## CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN





Shannon Goldwater founded the "Feeding Matters" organization in 2006 after experiencing first-hand the challenges a parent faces when their child's life is in danger due to a Pediatric Feeding Disorder (PFD). Her experience was especially challenging; her fear was threefold. Goldwater's premature triplets, born in 2002, all were battling PFD.

Her goal has been to combine efforts of families, medical professionals, feeding therapists and engaged volunteers to mobilize – and maximize – efforts to battle PFD. Feeding Matters promotes advances against PFD by accelerating identification and accurate diagnoses at the outset, then promoting research and care.

**SHANNON GOLDWATER** 

Feeding Matters | Scottsdale, Arizona



Chante Gonzalez Vido and 'Camp Reach for the Sky' have some history. It goes back to her childhood, as she attended the camp, a number of years after being diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia at the age of six. When she was 18, she started doing volunteer work at the camp and has continued to stay involved – except for the time she missed in 2011, when the disease returned in another form.

This two-time cancer survivor has come to personify the outstanding service provided at Camp Reach for the Sky, a free summer camp for kids with cancer and their siblings. The camp is operated by the Seany Foundation, headquartered in San Diego, California.

CHANTE GONZALEZ VIDO The Seany Foundation | Jamul, California



Julian Maha, an emergency room physician, founded KultureCity in 2013. The organization seeks to improve the lives of children with autism while also educating society about the inclusion of autistic individuals. Maha has a vested interest in the organizational mission. He has a non-verbal autistic son.

Maha has led the development of their Sensory Initiative, which addresses sensory inclusivity in locations such as arenas, stadiums and other public settings. As autistic children are prone to wandering, KultureCity also has developed the lifeBOKS program to help families monitor the movements of their children through GPS and Bluetooth tracking devices.

**JULIAN MAHA** 

KultureCity | Vestavia Hills, Alabama



Tammy Richardson is a longtime volunteer and committee member at the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation's Camp Cartwheel, an involvement linked directly to honoring the memory of her late daughter Stephanie who succumbed to cancer in 2003 at the age of 17 after being diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

In the years since her daughter passed away, Richardson has accelerated her volunteerism at the camp, including running the Camp Store at Camp Cartwheel, providing items and gifts for camp attendees. Camp Cartwheel is an outdoor camp experience designed to help children fighting cancer and other critical diseases. The camp is also welcoming to young patients' siblings.

TAMMY RICHARDSON

Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation | Las Vegas, Nevada