

# INSIDER



**NEW VIDEO**  
**ENDING CANCER TOGETHER**

At Pelotonia, the brilliant scientists and doctors working to end cancer are riding, volunteering, and fundraising right alongside you. Hear directly from some of them in this new video revealed during Ride Weekend!



Watch the Pelotonia 2025 video here

→ **LETTER FROM THE CEO**

## FRIENDS OF PELOTONIA,

What an incredible Ride Weekend 2025! Every year, I'm humbled and truly inspired by the passion and dedication I see from all of you — Riders, Volunteers, funding partners, donors, and supporters alike. Pelotonia is so much more than just a bike ride; it's the heartbeat of our collective fight against cancer. Every mile you pedal and every dollar you raise helps fuel groundbreaking research at The James at Ohio State that is saving lives.

Our theme this year, Together as One, captured the spirit of Pelotonia perfectly and was echoed throughout our inspiring Opening Ceremony and Ride Weekend. We are one community working toward the same mission, united in accelerating what's possible, and bringing hope to those facing a cancer diagnosis. The work driven by this community and our researchers is giving families more time, more milestones, and more meaningful moments together.

This year, we were proud to have nearly 1,000 cancer Survivors join us — the most Survivors ever registered in a single year for Pelotonia — riding strong and full of hope. Many of these incredible people are benefiting from treatments that didn't even exist five or ten years ago. That's the power of the research Pelotonia supports. What's truly special is that these Survivors rode shoulder-to-shoulder with the very researchers who are working tirelessly to improve cancer detection, treatment, and quality of life for patients everywhere.

Thank you for being the driving force behind Pelotonia. I couldn't be prouder to ride alongside you as we are ending cancer together.

With deep gratitude,



**Joe Apgar**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
PELOTONIA  
—  
Cancer Survivor



EVENT SPOTLIGHT

# THOUSANDS UNITE TOGETHER AS ONE COMMUNITY IN ENDING CANCER DURING RIDE WEEKEND

## OPENING CEREMONY

AUGUST 1, 2025

The 2025 Pelotonia Opening Ceremony was a rousing celebration of hope, unity, and progress, welcoming an estimated nearly 20,000 supporters to downtown Columbus to launch Ride Weekend. Early in the day, the energy began building as Riders checked in, picked up their gifts, dropped off bags, and browsed merchandise.

Gates opened to a large crowd ready for dinner, drinks, a vendor expo, and entertainment, bringing the community together for connection and celebration. Ari and Zak Blumer of Clubhouse, the headliner band from 2024, returned after an emotionally tough year of losing lead singer, Max Reichert, to osteosarcoma in November, setting a vibrant musical tone as they DJed for the Pelotonia community.

The powerful stage program embraced this year's theme "Together as One." American Sign Language interpreters worked throughout to make every message accessible and meaningful for all. The Ohio State University President Ted Carter kicked off with words of gratitude, recognizing the immense impact of Pelotonia Riders, donors, partners, and Volunteers. Pelotonia CEO Joe Apgar followed, sharing his perspective on hope's vital role for every person who hears the daunting words, "You have cancer." Apgar explained Pelotonia's belief: that giant strides toward Ending Cancer are possible only when Riders, Volunteers, researchers, and community are united together.

The excitement ramped up with a video message of support from Ohio State researchers and the introduction of W. Kimryn Rathmell, MD, PhD, the new CEO of Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James). Dr. Rathmell underscored the

crucial partnership between science and the Pelotonia community, sharing her excitement about joining as a First-Year Rider on Saturday. She introduced Dr. Uma Borate, a physician and Pelotonia-funded researcher, and her patient Matt Wilson, a cancer Survivor and First-Year Rider with Team Huntington. Their remarkable story of hope and gratitude highlighted the real, personal stakes of Pelotonia's mission, with Matt crediting the entire community for making his survival possible.

Platinum-selling rock band O.A.R. capped the evening with a high-energy performance, feeding off the crowd's energy and their Columbus roots. Their song "Miss You All the Time," played alongside a video tribute, creating a heartfelt moment honoring loved ones lost to cancer and reminding everyone why they ride.

This year's Opening Ceremony set the tone for a Ride Weekend that promised new records, powerful stories, and memories — all united by a mission of Ending Cancer together.





## RIDE WEEKEND AUGUST 2-3, 2025

Ride Weekend 2025 brought together the Pelotonia community in spectacular fashion, spanning both Saturday and Sunday with energy, resilience, and connection at every turn for more than 7,200 Riders. The action began bright and early Saturday at McFerson Commons, where Riders checked in, fueled up with breakfast and Brootlegg cold brew, and readied their bikes. Supporters and Volunteers ensured a seamless and spirited launch. The 100-mile Riders set out first, bound for Gambier or a round-trip return on Sunday, while 50-mile Riders headed to Abercrombie & Fitch Co., and 24-mile Riders, including Dr. Rathmell on her first ride, finished at New Albany Schools. Meanwhile, more than 200 Riders started from New Albany Schools, taking on a 63-mile route to Gambier.

The enthusiasm carried into Sunday as nearly 200 cyclists pedaled the 90 miles from Gambier to the finishing celebration in New Albany, while more than 600 Riders took on a scenic 30-mile loop from New Albany Schools. Both the Lowry Center at Kenyon College and New Albany Schools buzzed with activity: breakfasts, engaging spectator experiences, and bike services.

Throughout the weekend, more than 3,000 Volunteers provided exceptional support at every start, finish, and rest stop — managing bikes, offering medical assistance, distributing food, drinks, and ice-cold towels, and cheering Riders along the way. Every finish line was a scene of celebration, where Riders received medals, mingled with supporters, and commemorated their achievements with photos and festivities.

After two days of stunning summer weather, Ride Weekend came to a joyous end for the entire community who showed up with passion and purpose.

## JOIN US IN NELSONVILLE FOR GRAVEL DAY WEEKEND

FRIDAY GATHERING — OCTOBER 3, 2025  
GRAVEL DAY — OCTOBER 4, 2025

Join us in scenic southeastern Ohio for a community gathering on Friday night with music, food, drinks and camping, before our unique gravel cycling event and the brand-new Trail Run/Hike on Saturday.



Check out routes and event details



## SAVE THE DATES FOR 2026

OPENING CEREMONY — JULY 31, 2026  
RIDE WEEKEND — AUGUST 1-2, 2026

→ RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

# NEW OSUCCC – JAMES CEO COMMENDS COMMUNITY’S DEVOTION TO RESEARCH

*Dr. Rathmell embraces energy at Opening Ceremony  
and rides during Ride Weekend*

W. Kimryn Rathmell, MD, PhD, the new CEO of Ohio State’s Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) marked her inaugural Pelotonia Ride Weekend with both a personal milestone and a vivid introduction to the vibrant, purpose-driven community fueling cancer research. At Opening Ceremony, she stood before tens of thousands, immersing herself in the energy that defines Pelotonia, and then joined the more than 2,700 participants riding the 24-mile route on Saturday. Her experience underscored the profound partnership between the community and the groundbreaking cancer research led by the OSUCCC – James.

Dr. Rathmell spoke passionately about how critical Pelotonia’s support is for translating innovative science into real-world impact. She emphasizes, “I can’t overstate how important the impact of Pelotonia’s support is on our cancer research. We do more innovative, more exciting and more powerful research because the community is behind us.” These words reflect a core truth: while cutting-edge science is foundational to progress, it is the unwavering engagement, generosity and spirit of the Pelotonia community that helps fuel and accelerate breakthroughs at the OSUCCC – James.

Having previously served as director of the National Cancer Institute, she found Ohio State distinctly and deeply aligned with her passion — a synergy of discovery, compassionate patient care and community connection. She highlighted how the OSUCCC – James is uniquely poised to lead cancer

research, treatment and prevention, thanks to the combined talents of researchers, clinicians and an engaged community that rallies together around a common purpose.

Dr. Rathmell described Pelotonia not simply as a fundraiser but as a movement with global reach. The people

who join the ride — cancer survivors, families, scientists, caregivers, donors and volunteers — form a dynamic network whose shared commitment elevates the OSUCCC – James’ mission. This collective engagement shapes the research agenda itself, ensuring that it addresses real-world needs and fosters





PICTURED: Dr. Rathmell is joined at the Ride Weekend start line by Dr. Andrew Thomas, CCO, and Dr. John Warner, CEO, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center; along with Doug Ulman, Pelotonia Board Chair.

hope for all impacted by cancer.

Dr. Rathmell rode alongside participants during Ride Weekend, experiencing first-hand what it means to connect with the people and the mission driving Pelotonia. Reflecting after finishing her first ride, she says, "I am energized. This is a tremendous experience." Her participation exemplified the unity and purpose that fuel the community. "Choosing to ride in Pelotonia helps to see the power that there is in coming together around something as important as cancer." This shared journey between researchers, clinicians, patients and supporters is what propels the science and care forward.

Beyond the event itself, Dr. Rathmell's leadership vision hinges on deepening the connection between science and community. She believes that innovation thrives when informed by the stories and needs of those who face cancer. This approach not only shapes research priorities but also builds trust and hope in the broader community. Her goal is clear: to ensure research discoveries translate into accessible, effective care that improves outcomes for all.

In her role, Dr. Rathmell also carries the responsibility of mentoring and building the next generation of cancer scientists and clinicians. She has spoken about the importance of guidance in

"I came to the OSUCCC – James because of this community. It's a place where researchers and Pelotonia supporters work side by side for a brighter future. And it truly makes a difference."

– W. KIMRYN RATHMELL, MD, PHD  
CEO, OSUCCC – James

navigating the complexities of medical and scientific careers and the value of nurturing diverse talent committed to the mission of reducing cancer's toll.

Her excitement about Ohio State's cancer program is grounded in both its cutting-edge capabilities and its location at the cultural crossroads of rural, urban and diverse populations in Ohio. The OSUCCC – James is positioned to address disparities in cancer outcomes and develop prevention, detection and treatment that benefit broad communities.

Dr. Rathmell envisions a future where cancer prevention is widespread, early detection is accessible and new treatments mitigate suffering. "Ultimately, it will be a world where people don't fear cancer the way we do today," she says.

Dr. Rathmell's first Ride Weekend embodied this spirit — standing shoulder to shoulder with riders and supporters, embracing the community and stepping into a leadership approach that blends scientific expertise with heartfelt commitment. Her arrival marks a new chapter for OSUCCC – James, one driven by innovation, collaboration and the unstoppable force of a community united in ending cancer.

## The James



Read more about Dr. Rathmell on Health & Discovery

→ RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

## STUDY: GENETIC MUTATIONS LINK COULD LEAD TO NEW AML TREATMENT STRATEGY



Researchers at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James) and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) have found a connection between two genetic mutations in a subtype of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) — a finding that could lead to new ways to treat this aggressive blood cancer.

Published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, the study — which involved mouse models of human AML as well as human AML patients — focused on mutations (abnormal changes) in two genes, TP53 and TET2, that cooperate to transform blood cells and play a key role in AML development.

By examining groups of AML patients from the OSUCCC – James and

MSK, the scientists saw that 10% of AML patients who have TP53 changes also have TET2 changes — an AML subtype that has very poor clinical outcomes.

The researchers also found that both mice and humans with this subtype displayed high amounts of a molecule called CD155 on their cancer cells, and that using antibodies to block the CD155 molecule helped the immune system destroy the TP53/TET2 cells. This improved patient survival and pointed toward a possible new treatment strategy for patients with this AML subtype.

Authors of the study include Pelotonia-funded researchers Rosa Lapalombella, PhD, co-leader of the Leukemia and Hematologic Malignancies (LHM) Program at the

OSUCCC – James; Bradley Blaser, MD, PhD, a member of the LHM Program; and Omar Abdel-Wahab, MD, chair of the Molecular Pharmacology Program at MSK. The study's first author was Pu Zhang, PhD, a former PhD student and Pelotonia Scholar in Hematology at Ohio State who is now a postdoctoral fellow at MSK.

### The James



Read the full story on the OSUCCC – James news page



## About the Mason Fisher Grant Program

The Mason Fisher Grant Program provides early-career faculty members or learners (students, residents, fellows) in Ohio State's College of Medicine or the OSUCCC – James with up to \$50,000 to advance their research of genetic mutations that can lead to cancer.

The grant program honors Mason Fisher, an Ohio State medical student who passed away after a medical event that occurred while he was riding in Ride Weekend 2022. Mason, a three-year Pelotonia Rider who wanted to be a cancer surgeon-scientist, was a passionate advocate for research.

The inaugural Mason Fisher Grant was awarded to Francesca Cottini, MD. She is using the grant funds to enhance research focused on multiple myeloma, a cancer of certain blood cells, and find out why people with this disease are more likely to get other types of blood cancers too.

## → RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

# DR. COLLIER AWARDED THE 2ND ANNUAL PELOTONIA-FUNDED MASON FISHER GRANT

Katharine Collier, MD, assistant professor in the Division of Medical Oncology at The Ohio State University and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), is the second recipient of the annual Mason Fisher Grant, funded entirely by Pelotonia dollars.

Dr. Collier, who works with bladder and urinary tract cancers, will use the grant to study how patients feel about and are affected by a new, easy genetic test that doesn't require surgery. This test will be given to up to 500 people who have a type of bladder or urinary tract cancer called urothelial carcinoma. The research aims to learn more about the genetics of this cancer, which is one of the most common cancers in men. Right now, genetic testing isn't widely recommended for this cancer because we don't have enough information about the harmful gene changes and how they affect patients.

Her study will explore how simple genetic testing affects patients and families, regardless of cancer stage, age, or family history, and will specifically

evaluate associations between genetic mutations and treatment responses. She hopes this project will build a larger cohort to link genetic variants to outcomes and inspire clinical trials for patients with Lynch syndrome or DNA repair mutations, potentially using genetic testing to guide treatment.

Additionally, the project will assess patient and family views on the risks, benefits and psychosocial effects of genetic testing.

A seven-year Pelotonia Rider, Dr. Collier took part in the 30-mile Sunday route during Ride Weekend 2025 with Team Buckeye – Full Steam Ahead. This combination of grant support and her Pelotonia involvement reflects both her scientific promise and dedication to the cancer research community.



**"I am grateful for the support of Pelotonia and the Mason Fisher Grant in my mission to improve personalized and effective treatment for patients with bladder cancer."**

– KATHARINE COLLIER, MD  
Assistant Professor in the Ohio State College of Medicine

**This grant extends Dr. Collier's translational research focused on predictive biomarkers and resistance mechanisms to develop personalized therapies for urothelial carcinoma.**

## The James



Read the full story on the OSUCCC – James blog

→ COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



## BIKE DONATIONS TO LOCAL CHILDREN HONOR HIGH ROLLERS' COMMITMENT

For years, Pelotonia's High Rollers have exemplified generosity, passion, and a steadfast commitment to our mission. Traditionally, Pelotonia has marked their remarkable achievements with a special swag item as part of their annual Rider gift. Recently, however, thoughtful feedback was provided from the High Roller community: while these items were appreciated, they weren't always necessary. In the spirit of listening to feedback and continually evolving our experience for the better, Pelotonia set out to reimagine the High Roller gift in a way that would powerfully reflect the values our High Rollers stand for.

In honor of the 2024 High Rollers, Pelotonia chose to make a meaningful, community-driven impact rather than distribute physical gifts. Instead of a swag item, Pelotonia donated brand-new children's bicycles on behalf of the entire 2024 High Roller community, ensuring that their legacy reaches far beyond the ride.

These bikes provide an opportunity for local children in Central Ohio to more easily navigate their environment, experience the pure joy of cycling, and perhaps plant the seeds for a lifelong love

of riding and philanthropy. Through the generosity of last year's High Rollers, the simple act of giving has opened doors of opportunity and inspiration.

All bicycles were gifted to children at Gladden Community House, a cornerstone organization in Franklinton whose mission is to strengthen the well-being of children, families, seniors, and neighborhoods in Central Ohio. Gladden House interim CEO Matt Burns expressed how much of an impact the donations will have: "The generous donation of the bikes to Gladden Community House has served to fill the gap in an incredible way for youth, K-12. Students are able to more easily transport themselves to and from Gladden, the local library, and local markets during the summer and will also serve to help many get to school this fall."

Pelotonia is excited to continue this heartfelt tradition for the 2025 High Rollers by distributing children's bicycles at the Pelotonia Kids Linden ride. As Eric Olsavsky, Pelotonia's Vice President of Community Engagement & Partnerships, shared: "This shift is about making a lasting difference in honor of our High Rollers, whose unwavering spirit inspires everything we do."

**"THANK YOU, PELOTONIA,  
FOR STEPPING IN AND  
HELPING TO CLOSE THE GAP."**

**MATT BURNS**  
INTERIM CEO OF GLADDEN HOUSE





→ COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## THE ADVENTURES OF DENNIS JACOB AND BUDDY THE BIKE

Dennis Jacob's journey with Pelotonia began not just as a cycling challenge, but as a deeply personal mission. In February 2016, Dennis underwent prostate cancer surgery. As he recovered, he set his sights on Pelotonia as both a goal and a symbol of hope. "I used my first Pelotonia ride as motivation during my recovery," Dennis said. That same year, his boss and friend, Rick Germain, launched their company's first Pelotonia team, offering teammates the choice between fundraising support or a gift card toward a proper road bike. Dennis, then only equipped with a hefty mountain bike, seized the opportunity for a new road bike, one that would become his steadfast companion, affectionately named "Buddy."

During the next six years, Dennis and Buddy logged an estimated 14,000 miles and participated in seven Pelotonia Ride Weekends, tackling at least 100 miles each year. The pair shared countless moments: cheers from the crowd, laughter with friends, and even a few tears on the toughest stretches. These rides were filled with reminders of why Pelotonia matters: Survivors, patients,

and families affected by cancer. "That bike healed me, kept me sane. It made it possible for me to ride for those who can't, and the people who love them," he says.

Dennis, now a 10-Year Rider and Captain of the Germain Peloton, was gifted the bike of his dreams — a Trek Domane SLR6 — in 2023 by his brother and sister-in-law in memory of their daughter, Stevie Rae, a proud supporter of Dennis' Pelotonia efforts. With the gifted road bike and a newly purchased gravel bike, space was getting tight, and Dennis faced a dilemma: what to do with Buddy? The answer came when he learned about the Pelotonia Bike Fleet. Although an emotional decision because Dennis had been through so much with Buddy, donating the bike meant it would continue its journey, helping others ride for a cure.

For Dennis, giving Buddy to Pelotonia is more than a donation; it's a continuation of a legacy of hope, healing, and community. Buddy was welcomed with excitement into a new home for the 2025 ride season!



→ DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# SCHERER FAMILY BUILDS A LEGACY OF GIVING BACK

For Mike and Megan Scherer, Pelotonia is more than a ride; it's a family legacy. Inspired by his father's cancer journey at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), Mike joined Pelotonia as a Rider in 2010. After his first ride, he faced his own diagnosis and received care at the same hospital that treated his father. Pelotonia became a lifeline, connecting him with a community of fellow Riders and Survivors dedicated to Ending Cancer. Mike continues his active involvement with Pelotonia as a 16-Year Rider and Peloton Captain for Summit Financial Strategies, Inc.

Megan, a nine-year Volunteer, has stood beside Mike every step. Together, they are securing Pelotonia's future by naming it as a beneficiary of their IRA, ensuring their support for cancer research continues for generations. For the Scherers, planned giving is about legacy: they hope their son learns the importance of giving back and supporting causes that shape lives.

Their commitment not only honors the journeys of Mike and his father but

also looks to the future, driven by the hope that their son, and generations to come, will inherit a world without cancer. In 2021, furthering their dedication to cancer survivorship, Mike and Megan founded Worth the Wait, a charity that empowers young adult cancer survivors on their path to parenthood by providing financial support and educational resources for fertility treatments, adoption, and surrogacy. Through their planned giving, enduring support, and advocacy, the Scherers are ensuring that the fight against cancer continues, inspiring others to give back and build a legacy of hope and progress.

To list Pelotonia as an IRA beneficiary, provide these details to your IRA administrator:

- Legal Name: Pelotonia
- Tax ID (EIN): 82-4997087
- Address: 2281 Kenny Road, Suite 450 | Columbus, Ohio 43210
- Nonprofit Status: 501(c)(3)



**“WE WANT THE PELOTONIA MISSION TO CONTINUE LONG AFTER OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE IS OVER. INCLUDING PELOTONIA IN OUR ESTATE PLAN HELPS CONTINUE A MISSION THAT HAS GREATLY IMPACTED MY FAMILY.”**

**MIKE SCHERER**

## PELOTONIA LEGACY SOCIETY



The Pelotonia Legacy Society is a group of forward-thinking supporters who share a vision to provide for future generations of cancer patients and their families.

Planned giving, also known as legacy giving, allows you to have a lasting impact on cancer research while contributing to the long-term stability of Pelotonia's mission for years to come.

By leaving a planned gift, you commit to contribute to Pelotonia beyond your lifetime – and you will become part of the Pelotonia Legacy Society.

You will receive waived registration fees for Ride Weekend and Gravel Day,

tickets to Opening Ceremony and Night of Impact, and an exclusive Pelotonia Legacy Society lapel pin. Thank you to the community members in the Pelotonia Legacy Society for their generosity and commitment!

Contact Philanthropy & Stewardship Manager, Erika Walker, at [ewalker@pelotonia.org](mailto:ewalker@pelotonia.org) for more information.

### COMMON PLANNED GIVING METHODS

- Bequests
- Life insurance policies
- Retirement plans and IRA rollovers
- Charitable gift annuities



**ALREADY INCLUDED PELOTONIA IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS? NOTIFY US OF YOUR GIFT BY COMPLETING THIS FORM**

### PELOTONIA PLANNED GIVING WEBINAR

On May 20, Pelotonia was excited to host a special webinar focused on the power of planned giving and how anyone can make a lasting impact on cancer research for generations to come.

This informative and inspirational session featured John Woods, Associate Vice President of Estate and Gift Planning at The Ohio State University, who shared insights into common giving tools like bequests, retirement assets, and life insurance policies. Together, John and Pelotonia staff answered questions from the audience in this interactive webinar.



**SCAN TO WATCH A REPLAY OF THE PELOTONIA PLANNED GIVING WEBINAR**

## OUR MISSION

At Pelotonia, we're driven by our mission: to engage, inspire, and challenge a community committed to change the world by accelerating innovative cancer research.

THANKS TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS,  
100% OF EVERY DOLLAR RAISED IS  
DIRECTED TO INNOVATIVE CANCER  
RESEARCH AT THE OSUCCC – JAMES.

## BENEFITTING

# The James



## MAJOR FUNDING PARTNERS



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## SUPPORTING FUNDING PARTNERS



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HASLAM<sup>3</sup>  
FOUNDATION



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## NOTABLE FUNDING PARTNERS



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# PELOTONIA®

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## PELOTONIA INSIDER

ISSUE 4  
SUMMER 2025

*Celebrating new innovations in cancer research at the OSUCCC – James made possible in part by Pelotonia funding*

### FEATURED INSIDE:



→ RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT:  
**NEW OSUCCC – JAMES CEO  
COMMENDS COMMUNITY'S  
DEVOTION TO RESEARCH**

4



→ RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT:  
**STUDY: GENETIC MUTATIONS  
LINK COULD LEAD TO NEW  
AML TREATMENT STRATEGY**

6



→ COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:  
**BIKE DONATIONS TO LOCAL  
CHILDREN HONOR HIGH  
ROLLERS' COMMITMENT**

8

→ PELOTONIA  
**MAKE AN IMPACT.  
SAVE LIVES.**

Fundraising for 2025 goes through October 15.  
Support a participant or give to Pelotonia today.

[PELOTONIA.ORG](http://PELOTONIA.ORG)