

# BlakeStrong Bowell Fund

## From BlakeStrong Bowell Fund President

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### 2024 CALENDAR

Golf Open: June 28

BlakeStrong Fest: Sept 29

Giving Tuesday: December 3



Over the past year, it has amazed me how many more people have been afflicted and have died from Brain Cancer. Although some of the finest minds in research work for answers, they still can't pin down the many causes of this disease, and a cure is not in sight. Although, treatment and medicine are helping to prolong life, we know that in the end, death comes.

We lost Blake six and a half years ago, with his cancer journey beginning in the summer of 2013. For over ten years now cancer has changed all of our lives but yet, brought us together! So, as I reflect on this year's annual report and on what the BlakeStrong Fund did in 2023, I'm more grateful for what we have done over the past eight years since Blake had the idea to give back. During this period of time, we have made over \$500,000 in real investments into people lives and for the betterment of our community! I like to think that every time we give a scholarship, support a kids cancer camp, fund families in cancer crisis or help the FC Flashes we are doing so with a big smile from Blake!

2023 was again another year of great support from friends and family that allowed BlakeStrong to donate over \$25,000 to worthy causes including those included in this report.

Finally, it has been my honor to lead BlakeStrong since Blake handed me the assignment. This past year has been one of growth and needed change for me and my life tempo. Turning 60 is no small deal! That being said, the BlakeStrong Board has appointed Lakin Bowell Khamis, Blake's sister, to be our new President. I will remain as Vice President. We look forward to Lakin providing our vision and energy in the years to come. Big brother would be proud!

Mark



## Contact BlakeStrong Bowell Fund

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This past year, the BlakeStrong Bowell Fund funded over \$25,000 grants and continues to spread support in the fight against cancer as well as for many causes near to Blake and his life. The continued challenges faced in 2023 did not dampen the blessings of funds raised through BlakeStrong Golf Open, Giving Tuesday, and numerous individual gifts.

### 2023 Grants Include

- > Friends of Garfield Park, Blake's Children's Garden support
- > Special Days cancer patient/family camp cabin sponsorship in Michigan
- > Scholarships for students continuing to pursue Track or Football in college.
- > Agape Therapeutic Riding Summer Programs
- > Angelman Foundation for Seizure Control
- > Cancer Support Community Indy
- > Purdue Cancer Research Foundation
- > New Day Center – Supporting Shepard Community Mental Health
- > Make-A-Wish
- > Flashes Football Foundation
- > Ben's Ranch
- > Support for those experiencing cancer crisis.



"My hero is my second cousin, Blake he was an amazing person and I only got to see him two times. Blake had brain cancer two times and won the fight once. He was amazing he even joined the navy but he never was in a war though. The most heroic thing he has ever done in my heart was when he said "I am not afraid of dying from brain cancer even if it really hurts". He was a true friend and family member he was also the kindest person I know.

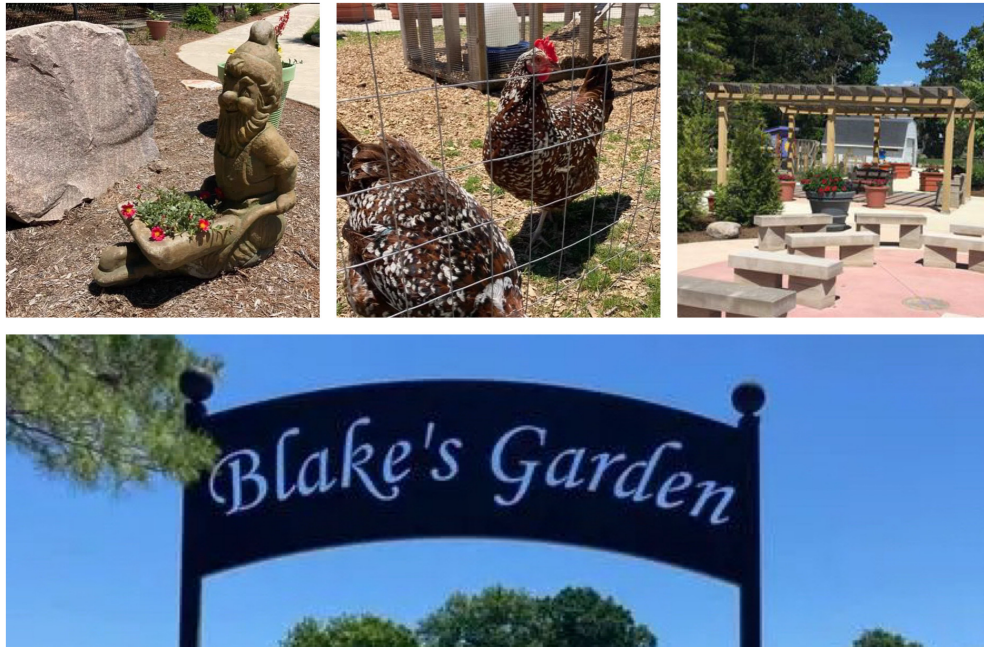
Blake had many surgeries and got better then finally he was done with his first fight of brain cancer. My grandpa was the one who got Blake into the navy. About a year after he won the fight of brain cancer, he was soon diagnosed with brain cancer again. Blake had a loving family and a little dog. One time I shared a snack with Blake he loved the snack as much as he did, that was also the last time I saw him.

I remember one time when me and my family were saying goodbye to him for the last time. He looked very sick I even started to cry in the car. I miss him very much and his family does to. I might not have known very well but he is still family. Soon after the get together Blake died in the middle of the night from brain cancer. I now that Blake would want everyone that he loved to live a happy life.

Blake is my hero because not only that he is my friend and family but because he is a survivor from brain cancer and that's a true hero to me."

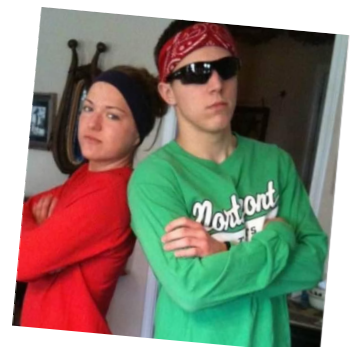
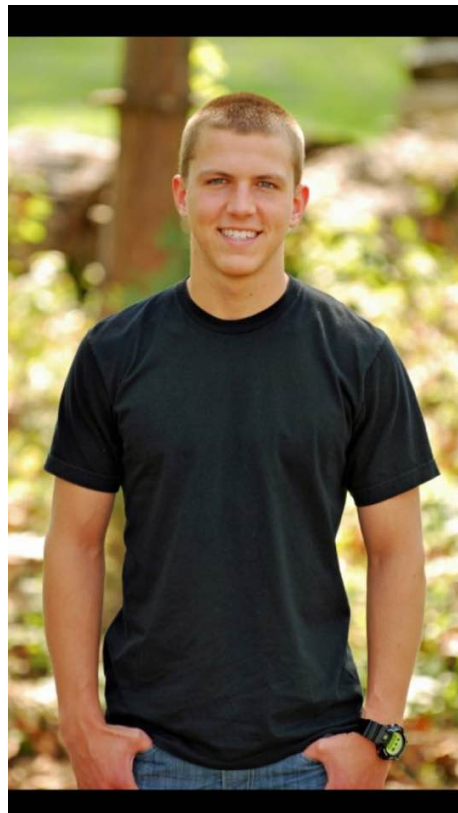
*Sweet words from Blake's second cousin, Andrew Wells.*





As we look to 2024, our goal is to continue if not expand the good work at hand, and we trust you will support us through our BlakeStrong Golf Open June 28<sup>th</sup>, returning to Winding River Golf Course. We thank our friends at Hillview Country Club for their support in 2023. We will begin a combined event tradition on September 29<sup>th</sup> as we host "Jam for Jay" @ BlakeStrong Fest. And finally, participation in Giving Tuesday efforts in December.

For questions on the BlakeStrong Bowell Fund contact  
Mark Bowell at 317-840-8111 / Lakin Bowell Khamis at 317-383-6245.



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*Providing*  
Hope + Strength + Support



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