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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Max Strus Family Foundation Announces First Four Grant Recipients Championing Mental Health, Cancer Support, Education, and Youth Sports

May, 2025- The Max Strus Family Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing community to all through impactful programming in Miami, Cleveland, and the Chicagoland area, is proud to announce its inaugural round of grant recipients. These grants mark a major milestone in the Foundation's mission to foster connection, hope, and opportunity through nonprofit support in four core areas: mental health advocacy, cancer support, education, and youth sports.

We are thrilled to announce that the first four organizations receiving support from the Max Strus Family Foundation are **LifeAct, Project NICU, Empower Sports, and A Special Wish Foundation of Northeast Ohio**. Each of these nonprofits represents a deep alignment with our values and a demonstrated impact in the communities we care so deeply about.

LifeAct

Dedicated to preventing suicide by educating youth to recognize the warning signs of suicide and to seek help for themselves and others, LifeAct is a leading mental health education organization. Their evidence-based programming is offered in middle and high schools and is a critical tool in the fight to save young lives.

Project NICU

Project NICU is committed to supporting families through the journey of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit by providing connection, advocacy, and hope. Their work ensures that families facing medical crises receive the emotional support and resources they need during one of the most vulnerable times of their lives.

Empower Sports

Empower Sports exists to enrich the lives of athletes of all abilities through sports and exercise, emphasizing social interaction, self-confidence, and skill development. By creating inclusive athletic opportunities, Empower Sports builds community and champions the potential in every individual, regardless of ability.

A Special Wish Foundation – Northeast Ohio Chapter

This incredible organization is devoted to granting the wishes of children under the age of 21 who have been diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses. By turning dreams into reality,



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A Special Wish brings joy and comfort to children and their families during unimaginable challenges.

“These four organizations are more than just grant recipients—they are mission partners,” said Max Strus. “Their work embodies our Foundation’s core belief: that strong communities are built through compassion, opportunity, and togetherness. We are honored to support their missions and walk alongside them as they uplift others.”

A Special Thank You

This announcement and these grants would not be possible without the generous support of our outstanding partners and donors. We extend our deepest gratitude to **Kara and her team at F45 Downtown Cleveland, RFC Contracting, the R&R Foundation, The Capital Group, Cleveland-Cliffs, The Trivisonno and Dopoulos Families, The Cleveland Cavaliers, and The Stirling**. Your belief in our mission and your commitment to building stronger communities through philanthropy have made this milestone possible. Thank you for standing with us in this important work.

With this announcement, the Max Strus Family Foundation reaffirms its commitment to building better communities by investing in initiatives that create lasting change. As the Foundation continues to grow, so will its support for organizations that share its heart for service and empowerment.

To learn more about the Max Strus Family Foundation and its mission, please visit <https://www.maxstrusfamilyfoundation.org/>
