

≡What are You≡



PASSIONATE



>>> ABOUT <<<



2021 Annual Report



**Connecting
Champions**

It's been **10 YEARS** of Connecting Champions

...and I've been spending a lot of time reminiscing this year.

When I started Connecting Champions a decade ago, I was only a teenager with a dream. Along the way, there were people who tried to steer me off this path, saying: "I just don't know if it will work." or "Maybe it'll be better as a side project."

But it was the people who shared this vision with me – that kids & young adults with cancer deserve to be asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" – who made this organization possible.

Now, we have participants in 23 cities (23!), and we've been able to guide hundreds of kids and young adults to envision life beyond the disease.

I wanted to share a few stories through the years that have inspired me. Thank you all for making these stories – and hundreds more – possible over the last decade. I can't wait to embark on the next decade altogether. After all, each and every one of you is a part of our Connecting Champions family.

Sidney Executive Director & Founder, Connecting Champions

KEVIN **Pittsburgh**

Kevin was one of the very first participants in Connecting Champions. When we first met, Kevin told us how much he liked baseball, so we decided to find him a local baseball player who could be his mentor.

But as Kevin and I got to know each other more, it became clear to me that Kevin's true passion was helping those around him. He and I bonded over giving back to the community and he was always the first person to sign up to volunteer with us.

I was still young and, in a lot of ways, Kevin mentored me. He taught me our organization wasn't about finding some flashy person who could be a mentor – it was about creating a shared vision and inspiring each other along the way. We call what we do "friendship building" because it really does go both ways. Kevin is a lifelong friend for me.

Today, Kevin is in law school and has become a mentor for a young woman in Connecting Champions – he is the first participant in our program to ever become a mentor himself.



BAYLEE West Virginia

Need I say more? This is one of my all-time favorite pictures in Connecting Champions!

Amidst a pandemic, we opened our second ever in-hospital location, in partnership with WVU Medicine Children's Hospital. Baylee and Ariella became one of our first friendships, and they would video chat every week or two about sea creatures and life.

Upon first glance, you'd think this is a picture of mentor Ariella, an aquarist, teaching Baylee about jellyfish. But wait! It is actually a picture of Baylee giving Ariella a lesson on jellyfish!

As much as Baylee loved learning, she craved the opportunity to be the teacher, too. Before her visits with Ariella, she would often make a PowerPoint Presentation of different sea life and share her knowledge.

These two have taught me the power of having a friend who "speaks your language," and how it only takes one adult to help a teen feel proud of who they are.



AJ Northeast Ohio

This summer, my coworker Sophia and I had the joy of visiting AJ & Tracy at Tracy's art studio. AJ is an extremely talented digital artist who is starting her career, and Tracy has been a mentor and friend along the way.

About halfway through our visit, they hid their tablets to pull one of their pieces up. Why was it so secretive?

When they turned around, we saw that they had both recreated our logo – each with their own artistic touch – to surprise us for our 10th birthday. Oh my, was that a moment! It still brings genuine tears to my eyes.

AJ & Tracy have taught us how critical a mentor can be to a young adult entering survivorship. It's not just about rebuilding confidence or talking about something you love. It's about acquiring the resources, skills, and knowledge you need to take that first step forward after treatment.



Participants
in 23 cities

Our Executive Director Sidney was
chosen for TEDx Pittsburgh: "How
one question can forever change
the life of a child with cancer."

WHERE WE ARE

Selected
to lead a school and
career-preparedness
workshop at a national
young adult cancer
conference

12

PARTNERSHIPS WITH
HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

CELEBRATED OUR
10TH BIRTHDAY AS
AN ORGANIZATION



*Presented to Ohio Department of Health's
first annual childhood cancer summit*

KEY

- ★ 1 Los Angeles, CA
- ★ 2 Arizona
- ★ 3 Texas
- ★ 4 Oklahoma
- ★ 5 Kansas City, MO
- ★ 6 Milwaukee, WI
- ★ 7 Chicago, IL
- ★ 8 Indiana
- ★ 9 Grand Rapids, MI
- ★ 10 Kentucky
- ★ 11 Detroit, MI
- ★ 12 Columbus, OH
- ★ 13 Cleveland, OH
- ★ 14 Southern West Virginia
- ★ 15 Morgantown, WV
- ★ 16 Central West Virginia
- ★ 17 Erie, PA
- ★ 18 Pittsburgh, PA
- ★ 19 Buffalo, NY
- ★ 20 West Central Pennsylvania
- ★ 21 Washington, D.C.
- ★ 22 Richmond, VA
- ★ 23 Baltimore, MD
- ★ 24 Delaware

1
Celebrated
first
birthday
for our
West
Virginia
in-hospital
program

We were
selected
to present
our data at the annual American Psychological
Association national conference



HELLO
my name is

MADDIE

15 years old Future Scientist



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

15-year-old Maddie plays volleyball and guitar but those hobbies do not compare to her love for science. When she met Michigan State University professor and researcher, Ron, a whole new world of possibility opened for the high school freshman.

Maddie and Ron spend their meetings together discussing all things science. Ron is able to share what a day in his life looks like and invites Maddie to ask as many questions as she has. Through her mentorship with Ron, she is able to learn more about the subject she is so passionate about and hopes to pursue following high school graduation.

Maddie's passion for science comes from a desire to help others in her own way. Combining that with Ron's research centered around cancer, it was a perfect fit. Maddie finds the cells under the microscope to be fascinating, and she is impressed by the incredible cancer cells that Ron presents to her during their visits together. Their conversations revolve around finding a cure for cancer, and Ron has even given Maddie virtual tours of his lab, something they hope to do in-person very soon.

The two friends have also connected by discussing their favorite musical artists, but the conversation always makes its way back to Maddie asking questions and learning more about the science field.

Connecting Champions Friendship Champion Coy Thompson has seen their relationship grow incredibly over the past few months and noticed how much Maddie enjoys learning about Ron's work and the science world as a whole.

"She's a sponge in terms of the science stuff," says Coy. "She's all in on it."

Maddie and Ron have been meeting every other week and do not plan to end their friendship anytime soon. Next on Maddie's to-do list is to analyze one of Ron's research studies and translate it to the language of non-scientists so everybody can understand the findings. In addition to the research study, Ron is helping Maddie decide which classes to take in school to be the most successful she can be in the science field.

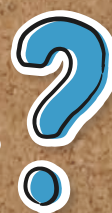
"Being a mentor from here until infinity, Ron would love nothing more than to help Maddie attend her dream school." – Coy

Maddie and Ron's friendship continues to grow every single time they meet. Ron is giving Maddie the opportunity to see what life is like beyond her diagnosis. Together, they are carving a bright future for a girl with a burning passion to help others.



CASPER

13 years old



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP

Casper and his mentor, Jess, have a lot of things in common: they both love art, they are left-handed, and they both love anime. When these two talented people work together, anything is possible.

13-year-old Casper loves art and drawing but after being diagnosed with cancer, he lost that desire to draw all day long. However, his love for art came back to life when he met his new best friend, Jess.

Jess is a full-time tattoo artist at Kyklops Tattoo & Body Piercing in Pittsburgh's South Side. In addition to their tattooing, they work on canvas, paper, and digital works. One of their main passions that connects them to Casper is their shared love for anime.

During their biweekly virtual meetings, Casper and Jess spend their time together presenting their artwork to one another. These assignments, predetermined at the previous meeting, allow Casper and Jess to show off what they have been working on since the last time they met. Their art is usually focused around anime and the characters that star in Casper's favorite shows. When presenting their works, they are able to discuss their different drawing techniques, such as the way they made their characters' eyes or shaped their hair and faces.

Something fun that the two friends have begun to do is split sheet or art trading. They each take a piece of paper and draw a line down the middle. They then draw on one half of their own paper and, when they are finished, Connecting Champions West Virginia Program Coordinator and Data Analyst Sloane gives them the other's paper. They take their friend's artwork and complete it on the other side of the page so they are able to work on art together despite meeting over a computer screen.

For Casper's 13th birthday, Jess sent him a drawing that they made of Casper's favorite characters from one his favorite animes, My Hero Academia.

Casper holds the piece very close to his heart and his admiration of Jess is evident to everyone he knows: "His eyes light up," said Sloane. "You can see that he is himself and he's relaxed and he's with someone who really gets him and what he loves and what he's passionate about!"

One of Sloane's favorite parts of their friendship is Jess's ability to make Casper laugh. Jess is always the last to log on to their video calls, logging in at 9:33 for a 9:30 call, always doing something crazy as their entrance. Whether they are dressed as an anime character or enter the frame from a weird angle, Jess always keeps Casper laughing.

In October, Casper and Jess met for the first time in-person in Pittsburgh at Kyklops. "When Casper first found out that he was actually going to come to Pittsburgh and meet Jess, he was jumping all over the place, literally, which is a hard thing for him to do since he's even having trouble walking due to his chemotherapy."

"We come to Jess's shop and Jess meets us at the door. They hug each other and Casper semi-starts crying and he's like 'I'm so happy to meet you! I'm so happy to meet you!' He was totally thrilled that he was able to meet Jess. He was very excited to meet this person that brought art back into his life."
— Casper's Grandmother

Jess came to Casper's aid when he needed them most, invigorating an urge to draw that had gone dormant since his cancer diagnosis. "Jess really helps bring Casper out of his shell and has entirely helped restore Casper's confidence and abilities in drawing because now Casper will draw while he's in the hospital," said Sloane. "Not just things for our meetings but he will just draw randomly. I think that good work is being done here on Jess's part of helping restore that confidence in Casper."

2021 DONORS

Thank you to all our donors, sponsors,
& foundations for helping our kids and
young adults pursue their passions!

\$75,000 and up

Shear Family Foundation

\$50,000 - \$74,999

The Grable Foundation

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Estate of Frances Fried

PNC Charitable Trusts

UPMC Health Plan

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Anonymous (1)

Robert & Alice Kushner

Peoples Gas

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Helen & Joseph Bouscaren

Char & Chuck Fowler Foundation

Highmark Health

Dale & Von Keairns

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous (2)

Blue Sky Closing Services, Inc.

Mark Broadhurst

Mark & Amy Broadhurst

Gavin Hattersley

Jane Kogan

Scott & Sue Lammie

Mascaro Family Foundation

Minerd & Sons

Mt. Nebo Pointe Sam's Club

Progressive Matching Gift

RoadRunner Recycling

Alexander Rofeberg

Sullivan Super Service

TJ vs Cancer Club,

Thomas Jefferson High School

Jim Venturella

\$250 - \$999

Anonymous (7)

Clarksburg Sam's Club

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Harold & Helen Cohen

Timothy Cummings

Sally Davis

Eric Elliott

Fairmont Walmart

Arias Flory

David & Donna Gerson

Cathy Hammel

David Hecker

Maury Hoberman

Lawrence Hufnagel

Lawrence Hufnagel & Lucille Kelly

Jan Hunter

Kress Restoration

B Eric & Laura Langberg

etty Langberg

Ruth Lebed

Justine Sherry Martins

Shirley McCormack

The Mentoring Partnership

Connie Ondo

Oyster Creative

Thomas Pratt

Graham Rihn

Schell Games

Hannah Sherer

Mark Shozda

Nanci Simkin

Benjamin Simon

Denise & Les Snyder

Rachel Spencer

Rosanne Stead

Jean Marie Tersak

Isabela Tetino

Jean Watkinson

David Winer

Jake Witherell

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous (16)

ABM Industries Incorporated

Marie Andreucci

Eric Axelman

Lucas Bacon

William Baird

Steve Barkan

Donna Barnhart-Glosser

Martha Baron

Wendy Belic

Linda Benfield

Marvin Berkowitz

Linda Bobro

Janet & Greg Bowland

Debbie Briggs

Burton Giving Fund (Fidelity)

Travis Chilton

Covalent

Susan DeBacco

Diane Demeter

Emily Dougan

Dj Dougan

Patricia Doyle

Marshall Einhorn

Michael Eisen

Dawn Elliott

Enscoe Long Insurance Group

Diane Falbo

Nancy Farach

Spencer Fields

Justin Fleo

Ethel Fried

Erika Friehling

Copley Fry

Brett Fulesday

Matt Galambos

Sam Gilman

Patrick Glover

Robin Gold

Dale Gold

Grove City College

Ajay Gupta

Tracy Harpe

Chris Heckman

Justin Herb

Barbara Herd-Halpert

Marlene Herzog

Marlene & Mark Herzog

Karen Homrock

Andrew Horowitz

Kim Hottenfeller

Kassia Janesch

Robert Jones

Brian Jones

Laura Katz

Kurt Keller

The Koharski's

Margie Kopiec

Barbara Kostley

David & Lisa Krausz

Sharon Krengel

Dana Lamenza

Eric Langberg

George Langberg

David & Rachel Leen

Josh Leen

Audrey Lew

Jeff Lipton

Michael Lipton

Stuart & Lisa Lipton

Josh, Chrissy, and Camden

Lookabaugh

J & T Luparello

Leslie Maazel

Jonathan & Marjorie

Margolies

Keith Maurer

Terrence McAllister

Deb Mills-Scofield

Rob Milman

Dolores Moro

Amy Nelson

Daniel Newmark

Chris Ondo

Gabe Paley

William Palmer

Shawn Patton

Danny Pelisek

Pat Penman

Ronna & Tim Pratt

Robert & Norma Jean Priganc

Courtney Rabideau

Regeneron

Jeff & Helen Remington

Calvin Reuter

Jack Reuter

Haley Roberts

Austin Robison

Linda Roth

Dean Rottau

Joyce Rubenstein

Karen Schade

Michele Schipper

David Schmidt-Fellner

Thomas Schult

Judah Schvimer

Schwab

Matt Scoletti

Christine Shaw

Jeremy Simons

Kate Simpson

Jenna Snyder

Sola Salon Studios

Barbara & Stephen

Sparta

Michael Spina

Allison Stevens

Gillian Stohner

Abigail Stryker

Jacob Supron

Brandon Taub

Karen Tetino

John Thomas

Kimberly Turner

Alaina Wartman

Kathleen Wilwohl

Megs Yunn

up to \$100

Anonymous (72)

Stephanie Aaronson

Jeremy Ader

Mary Albus

Keith, Beth, Kelsie

& Noah Alling

Jacob Altholz

Joseph Ament

Pauline Amos

Justin Artinger

Benjamin Asher

Wendy Backus

Craig Bair

Cheryl Bair

Ethan Balk

Don Barnes

Kaitlyn Barnett

Grant Barrett

Anne Battistoni

Jeff Baum

Hannah Baumwell

Isabel Bejjani

Troy Belcastro

Sierra Bell

Donald Bell

Will Beraraducci

Alexander Berg

Melissa Blackmon

Matt Blobner

Kyle Blaser

Susan Boemer

Stephanie Bouche

Jerry Branson

Sarah Braza

Daniel Brennan

Claudia Brown

Andrew Bukowski

Naomi Butze

Nicole Cacoza

Jackson Campbell

Mary Cangelosi

Maddi Carik

Kayla Carr

John Cayer

Jennifer Cheu

Mike Chiappetta

Nick Cicchitelli

Kristin Clark

Jared Clark

Nancy Clevenger-Sturm

Allison Close

Michael Coates

Bridget Cohen

Stephen Colacurcio

Kyle Collins

Lori Conley

John Conte

James Cook

Patricia Cote

Justin Coyne

Lauren Cregan

Leon G Cruz

Kaila Czigans

Greg Davis

Benjamin Deer

Joe DeSimone

Amelia DeSorrento

Kevin DeVizia

David Dickey

Sarah Divakarla

Jamie Drummond

Bryna Dunham

Kenneth Duvall

Patsy Van Dyke

Ethan Ebinger

Brenda Eldred

Griffin Eldred

Penny Erbe

Brandon Ethridge

The Reif Family

Colleen Fedor

Debbie Feinerman

David Feinerman

Danielle Feinerman

Stephanie Feinerman

Derek Ferreira

Alanna Figurelli

Justin Forzano

Mity Fowler

Erik Franklin

Lisa Frankovitch

Alan Freed

Sam Frolichstein-Appel
 Joel Garceau III
 Kevin Garcia
 Anna & Kevin
 Murray Garner
 Molly Garrigan
 Emily Geier
 Adam Genecov
 Karyn Gershon
 Alisa Gertner
 Courtney Giesey
 David Giesey
 Gina Gilbert
 Janine Giordano
 Gianna Giovinco
 Ken Glick
 Caren Goldberg
 Maxine Goldberg
 Paul Golin
 David Gooch
 Patti Gorsky
 Julie Grier
 Kevin Grier
 Ruth Gur
 Noah Gurevich
 Adam Guthrie
 Bari Guzikowski
 Ben Hammel
 Ethan Hammerman
 Sherri Hampel
 Miles Hanna
 Stef Harbuck
 Nathan Hargraves
 Patrick Harris
 Shawn Hass
 Andrew Hattersley
 Trevor Haubert
 Patricia Hazen
 Katie Hein
 Jodee Hensley
 Michael Hessler
 Heather Hibala
 James Hoagland
 Lesley Homans
 Gregory Hood

Jeff Howley
 Angela Huber
 Steve, Ashley, Emma
 & Eli Hughes
 Matt Huha
 Stefanie Jacob
 William Jeffries
 Anton Johnson
 Thomas Kavanaugh
 Lauren Keiser
 Sarah Keys
 Austin Kilpatrick
 Suzanne Kinsky
 Will Kladakis
 Lucas Klimowski
 James Koroskenyi
 Lori Kowit
 Cory Kraft
 Jordan Kruger
 Madeline Kushner
 Nik Lal
 Laura Langberg
 Megan LaPorte
 Erika Larose
 Helena Latham
 Blake Lawson
 Julie Leeson
 Brenden Leib
 Stacey Leppard
 Sophie Levitt
 Lee Levitt
 Eric Lewin
 Drew Lewis
 Ashley Lewis
 Shawn Lichaa
 Claire Livingstone
 David Lowe
 Noah Lubin
 Adam Lubitz
 Aimee Lucido
 T Ma
 Cathleen Mack
 Amy Malishchak
 Benjamin Mandel
 Lane Mankevich

Gustavo Marquez
 Danielle Marshak
 Catherine McBride
 Peetie McCook
 Caitlin McGrinder
 Karlyn McTague
 Bob McTague
 Rick Melli
 Hollis Mermelstein
 Michael Milia
 Olivia Miller
 Sara Miller-Paul
 Melinda Mitchell
 Daniel Moffitt
 Matthew Moreno
 Patrick Moriarty
 Moshe & Saara Moskowitz
 Autumn Mozick
 Erika Mueller
 Ryan Murphy
 Laura Myers
 Anthony Neri
 Shannon Nolan
 Karen Odden
 Susan Ogden
 Hanunah Oglesby
 Kacy Ondo
 Sam Ondo
 Andy Oretsky
 Jim Orman
 Ethan Padway
 Nick & Janet Padway
 Janet Padway
 Timothy Parsons
 Shane Petrelli
 Ariel Pick
 David Pietron
 Isabel Platt
 Grace Porter
 Liz Pouya
 Julie Quinlan
 Mary Ann Quinn
 Francesca Raelison
 Nancy Rapelje
 Erica Rapelje

Brianna Raymes
 Christopher Redus
 Dalton Reese
 Patty Reger
 Monique Remick
 Adam Reuss
 Melanie Ridlon
 Andy Rihn
 Megan Rihn
 Maleena Rindfuss
 Michael Rizzuto
 Adam Fischer
 Sarah Roberts
 Elizabeth Roeder
 Jennifer Roesch
 Gwendolyn Rogers
 Jamie Romanowicz
 Aaron Rosenthal
 Keli Roush
 RT Specialty
 Cayla Rubin
 Ian Saldanha
 Anna Schade
 Deb Schelling
 Max Schindler
 Diane Schlesinger
 Bradley Schlesinger
 Caitlin Schlesinger
 Jess Scutella
 Katie Seech
 Lynn Selfridge
 Morgan Sell
 Robert Sell
 Teresa Serrao
 Gina Shaffer
 Scott Shapiro
 Kevin Sharkey
 Jordan Shaw
 Tyler Shives
 Brittany Siegman
 Mark Simpson
 Chris Skelly
 Lindsay Smith
 Ed Smith
 Brian Sokolow

Special K's
 Shelley Spector
 Megan Stadelman
 John Stock
 Scott Studenroth
 JP Stump
 Adam Sullivan
 Richard Summo
 Guy Tabachnick
 Chuck Taft
 Lauren Tarbuk
 Jesse Tarnas
 Judy Tetino
 Sara Thomas
 Nancy Thomas
 Heather Thomas
 Nick Thorsen
 Kelly Tobias
 Nikola Topich
 Joanna Truitt
 Alec Ulnick
 Josie Urbanski
 Lisa Vahey
 Sarah Visich
 Stacey Wagner
 Wendy Wagner
 Brian Walsh
 Lauren Walthers
 Joe Ward
 David Waugaman
 Katie Weber
 Julia Wedgle
 Nikki Weiss
 Tiffany Welsh
 Maxwell Wernecke
 Elizabeth Werner
 Anthony White
 Todd Whiteman
 Gladys Williams
 Sam Winograd
 Shane & Ally Wise
 Kevin Yeamans
 Matthew Zicchinolfi
 Mindy Zielinski
 Chris Zinn



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Linda McAllister-Lucas

Chief of Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at
UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Chrissy Lookabaugh

Parent of a child who is an alumnus in Connecting Champions

Mark Broadhurst

Chief Operating Officer at Parkhurst Dining

Terrence McAllister

Financial Advisor at Blue Print Financial Partners

Dr. Tracey Reed Armant

Program Officer at The Grable Foundation

Jonnett Maurer

Nonprofit Manager - Higher Ed Professional -
Community Advocate - Consultant

Dr. Jane Kogan

Assoc. Chief Research and Translation Officer at UPMC
Center for High-Value Health Care

THE BRAIN TRUST

Young Professionals Advisory Board

Amy Malishchak

Sean Nolan

Heather Hibala

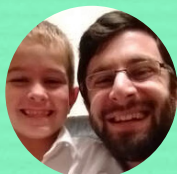
Terrence McAllister

Ashleen Wilwohl

MEDICAL ADVISOR

Dr. Andrew Bukowinski Pediatric Hematologist /
Oncologist at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

OUR STAFF



Sidney Kushner

Founder & Executive Director

Favorite animal: Ant



Coy Thompson

Senior Program Manager

Favorite food: Mangoes or apples



Sloane Strauss

UV Program Coordinator & Data Analyst

Favorite place to travel:
Zion National Park



Emily Dougan

Administrative Assistant

Favorite book: "The Bone Mother"
by David Demchuk



Sophia DeBacco

Virtual Program Associate

Favorite activity: Making music
with friends



Cait Wolf

Virtual Program Associate

Favorite movie: Elf



Sean Nolan

Development Intern

Favorite Singer: Andy Grammer

Night of Inspiration

Summer | Emceed by Sean Nolan,
Development Intern and cancer survivor
ConnectingChampions.org/Inspiration

Every year, we host an evening where our mentors present our kids and young adults with personalized awards, sharing how they've inspired us with their bravery during the cancer journey.



During March Madness season, people across the country form teams with their coworkers, friends, and classmates to sponsor the kids & young adults with cancer in Connecting Champions. They make their bracket pools charitable or simply raise money to change a life.

Entire month of March | Online | MarchtoFriendShip.com

Toast to...

When: it's a mystery!
ConnectingChampions.org/Toast

In 2021, we hosted our second ever virtual toast – the Toast to 10 Years – to celebrate the past decade of friendships in Connecting Champions. 350 attendees from 30 states received a “mystery toast box” at their doorstep, with a fancy drink, pastries, and other mystery items. I wonder if there will be another milestone to toast to soon....



Connecting Champions Running Team in Memory of Vic

Every May | ConnectingChampions.org/Marathon
In memory of Victoria Ondo Burnfin, our beloved
intern & mentor

Starting in 2020, we transitioned to a “virtual marathon,” where participants run or walk wherever they are in the world! Whether a full marathon or a pet walk, there are many ways to hop into nature for a cause.

Janet Lynne McAllister Masquerade Ball

Every April | JLMMasqueradeBall.com | In memory of Janet
Lynne McAllister, mother of our Board member Terrence

Before passing away from cancer in 2016, Janet's wish was to host a masquerade ball to raise money for those impacted by cancer. We “dress to the nines” and a kid or young adult in Connecting Champions is presented with a “Guiding Light” award.



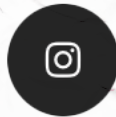


Learn more at: connectingchampions.org

6101 Penn Ave, Suite 201, Pittsburgh, PA 15206



@ConnectingChampions



@ConnectingChampions



@ConnectChamps



ConnectingChampions

Connecting Champions is founded

2011

Developed evidence-based, outcomes-driven approach

2013

Historic partnership with Children's Hospital of PGH

2015

Reached 100 all-time friendships

2017

Received first national foundation grant

2019

Virtual program expands to 23 cities

2021

2012

Pilot program in Pittsburgh is launched

2014

Reached 10 all-time friendships

2016

First alum went to college

2018

Began national expansion discussions

2020

Launched 2nd city in partnership with WVU Medicine, 250 all-time friendships