

# CHIKE SPRINGER FOUNDATION



**2023**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

WE ARE DEDICATED TO FUNDING CANCER RESEARCH FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING  
HEALTH EQUITY ISSUES FOR UNDER-RESEARCHED POPULATIONS.

# ABOUT US

WE ARE DEDICATED TO FUNDING CANCER RESEARCH FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING HEALTH EQUITY ISSUES FOR UNDER-RESEARCHED POPULATIONS.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to enable better treatment options for lymphoma patients and promote diversity in cancer research.

## OUR FOCUS

For scientists and physicians to meaningfully contribute to improving health equity, it's crucial to understand the unique needs of different populations. That's why:

**We are committed to advancing diversity in cancer research** and medicine by involving diverse perspectives from underrepresented communities.

**We sponsor research projects focusing on disparities** in cancer types, prevalence, mortality, and treatment outcomes for specific groups.

**We strive to pioneer research** that develops individualized, patient-centered treatments that improve outcomes for all patients.

## YOUR SUPPORT

Our fundraising efforts go toward funding lymphoma research for underrepresented groups, including Adolescents and Young Adults (AYAs), Active Military and Veterans, People of Color, and other minority groups. We accomplish this through our partnership with the Lymphoma Research Foundation.

## OUR IMPACT

**\$21K**

RAISED IN 2023

**\$45K**

TOTAL FUNDED TOWARD  
SPONSORED RESEARCH  
WITH LRF PARTNERS

**320**

DONORS FROM  
29 STATES &  
6 COUNTRIES



**THE CHIKE SPRINGER FOUNDATION  
WAS CREATED IN HONOR OF THE  
LATE CHIKE SPRINGER.**



# CANCER SUCKS

AND SO DOES THE WAY WE RESEARCH IT.

## THE PROBLEM



The current global battle against cancer has been slow, with certain populations disproportionately affected. Unequal access to healthcare and screening tests often leads to higher mortality rates and detection of the disease at a later stage for these communities. Unfortunately, these underserved populations are also overlooked in cancer research, and the lack of resources and representation leads to preventable harm and fatalities.

## THE SOLUTION

Targeted initiatives can reduce cancer rates in high-risk groups by understanding the biological, cultural, and environmental factors that cause cancer disparities. We provide financial support for research projects focused on addressing health equity issues. Our goal is to ensure equal access to quality cancer treatments and care for all individuals.

Our partnerships with corporate entities, healthcare institutions, Veteran-focused groups, and research organizations, like the Lymphoma Research Foundation, help us do the following: tackle disparities in resource access, empower marginalized groups, and drive progress in lymphoma research worldwide. These collaborations also help us allocate our resources effectively, avoid redundancy, and maximize the impact of our fundraising. Ultimately, these collaborations enhance our research initiatives and improve outcomes for patients.

## SPECIAL POPULATIONS WE FOCUS ON

### ▶▶▶ ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS (AYAS)

AYAs who get cancer are the most understudied group for cause & treatment outcomes. AYAs are 8X more likely than children to get cancer, and for lymphoma, they haven't seen a significant improvement in survivability in >30 years.

### ▶▶▶ ACTIVE MILITARY AND VETERANS

Cancer rates in Active Duty Military and Veterans are significantly higher than the normal population. We work with Veteran groups to improve their treatment options & outcomes by understanding environmental & lifestyle factors specific to the military that increase the likelihood of cancer.

### ▶▶▶ PEOPLE OF COLOR AND ETHNIC MINORITIES

Racial and ethnic minorities are underrepresented in clinical research. Although they constitute more than 30% of the population, racial and ethnic minorities make up less than 18%\* of registered clinical trial participants.

# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

## 7TH ANNUAL LIQUID BIOPSY FOR PRECISION ONCOLOGY SUMMIT

We attended the 7th Annual Liquid Biopsy Oncology Conference, a gathering focused on the advancement of liquid biopsy technologies in oncology. The event sparked discussions on the potential of liquid biopsy techniques for early cancer detection, treatment response prediction, and personalized therapeutic guidance. Key challenges and opportunities regarding the integration of these techniques into routine oncology care were also addressed. Our participation underscores our commitment to stay at the forefront of innovative, patient-centered oncology strategies.

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## LYMPHOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS

We also continued our close partnership with the Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF), actively participating in the meetings of the LRF's esteemed Scientific Advisory Board. The Board comprises globally recognized clinicians, scientists, and researchers whose collective expertise drives groundbreaking lymphoma research. Through rigorous evaluation of research proposals, they direct funding towards innovative projects predicted to significantly impact lymphoma diagnosis, treatment, and patient care. Our participation enabled us to better serve underrepresented groups affected by this disease.

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## NOMINATED TO BE A CONSUMER REVIEWER FOR THE RARE CANCERS PANEL

Through our nomination to serve as a Consumer Reviewer for the Rare Cancers Panel, we had the privilege to lend our unique perspective on patient needs, preferences, and quality of life implications. Our engagement in this process ensures that funded research aligns with the needs of underrepresented groups, and actively influences the direction of scientific inquiries and the development of innovative treatments. It showed our commitment to advancing the understanding and treatment of these often-overlooked diseases, reinforcing the significance of patient advocacy and collaboration.

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# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

## WE RAN RACES AND RAISED MONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH!

We demonstrated our commitment to cancer research by participating in renowned races such as the Detroit Free Press Marathon and the Army Ten Miler. These events provided an opportunity to unite individuals through their shared passion for athletics and making a difference in the world of cancer research. Through these races, we successfully raised significant funds, which will go towards advancing our understanding and treatment of rare and underrepresented forms of cancer. Our runners' dedication echoes the memory of Chike Springer and fuels the progress of our foundation's research initiatives.

## WE JOINED THE LYMPHOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our founder, Lyndsay Springer, has been elected to join the esteemed Board of Directors at LRF. This prestigious appointment reflects Lyndsay's dedication, expertise, and profound commitment to advancing the mission of eradicating lymphoma and improving the lives of those affected by this disease.

Lyndsay is poised to leverage this appointment to further propel CSF and LRF initiatives. She joins a distinguished cohort of individuals on the Board, including renowned experts and leaders in the field of lymphoma research and advocacy.

In Lyndsay's role as a Director, she will continue to champion innovative approaches, drive impactful strategies, and contribute to steering the foundation towards pioneering research, patient support, and community outreach initiatives. She is dedicated to ensuring that LRF continues its mission to fund groundbreaking research, support patients and caregivers, and advocate for the lymphoma community.

## SOON YOU'LL GET BETTER COVER

Lyndsay Springer dedicated this heartfelt video to Chike, alongside the current patients fighting their own battles and the caregivers who demonstrate unwavering strength by their loved ones' side.



# COMMUNITY FEATURE

**Our Community Features Program seeks to amplify the voices of people in the cancer community. We believe that by sharing the stories of those affected by cancer, we can create a more connected and informed society.**

In 2023 we featured Tori McGee, a survivor of lymphoma, who bravely shared her personal journey of battling this disease as a young adult. Her story is a testament to the indomitable human spirit and a reminder that even in our darkest moments, we are capable of incredible bravery and tenacity.

Tori has been vocal about her experience to encourage others to become more open about their struggles. She believes that by recognizing these shared experiences, we can find comfort and community in one another and that no one should suffer in silence. Her vision of a world where people are supported through difficult times is worth striving for, and her courage in speaking up is powerful and inspiring.

”

“I think this is really important for the audience to understand is that...It’s a journey, and it doesn’t end, right? You get diagnosed, your journey begins...[and] it doesn’t end when the treatment ends. You go into remission. There’s a new normal and a new reality for your life. And it’s a part of your story.”

- TORI MCGEE

READ MORE 



# Lymphoma is the most common type of blood cancer.

It develops when a mutation or change in lymphocytes (white blood cells) causes the cells to replicate faster than and live longer than normal lymphocytes. Cancerous lymphocytes can spread throughout the body via the blood and lymphatic system and grow in other body parts, including the lymph nodes, bone marrow, and spleen.

**580,000**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WORLDWIDE DIAGNOSED WITH LYMPHOMA EACH YEAR



**7%**

OF ALL CHILDHOOD CANCERS ARE NON-HODGKIN LYMPOMAS



**#7** MOST COMMON CANCER IN THE U.S.



**1** IN **41**

THE CHANCE A MAN WILL DEVELOP NON-HODGKIN LYMPHOMA IN HIS LIFETIME



**1** IN **52**

THE CHANCE A WOMAN WILL DEVELOP NON-HODGKIN LYMPHOMA IN HER LIFETIME

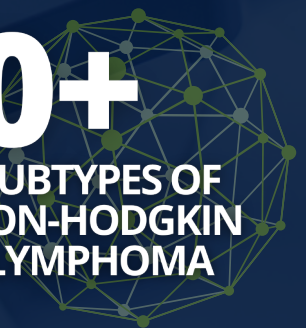


**825,651**

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH, OR IN REMISSION FROM, LYMPHOMA IN THE US.

**90+**

SUBTYPES OF NON-HODGKIN LYMPHOMA



Lymphoma may present with non-specific symptoms like swollen lymph nodes, fever, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, chills, fatigue, and itching. Despite the resemblance with symptoms of common illnesses, anyone experiencing persistent symptoms or enlarged lymph nodes that persist for a month and are larger than one centimeter should seek medical consultation. Although most people with these symptoms won't have lymphoma, it's crucial to get examined to rule out the possibility.

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**\$50 FUNDS 1 DAY  
OF LYMPHOMA  
RESEARCH**

**YOU HAVE THE POWER TO  
HELP FUEL LIFE-CHANGING  
LYMPHOMA RESEARCH FOR  
AN ENTIRE DAY.**

**HELP US BY  
MAKING A  
DONATION  
TODAY.**

**DONATE**





# IN HONOR OF CHIKE SPRINGER

