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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unitus Raises Over \$9,000 for Children’s Cancer Association in Annual Joy Makers Campaign

Funds to support CCA’s JoyRx Programs for kids in need of more than medicine when battling serious illness

Portland, Ore., March 13, 2023 – Unitus once again joined forces with KATU and [Children’s Cancer Association](#) (CCA) for their annual Joy Makers campaign. This month-long campaign and fundraiser spread awareness of JoyRx Programs and the emotional healing they provide young patients facing serious illness throughout the month of February, raising \$9,238 with the support of Unitus members and the community—funds that will go directly to giving Joy to local kids and families.

Through this support, Unitus was also able to support one of their own employees’ family. Raelynn Waldow, Member Advocate II at Unitus, has been with the credit union going on three and a half years. Raelynn’s son Xay, who was admitted to the hospital right after birth with blood clots on his brain as a result of having a stroke while in the womb, is quick to share the extraordinary impact JoyRx has had on them both.

Since first becoming involved in Joy Makers four years ago, Xay has been able to experience moments of Joy during especially challenging moments. The JoyRx Music Specialist Jean, sings songs with Xay when he’s in the hospital for treatment. Xay’s JoyRx Mentors have brought music and boxes of games and goodies to Xay’s home and to the hospital when he’s there. They’ve gone on trips to get ice cream, to local parks, and to the movies. His current mentor, Doug, especially loves building LEGOs with him.

“He’s been to Harlem Wizards basketball games, Trail Blazers games, and soccer games. We were blessed with a week-long trip to the coast to relax and reset,” says Raelynn.

“This organization allows Xay to have moments of unexplained Joy, of being a kid and not a kid with medical issues or disabilities. They give us the opportunity to give Xay experiences that a lot of people take for granted,” explained Raelynn. “And that is what brings us Joy.”

The happiness and warmth that JoyRx inspires cannot be measured, but it can be felt. The significance of that Joy, and of giving, is exactly why Unitus supports JoyRx and activates a Joy Makers campaign in their branches, amongst their staff, and in their community.

When a child experiences Joy, they experience an immediate and measurable improvement to their mental and emotional well-being. Simply put: Joy makes sick kids feel better—and JoyRx heals.

About Unitus Community Credit Union

At Unitus, we’re dedicated to improving lives in the communities we serve. As a member-owned local credit union, we invest in people by doing the right thing. Through partnerships with nonprofit organizations, we provide support for community groups through volunteerism and financial donations. Our 104,000 members count on us to serve them and their communities; our nearly 300 employees share that passion for service. Learn about the local impact Unitus makes by visiting unitusccu.com.