



2024 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear ENF Family,

As I reflect on 2024, my heart is filled with deep gratitude for our families, our supporters, and our dedicated team. Thanks to your support, the Emilio Nares Foundation was able to touch the lives of **4,839 individuals and travel over 100,000 miles**, ensuring that no child battling cancer or life-threatening diseases faced their journey alone or missed life-saving treatment.

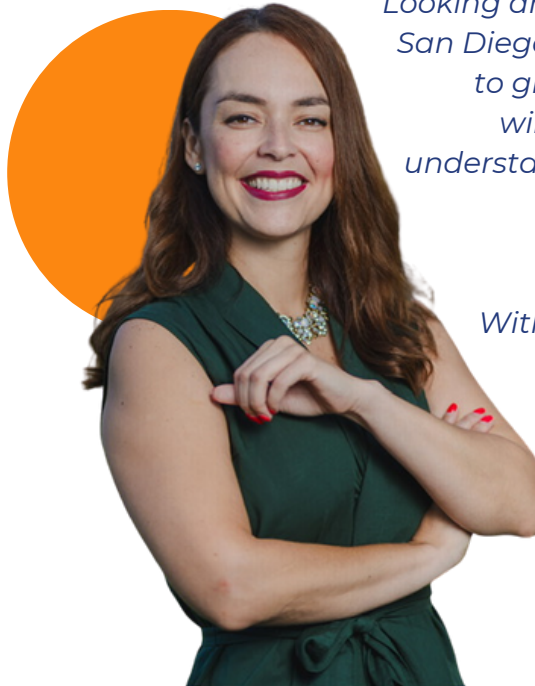
Through a community needs assessment, we gained invaluable insights that guided the growth of our Family Resource Center. This vital resource provides multilingual, wrap-around services like shelter, food, mental health support, childcare, and other essential needs, helping families not just survive, but thrive during and after treatment. We also offer bedside support, ensuring families have everything they need in the most challenging moments.

From diagnosis through treatment and beyond, we are committed to walking alongside families at every step, making sure they have the care and resources to reintegrate into everyday life after treatment.

A great example of our commitment to supporting families beyond treatment is the Healing Through Nature program. Launched with the generous support of the Conrad Prebys Foundation, this initiative helps cancer survivors, their siblings, and parents heal from the trauma of medical treatment by reducing isolation, rebuilding connections, and harnessing the restorative power of nature. It's a powerful way for families to find peace and reconnect in a healing environment.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will deepen our presence in San Diego, expand into Orange County, and continue to grow our Ride with Emilio program. Our team will also conduct a needs assessment to better understand and address the unique challenges each community faces to strengthen the Orange County Family Resource Center.

With your continued support, we will bring hope and healing to even more families, ensuring they have the resources to thrive. With a full heart and deep gratitude,



Elsa Morales-Roth
Executive Director
Emilio Nares Foundation

OUR MISSION

At Emilio Nares Foundation (ENF), we believe no family should face their child's life-threatening illness alone. Through our continuum of care, we provide essential support, including no-cost medical transportation, hospital-approved snacks, financial assistance, and post-treatment emotional healing. We also offer one-on-one support, guiding each family through their unique journey with personalized care.


Our mission is simple: To provide families with unwavering support and compassion as they navigate their child's battle with cancer and other life-threatening diseases, helping them find strength along the way.




Why ENF Is Essential, Now More Than Ever


Childhood Cancer and Life-Threatening Diseases by the Numbers

Childhood cancer doesn't discriminate—it can shatter any family's world in an instant. No parent should have to choose between paying bills and getting their child to treatment, or face the unimaginable loss of a child alone. At ENF, we stand beside families every step of the way, breaking down barriers so they can focus on what matters most—fighting for their child's life. Here's why our work is so vital:

 **1 in 285 children** in the U.S. will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20 (American Cancer Society, 2024).

 Over **50% of families** face transportation barriers to medical appointments, which can result in delayed or missed treatments, putting children's lives at risk (National Cancer Institute, 2023).

 **Medical bankruptcy** is a leading cause of financial distress for families of children with cancer, with families often having to choose between paying for life-saving treatments and meeting basic needs (Journal of Clinical Oncology, 2021).

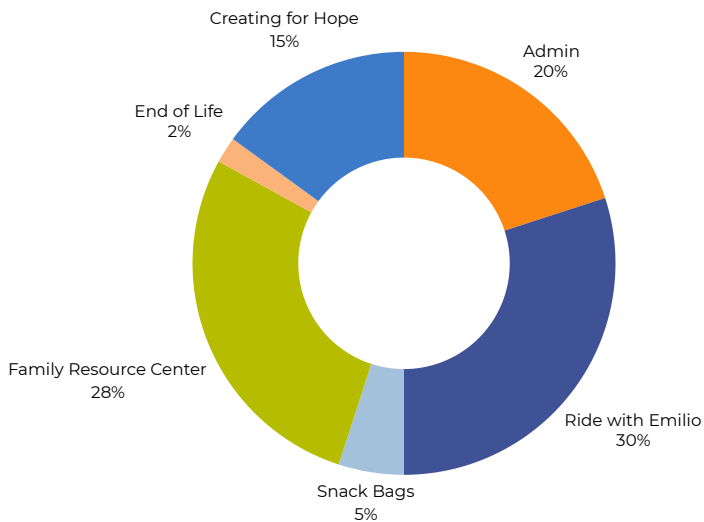
 **Survival rates** for children with cancer are significantly higher when treatments are consistent and timely, yet many families struggle with access (National Cancer Institute, 2024).



OVERVIEW

Financial Overview

We are deeply committed to ensuring that nearly every dollar donated directly supports the families we serve, while also securing the long-term sustainability of our organization. In 2024, our financial transparency remained a cornerstone of our work, allowing us to be trusted stewards of your generous support.



Income

Total: \$1,376,818 2024

Expenses

Administrative: 20%

Programs

Ride with Emilio: 30%

Family Resource Center: 28%

Creating for Hope: 15%

Emilio's Snack Bags: 5%

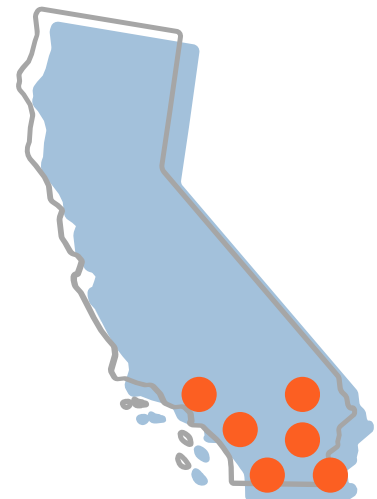
End of Life: 2%

Serving Southern California

At ENF, we don't just provide services—we create a community of hope. Together, we drive families forward toward healing, strength, and brighter tomorrows.

These are the counties we are currently serving:

- San Diego
- Imperial Valley
- Orange
- Riverside
- San Bernardino
- South Los Angeles



OUR PROGRAMS

The Continuum of Care: ENF's Six Programs

Our ENF team walks alongside families at every stage of their child's illness—offering life-saving support. Our six programs provide a safety net of care, ensuring that no family fights alone.

● Family Resource Center

Our team offers multilingual, wrap-around services, connecting families to shelter, food, mental health support, employment, childcare, and more. We also offer bedside assistance when a child is in the hospital.

2024 Impact:

- **168** families served (50% increase from 2023)
- **550** holiday gifts distributed
- **705** lunches & **440** Thanksgiving meals provided
- **65** backpacks given to children in need

The need for support surged threefold in 2024, leading to the hiring of a Family Resource Center Manager and the implementation of an improved intake system to capture family needs in more detail and ensure tailored assistance.



● Ride With Emilio

Reliable, no-cost transportation so children never miss critical treatment due to financial or logistical barriers.

2024 Impact:

- **101,664** miles driven
- **2,583** families supported
- **2,521** rides completed

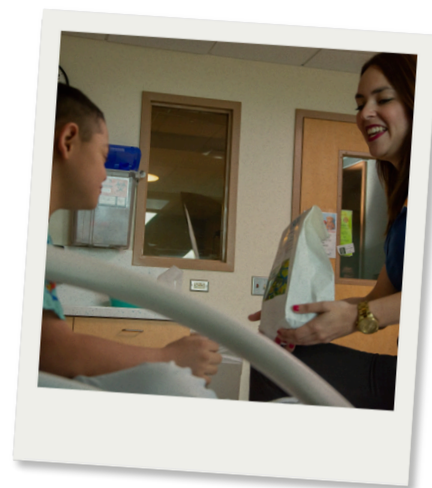
In 2024, we provided safe and reliable transportation to **198** children. To meet rising demand, we hired a Transportation Manager and recruited more drivers to expand access in 2025.

● Emilio Snack Bags

Nutritious, hospital-approved snack bags for children fasting before chemotherapy—ensuring no child fights cancer on an empty stomach.

2024 Impact:

- **2,600** snack bags distributed at Rady Children's Hospital & Children's Hospital in Orange County



● Creating for Hope

We offer one-on-one and group knitting and crocheting sessions for parents, guardians, and children at the hospital, offering a supportive therapeutic outlet. These sessions help build community, offer peer support, and decrease isolation, all while supporting mental health.

2024 Impact:

- **45** one-on-one & group sessions
- Started classes in the Chronic Pain Management Unit

After reinstating in-person sessions, we saw firsthand how creativity eases emotional distress.

● End of Life

There are no words to capture the heartache of a family facing the loss of a child. We provide financial assistance, emotional support, and protection from predatory practices when planning a funeral to honor their loved one—ensuring no family grieves alone.

2024 Impact:

- **23** families received funeral stipends & meal cards

We covered **100% of requests** referred by Rady Children's Hospital. As the need grows, we are committed to increasing financial support for grieving families.

● Healing Through Nature

In 2025, ENF is launching Healing Through Nature, in partnership with the San Diego River Park Foundation. This program will offer guided outdoor excursions, wellness kits, and nature sessions to help families heal.

We offer outdoor activities for families with children in recent cancer remission, where the healing power of nature helps to boost emotional and physical strength. This experience fosters a supportive community, allowing families to connect, share their journey, and heal from the trauma of a cancer diagnosis.

Together, these six programs encompass ENF's Continuum of Care, ensuring families receive the emotional, financial, and logistical support they need. With your help, we will grow these programs in 2025—bringing hope, healing, and life-saving care to more families than ever before.

IMPACT STORIES



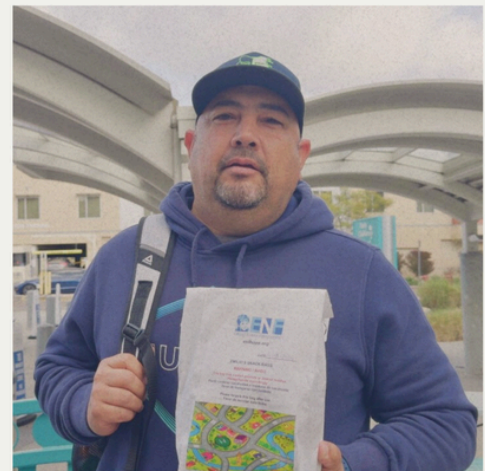
Irene, Alivia's Mom

At just 6 years old, Alivia's life was turned upside down when a routine doctor's visit revealed a life-threatening tumor. With no time to waste, her family left everything behind in Oakland to seek treatment, terrified for their little girl's future.

Thanks to the Emilio Nares Foundation, they were able to concentrate on her battle for life, with transportation, resources, and unwavering support, ensuring they didn't have to face their worst nightmare alone.

Iker was just 6 years old when his life was shattered by an acute lymphoblastic leukemia diagnosis. Now 11, he continues to endure the long, grueling trips from Imperial Valley to San Diego for treatment—twice a week, every week.

Through it all, the Emilio Nares Foundation has been their lifeline, providing transportation and the vital snack bags that offer Iker some comfort during his chemotherapy. ENF ensures that families like Iker's never have to face the fight against cancer alone.



Carlos , Iker's Dad

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Shining a Light on Hope

In 2024, ENF didn't just make headlines—we changed lives. Through powerful media coverage, prestigious awards, and transformative partnerships, our impact reached thousands of families facing childhood cancer and life-threatening illnesses. Our mission became a movement, reinforcing ENF as a leader in compassionate care.

Bringing Our Mission to Millions

From live interviews to national press features, ENF's work was recognized across major platforms. It helped us with our focus on brand awareness, by having more than 80 media mentions, opening a path in Hispanic media.

Beyond broadcast, ENF gained national recognition, including a feature in **People Magazine**, sharing the powerful stories of families we serve. Every article, every interview, every spotlight carried the voices of children and parents who refuse to give up hope. See more of these impactful stories on our website—because together, we are making a difference.

Awards & Recognition

Our work is only possible because of our incredible team, volunteers, and supporters. This year, **ENF and our Executive Director, Elsa Morales-Roth**, received several honors, celebrating our dedication to families:

- 🏆 **Live Well San Diego** – Official Proclamation and Partner Designation
- 🏆 **Prebys Foundation 'Healing Through Nature' Grant Recipient** – Expanding support for emotional healing
- 🏆 **City of Chula Vista** – Proclamation recognizing our impact
- 🏆 **Molina Healthcare Champion Award** – Honoring our commitment to health equity
- 🏆 **Border Health Consortium of the Californias** – Co-Chairing organization of the U.S. Cancer Workgroup.
- 🏆 **Latinx Leader Award for District 1, San Diego County** – Recognizing Elsa Morales-Roth's leadership
- 🏆 **San Diego Business Journal Latino Leader of Influence** – Prestigious regional recognition

OUR SUPPORTERS

Community Partnerships: The Power of Collaboration

ENF's impact is strengthened by the incredible partnerships we've built with hospitals, nonprofits, and corporate supporters. In 2024, we expanded our reach through key collaborations, including:

Hyundai Hope on Wheels –

We are proud to partner with Hyundai as the official vehicle sponsor for ENF. Through their generous donation of a **2024 Hyundai Palisade** and support of the Fuel the Fleet campaign, they help ensure that children never miss a medical appointment.



Top donors, grantors, and corporate sponsors

- Manchester Family Foundation
- Melisa Reasner McGuire Advised Endowed Fund held at Rancho Santa Fe Foundation
- Hyundai Hope on Wheels
- Mark & Jennie Johnson
- Las Patronas
- Corrao Group LLC
- John and Nancy Jo Cappetta Family Foundation
- Charles Nares & Sally McPherson
- County of San Diego
- Local Media San Diego
- Mission Federal Credit Union
- CBX Cross Border Express
- Doreen Karp
- San Diego Gulls
- Paul Hastings LLP
- Victor Wong
- Gilbert Nares

These collaborations reflect the power of coming together for a shared cause. With your continued support, we will tear down barriers, expand access, and ensure every child has the resources to thrive. Together, we are driving out cancer, one ride at a time.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Impact: A Heartfelt Contribution to Families

Our volunteers are the heart of ENF, last year alone they dedicated over 200 hours of service to ease the burden on families facing childhood illness. Their compassion and commitment ensured that families had one less worry during their unimaginable journey.

Volunteer Contributions:

Snack Bags Program: Volunteers assembled and delivered 2,600 snack bags, providing vital nourishment to children undergoing treatment.

Toy Wrapping: Volunteers wrapped more than 550 toys, bringing joy and light to families during the holiday season.

Weekly Lunches: Volunteers delivered 705 meals, offering comfort and sustenance to families navigating the hardships of childhood cancer.

Thanksgiving Meals: 440 Thanksgiving meals were delivered by volunteers, providing a moment of peace and togetherness during the holiday season.

These efforts aren't just about the hours—they are about giving families a sense of relief, warmth, and love when they need it most. We are deeply grateful to every volunteer whose selfless work made a profound impact. Your contributions are changing lives and helping families feel supported and cared for during their most difficult times.

Thank you for being a part of our ENF family!



LOOKING AHEAD

As we look toward 2025, we are driven by the urgent need to expand our services and provide life-saving support to more families battling childhood cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. With your help, we aim to raise \$1.6 million to fuel our three critical goals for the year:

- **Strengthen the Family Resource Center:** By hiring more staff to provide personalized support, we can help more families navigate the overwhelming challenges they face.
- **Expand Ride With Emilio:** We will extend the hours of operation of this vital program, to ensure we accommodate the varying schedules of families, no matter where they live.
- **Solidify Healing Through Nature:** In partnership with the San Diego River Park Foundation, we've introduced a new program offering outdoor therapeutic experiences to ease stress and promote well-being for children in remission. Our goal is to increase the number of participants and sessions to provide more opportunities for families to fall in love with life, again.

We are also committed to strengthening our End of Life Program to provide more comprehensive resources, ensuring every family facing heartbreak has the support they deserve.

But we can't do this without you. Your generosity will help us deepen our impact and expand our reach, ensuring that every family receives the care, support, and hope they need. Together, we will give these families the strength to face the unimaginable.

**Help us make
2025 a year of
healing and
transformation.**



**Will you
be part
of this
journey?**

