses, and doctors.

Travel Bags & Comfort Kits

Since most childhood cancers are rare and not all facilities can provide treatments, the diagnosis often requires travel. To accommodate these unexpected trips, ACCO provides durable and practical travel bags for cancer families. These bags are vetted to provide everything a tired parent might find convenient: comfortable straps, waterproof interior, many pockets, and just the right size to carry on a plane. These bags and other helpful gear are provided to cancer families at no cost to them.



Coloring Sheets

Hospital stays can be long, dull, and make a child feel disconnected from their normal life. Little things that entertain a child and instill a sense of normalcy can make a huge difference for mental health. ACCO's coloring sheets are hand-drawn, tailored for kids with cancer, and completely free.

AWARENESS



Awareness is the cornerstone for all other childhood cancer related work. Awareness means sharing information and statistics as well as personal stories. Without awareness there is no urgency to take action through legislation, fundraising, and local support of children and hospitals. ACCO raises awareness through advocacy, corporate support, and community engagement.



International Childhood Cancer Day

Every year, ACCO runs a social media campaign for International Childhood Cancer day, drawing attention to global goals aligning with the World Health Organization.

Advocacy Updates & Calls To Action

Awareness is a crucial element in ACCO's advocacy. Our social media accounts keep our followers updated on legislative progress, setbacks, and opportunities to join the cause. Through this network, ACCO secured 5,600 signatures in support of the Give Kids A Chance Act.

Statistics & Early Symptoms

Part of awareness is education. Many of ACCO's awareness materials focus on facts and statistics about childhood cancer. Incidence rates, types of cancer, and severity of treatment are not always common knowledge. Perhaps the most important type of education is the early symptoms of childhood cancer. Catching the cancer quickly can vastly improve prognosis, so it's crucial to spread information about early warning signs.

ADVOCACY



The American Childhood Cancer Organization (ACCO) is honored to be leading the way as we work collaboratively to create transformational change taking place at the state, national, and international levels with greater awareness and policy change occurring in childhood cancer than ever before.

Through ACCO's What About Kids advocacy initiative, donated funds can amplify by a *hundredfold*.

In 2018, ACCO received a **\$250,000** donation.



ACCO's What About Kids State Research Initiative was launched, prioritizing childhood cancer across the country.



Kentucky became our first state to pass legislation and appropriate funds for childhood cancer research.



Within one year, **\$25,000,000** new state funds were appropriated for childhood cancer research.

What About Kids?

ACCO has proven that states play a critical role in overcoming the national disparity between adult and childhood cancer research, treatment, and support. This has only been possible through our donor-funded What About Kids?[®] advocacy initiative.

As of 2025, ACCO has secured legislation in seven states and is working with legislative champions in four additional states: Arizona, Michigan, Iowa, and Massachusetts, along with the writing and passing a new bill in Maryland to amend the previously-secured legislation by making grant funds more quickly accessible.

ACCO's goal is to secure state-based childhood cancer research funding in 25 states by 2030. As a proud member of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC), ACCO's goal is in keeping with the WHO's Targeted Goal: To increase the global survival of childhood cancer to 60% by 2030, thereby saving an additional 1 million children's lives.



INTERNATIONAL



Global Survey of Lived Experiences

“For too long, the focus in cancer control has been on clinical care and not on the broader needs of people affected by cancer,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization. “Global cancer policies must be shaped by more than data and scientific research they must also reflect the voices and lived experiences of people impacted by the disease.”

The World Health Organization's global survey on the lived experience of people affected by cancer was designed in collaboration with those affected by cancer and is intended to strengthen their voices. The survey results contribute to better understanding of the emotional, practical, social, and financial needs of those affected by cancer, and ensure their perspectives directly inform policy and program development.

4,000 participants from **125** countries in **25** languages

ACCO entered a formal MoU with the World Health Organization for this survey, as well as funding the original survey entirely. ACCO designed many of the promotional materials for the survey as well.

This survey has sparked numerous publications.

Topic	Output Type	First Author
Health Related Quality of Life	SIOP Abstract	Clarissa Schilstra
Mental Health	SIOP Abstract	Clarissa Schilstra
Experiences of Migrants and Refugees	SIOP Abstract	Manuela Orjuela
Health Related Quality of Life	Paper	Clarissa Schilstra
Mental Health	Paper	Clarissa Schilstra
Financial Toxicity	Paper	Julie Cayrol
Prolonged Grief	Paper	Claire Wakefield
Education and Employment Outcomes	Paper	Clarissa Schilstra, Alyssa Pua
Survivorship Care Experiences	Paper	Miho Kato, Huseyin Orun

LIVED EXPERIENCE OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CANCER A GLOBAL WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SURVEY



PARTNERSHIPS



Jel Sert

Since 2008, ACCO's key partner Jel Sert has played a vital role bringing happiness to children with cancer through the *Take A Pop, Share A Smile* program. Started in 2008 to help children across the U.S. cope with painful side effects of cancer and all that it brings to their lives, this program involves the donation of freezers and a continuous supply of Jel Sert's well-known freezer pops to more than 100 cancer treatment centers and Ronald McDonald Houses throughout the U.S.



In 2025...

Jel Sert's annual
Employee Pjammin® Event
raised

\$38,765

Jel Sert's annual
Corporate Challenge
raised

\$216,909

Servier

ACCO is grateful for support from Servier Pharmaceuticals. Servier Pharmaceuticals' drug pipeline includes Oncaspar® (pegaspargase) – a chemotherapy drug essential to the successful treatment of pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia.



ACCO greatly appreciates support from Servier to aid in the expansion of our What About Kids® state-level advocacy program, our Global Nutrition Programs, and the reprint of our journals which provide essential educational programs and services that address the critical needs of children being treated for cancer.

La Roche-Posay

In 2019, ACCO partnered with LA ROCHE-POSAY US to launch a unique tool: an emotional communication kit, similar to the established pain scale. This emoji-based resource helps children identify and express their feelings. La Roche-Posay developed, manufactured, and generously donated these kits to ACCO for free.



CRH Texas Materials Group

ACCO is grateful for the ongoing support of Texas Materials Group. Not only have they raised \$26,535 with their PJammin® event, but their employees volunteered at the ACCO warehouse, helping to assemble more than 1000 medical play kits for children with cancer. In addition, CRH's Regional President, Aaron Price now sits on ACCO's board of directors.

CRH Texas Materials employees joining a Medical Play Kit assembly volunteer day



BOARD



Ken Wegner..... President

Janine Lynne.....Vice President

Lori Bottoms.....Treasurer

Greg Aune..... Member

Rob Biodrowski..... Member

Kristine Failla..... Member

Steve Payne..... Member

Aaron Price..... Member

Jeff Walters..... Member

Max Wise..... Member



Thank You



FINANCIALS



AMERICAN CHILDHOOD CANCER ORGANIZATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets:	
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Unrestricted	\$ 668,907
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Restricted	<u>128,621</u>
Total Cash	797,528
Accounts Receivable	137,995
Investments	1,391,013
Inventory	265,339
Prepaid Expenses	<u>7,625</u>
Total Current Assets	2,599,500
Property and Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation of \$25,973	4,471
Other Assets	
Intangible Assets, Net of Accumulated Amortization of \$2,959	84,442
Deposits	4,626
Right-of-Use Assets	<u>231,814</u>
Total Other Assets	320,882
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,924,853</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 23,460
Deferred Revenue	35,045
Operating Lease Liability, Current Portion	<u>46,597</u>
Total Current Liabilities	105,102
Noncurrent Liabilities:	
Operating Lease Liability, Net of Current Portion	<u>195,680</u>
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>195,680</u>
Total Liabilities	300,782
Net Assets:	
Without Donor Restriction	1,930,954
With Donor Restriction	<u>693,117</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>2,624,071</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 2,924,853</u>