



MAX STRUS
FAMILY
FOUNDATION



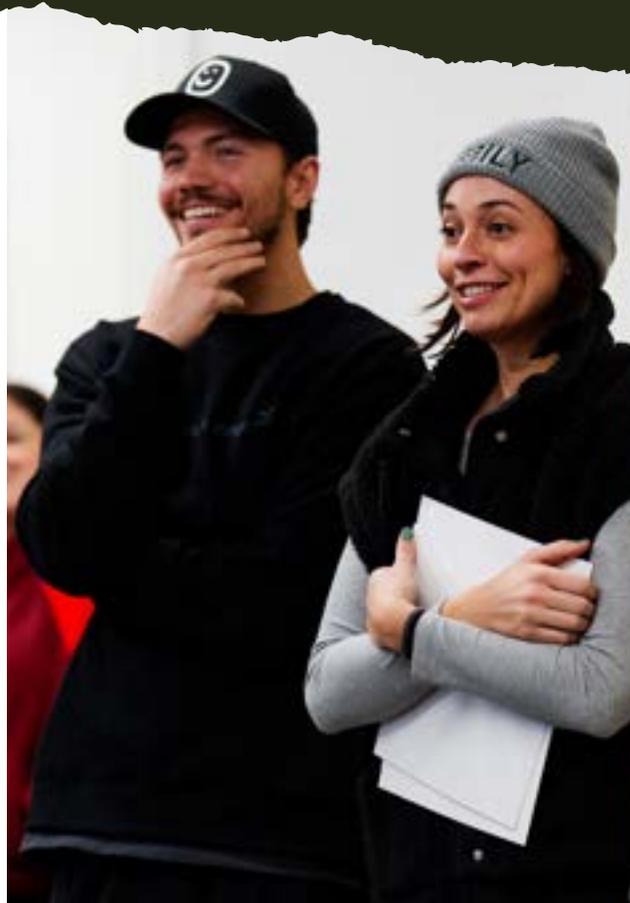
2025 **IMPACT REPORT**



ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

To foster community and support by investing in local programs that enhance education, youth sports, healthcare, cancer research, and mental health resources in the places Max has called home. The Max Strus Family Foundation creates a sense of community for all.



CREATING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY FOR ALL

OUR TEAM

MAX STRUS

Founder of the Max Strus Family Foundation, is committed to strengthening communities like the one he grew up in by providing the love, support, and resources to help young people achieve their dreams, and build a sense of community for all.

JAKE WIMMER

Creative Director of the Max Strus Family Foundation, also works as Max's manager to oversee all off-court initiatives, using his deep personal connection to the Strus family to help shape the foundation's vision and amplify its mission of empowering youth, supporting families, and strengthening communities.

MARTY STRUS

Vice President of the Max Strus Family Foundation, is a teacher and head boys basketball coach at Stagg High School who helps organize the Max Strus Basketball Camp, serving over 400 local youth each summer.

NIC WEISHAR

Member of the Max Strus Family Foundation board, is a finance professional and former Notre Dame football team captain who also serves on the board of the Andrew Weishar Foundation.

KEVIN LOVE

Member of the Max Strus Family Foundation board, is a close friend of Max's from their time as Miami Heat teammates and a leading mental health advocate through his work with The Kevin Love Fund.

MAGGIE SOMMER

Executive Director of the Max Strus Family Foundation, is a seasoned nonprofit leader passionate about fundraising, volunteerism, and building strong community connections that empower individuals and uplift communities.

DEB STRUS

President of the Max Strus Family Foundation, brings decades of leadership and community service through her career at the YMCA and volunteer work, now focusing on fundraising to improve mental health resources, support youth sports, and strengthen community connections.

MARC SAMSON

Treasurer of the Max Strus Family Foundation, is a CPA with over 25 years in accounting and finance, currently serving as CFO of Priority Sports and supporting the diverse needs of its athletes.

KIERAN PILLER

Member of the Max Strus Family Foundation board, is an NBPA-certified agent and head of the basketball division at Priority Sports, with a background in law and collegiate sports.

JOHN STRUS

Merchandise and Community Manager, building strong connections with our supporters while upholding our unique and intentional brand.

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

\$160,000+

COMMITTED TO LOCAL CLEVELAND AND CHICAGOLAND ORGANIZATIONS

SUPPORTING LOCAL. MEET OUR GRANTEES!



LifeAct provides lifesaving suicide prevention programs for Middle Schools + High Schools.



Project NICU offers connection, support and community to all involved in the NICU Journey.



Empower Sports exists to enrich the lives of athletes with diverse challenges through sports and exercise while promoting kindness, character, and relationships.



No Shame on U is dedicated to reshaping attitudes about mental health, elevating conversations, and disarming stigma.



The Special Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children between birth and 20 years of age who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.



Weish4Ever uplifts adolescents and young adults battling cancer by providing financial assistance, instilling hope, and bringing joy



Gigi's Playhouse makes a lifetime commitment to changing lives and providing hope through the consistent delivery of FREE educational, therapeutic, and career development programs for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community.



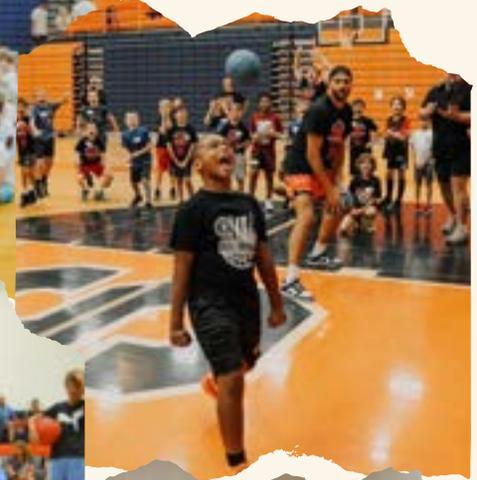
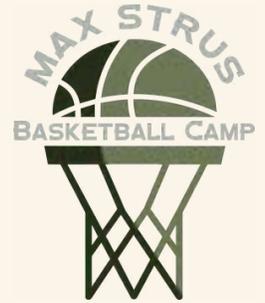
Gabriel's Light uplifts adolescents and young adults battling cancer by providing financial assistance, instilling hope, and bringing joy

5 YEARS OF SUCCESS

MAX STRUS BASKETBALL CAMPS

Over the past four years at camp, we've raised more than \$200,000 for local organizations — with the majority benefiting the Andrew Weishar Foundation and its mission to inspire hope in adolescents and young adults battling cancer.

Together, we're turning our passion for basketball into a lasting impact for our community.



\$200,000+

**RAISED FOR LOCAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

THE INAUGURAL GARY STRONG AWARD

2025 WINNER

PAITYN CASTILLO

This summer, we introduced the Gary Strong Award — created in honor of Gary Wimmer, father of our very own Jake Wimmer. Gary's strength, heart, and quiet resilience he showed throughout his battle continue to inspire each and every one of us.

Our first recipient was Paityn Castillo — a brave and inspiring young woman who faced Guillain-Barré Syndrome with unimaginable strength. After being suddenly paralyzed, she fought her way back with courage, grace, and determination.

Paityn's spirit perfectly reflects what this award is all about. She's now part of our family forever — and the Gary Strong Award will carry her story, and Gary's, forward for years to come.

Paityn, you CAN do hard things!





OUR SIGNATURE EVENT

BOWL

THE LAND

In 2025, MSFF hosted Bowl the Land and Bowl the Land II, uniting Cleveland businesses, families, and the Cavaliers community for two nights of bowling, giving back, and community. Together, the events raised nearly **\$100,000** to support the Max Strus Family Foundation's mission. Moving forward, Bowl the Land will be an annual December event, bringing the community together during the holiday season to celebrate and create meaningful impact.



THE SEASON OF

GIVING

December is a reminder that impact **isn't only measured by what you give – but by how you show up.** This holiday season, the Max Strus Family Foundation spent the month connecting with organizations and families across Chicago and Northeast Ohio who inspire us every day.

We kicked things off by welcoming Empower Sports, Project NICU, Workshop of Wishes, and LifeAct to a Cavaliers game for a night dedicated to celebration and community – complete with a special on-court meet & greet with Max. We also visited Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital to spend time with children undergoing treatment and deliver Christmas gifts, hoping to bring some added joy to their season.

The month also gave us time for meaningful conversation, including an unforgettable sit-down with No Shame On U's teen program, where we heard honest perspectives on mental health and the importance of ending stigma. We wrapped up the season with a visit to Hope Ignites, delivering gifts and spending time with the students they support through resources, mentorship, and opportunity.

This Season of Giving captured what we believe in most: presence, connection, and community impact that lasts beyond the holidays.



A photograph of four people (three women and one man) smiling and standing in front of a backdrop featuring the Max Strus Family Foundation logo. The backdrop includes the text 'MAX STRUS' and 'FAMILY FOUNDATION'. The photo is partially obscured by a dark green, torn-edge graphic overlay.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

What a year! We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and wish you a very Happy New Year.

As we reflect on our first year of the Max Strus Family Foundation, we want to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your incredible support. Without our volunteers, donors, and sponsors, we would not have been able to accomplish so much, including:

- Awarding \$160,000 in grants
- Hosting two successful “Bowl the Land” events in February and December 2025
- Hosting the Max Strus Basketball Camp to over 500 campers
- Providing funding to The Andrew Weishar Foundation and launching our inaugural Gary Strong Award

We are deeply grateful for the impact we were able to make together in our first year and are excited to see what 2026 will bring. We look forward to making an even greater impact in the year ahead.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue our mission to foster community and support by investing in local programs that enhance education, youth sports, healthcare, cancer research, and mental health resources in the places Max has called home.

Deb Strus

Board President, Max Strus Family Foundation



 maxstrusfamilyfoundation.org

 [maxstrusfamilyfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/maxstrusfamilyfoundation)



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