

As I prepared to write this letter, I looked back at our last two annual reports and I'm amazed at the growth and change UKANDU has seen in just one year. Everything that UKANDU does is a reflection of our community. Our families, our volunteers, our Board of Directors, and of course, our generous donors keep UKANDU on track and moving forward, and we are so very thankful for all of you.

With the guidance of medical professionals and careful planning, we were once again able to hold our flagship program Camp UKANDU in person for the first time since 2019. Though there were fewer campers and volunteers, there was no shortage of energy and "you can do!" spirit. As always, our campers showed us what it means to be a community and how to have outrageous fun.

In addition to the exciting homecoming of Camp UKANDU, we launched our first ever UKANDU Family Camp. Family Camp was a homecoming of sorts as well, as this program is held at Camp Magruder on the Oregon Coast, where Camp UKANDU was held for 16 years. Proving that adults are just big kids and deserving of their own community of support, hosting parents and caregivers at UKANDU Family Camp meant that campers ranged from 14 months to into their 60s! We are so proud of the brave souls who joined in this first-ever program and who will forever shape the legacy of this new chapter for UKANDU.

Virtual programming did not go away in 2022 and even in 2023, we will continue to offer opportunities for families to engage from the comfort of their living rooms, or even from hospital beds. The hard realities of childhood cancer still remain, and we are committed to reaching more families and providing unique virtual experiences that build connection, even when we can't be together.

The community of professionals and volunteers that make up our leadership saw change as well. We said farewell to valued staff and passionate volunteers after years of faithful service. As hard as it is when friends move on, we are gratified to find there is always new energy to help us move forward. We had 30 new volunteers in 2022 and we also welcomed Johnna Loreen and Robin Emerick to the UKANDU staff. Change can be bittersweet, yet we know it's inevitable. We are grateful for everyone who has made 2022 the resounding success that it was.

I want to end with another moment of reflection of this community. As we all wrestled through the lingering impacts of the pandemic, our community showed us the power of the "you can do!" spirit. Volunteers gave us their time, energy and hearts. And most importantly, our families courageously chose to share their children and their lives with UKANDU. Together, you all make it possible to give and receive the benefit of community and connection.

Jason "Thumper" Hickox, Executive Director



We recognize that cancer impacts the entire family and we aim to provide parents and caregivers a respite from the physical, emotional and financial toll childhood cancer poses to families.

# OURIMPACT

150+

patients, survivors, siblings & caregivers across all UKANDU programs\*

43

new families reached\*

90%

of participants reported UKANDU programming to be a time of respite

\*2022 programs operated at a reduced capacity due to COVID-19 protocols





### THE RETURN TO IN-PERSON

To say we were thrilled to be returning to in-person camps and programming this year would be an understatement. Under the careful guidance of our medical committee, we brought 60 campers and 50 volunteers back to YMCA's Camp Collins for another year of outrageous fun at Camp UKANDU.

A reduced camper capacity and COVID protocols meant camp looked a little different this year - but the wacky skits, camp songs, and lifelong friendships remained the same. With over 50% new campers and 30+ new volunteers, we loved getting to watch our community grow and transform during the week of camp!



## THE LAUNCH OF FAMILY CAMP!

When the planning for UKANDU Family Camp began in 2019, no one could have predicted what it would take to bring this new program to life! After COVID delayed its initial launch for two years, COVID-protocols and a reduced capacity required us to be flexible. This meant what was originally a week-long program was reduced to just three days.

Regardless, 50 campers, represented by 15 families, joined us at Camp Magruder on the Oregon Coast for 3 jam-packed days of fun. Parents were able to relax and recharge together in the parent lounge while kids of all ages took part in boating, archery, swimming, and more! We capped off the week with wave jumping in the ocean and sand castle building on the beach.



"Sabina, who has just wrapped up 9 months of intensive chemotherapy and surgery for Osteosarcoma, told me that Camp Ukandu was the first time she felt like she "fit in and belonged." She said it was pure magic to meet other kids who actually know first-hand what it's like to go through what she has....even more than we do, as her parents. Which is true! And it was wonderful for them both to see kids in their various stages of cancer survival, being joyful, playful and being KIDS!"

"This was a huge escape/distraction/new memory-making that is so important. We have been through so much and to be able to make happy new memories with our family and surrounded by amazing people was very fulfilling."





"Going to camp allowed me to be the kid that cancer striped away from me. It gave me the opportunity to play games and mess around with people that I knew truly understood why moments like that were so special. Most importantly, Camp Ukandu gave me hope that I could be appreciated and loved for who I was, who I am and who I am going to be, no matter the battles I encounter with the chase of cancer along the way."

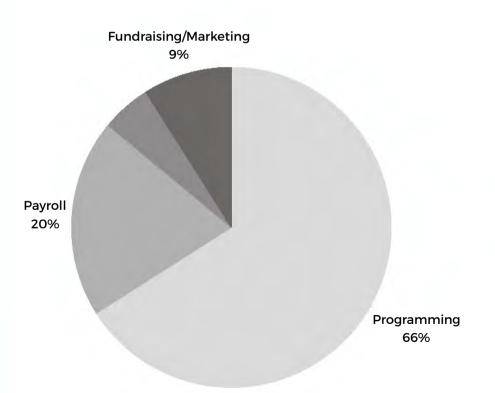
## FINANCIALS

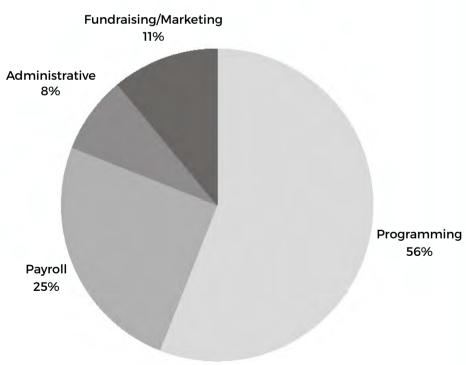
The 2022 board-ratified budget called for some virtual programming, along with a return to in-person programming. As COVID-19 limited our ability to meet in person, the budgeted expenses for the year dropped considerably. However, when viewed graphically, as a percentage of our overall budget and spending 'actuals', this change makes payroll expenditures appear as a much larger percentage of overall spending. Our board of directors is proud to be able to retain a passionate and qualified staff through the pandemic and remains committed to the responsible operations of this proud charitable organization.

#### **UKANDU** has an operating budget of \$982,412

#### 2022 Board Ratified Budget

#### **Actual 2022 Expendature**





## **PARTNERSHIPS**

UKANDU is honored to receive tremendous support from a number of organizations within our community. On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and families impacted by UKANDU, we genuinely appreciate the energy, efforts, and support we receive from everyone in our wonderful community.

















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## **UKANDU TEAM**

#### **2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mark McGraw, Board Chair Chris Schwab, Vice Chair Ted Haley, Secretary Julie Desimone, Treasurer Chris Renfro, Director Marcie Walsh, Director Brandon Rochon, Director Lisa Kolve, Director Cecil Swamidoss, Director Rebecca Frinell, Director

#### **STAFF**

Jason Hickox, Executive Director Robin Emerick, Program Director Johnna Loreen, Development Director Sage Nicholson, Marketing Director

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