

WAYNE AND CINDY SLOAN: TURNING HEARTBREAK INTO HOPE

Wayne and Cindy Sloan's story is of profound loss, unwavering resilience and an extraordinary commitment to building a stronger, more compassionate community. After the heartbreaking loss of their son to suicide, Wayne and Cindy found themselves facing a reality no parent should ever have to endure. Their grief, however, became a driving force for change — a determination to ensure that others in crisis could access the help and support their son was unable to receive.

For the Sloans, their support of Pawnee Mental Health extends far beyond financial contributions. Their impact is woven into the fabric of Pawnee's mission, demonstrating that the most potent form of giving is a combination of time, resources and a steadfast belief in the cause. From Cindy's dedication to championing fundraising initiatives to Wayne's impactful leadership on the foundation board, the duo has worked tirelessly to advance Pawnee's mission. Together, they have introduced new supporters to Pawnee's work and made it their shared goal to ensure

that mental health care is accessible to all who need it.

"When we were in crisis, we didn't know where to turn," Cindy reflects. "We never want another family to experience that feeling of helplessness. Pawnee's work is critical in creating a safety net for those moments when it matters most."

Wayne's connection to Pawnee began when former CEO Robbin Cole invited him to join the foundation board during a simple coffee meeting. That invitation sparked years of dedicated service, with Wayne and Cindy immersing themselves in initiatives like "Driving the Dream" and countless other efforts to raise awareness and resources for Pawnee's programs. Their involvement has inspired countless others to join the cause, bringing new faces to events and expanding Pawnee's circle of supporters.

Among their many contributions, some moments stand out as especially meaningful. For Wayne, one of the most memorable experiences has been seeing the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) come to life. "Knowing how critical it is for people to have a place to turn during a mental health crisis and seeing that vision become a reality is something I'll never forget," he said. For Cindy, the success of the "Driving the Dream" fundraiser holds a special place in her heart. "It was incredible to work with the team and the community to create such positive momentum for Pawnee. Every event was a reminder of the power of people coming together for a shared purpose."

The Sloans understand that the strength of a nonprofit lies not just in its financial resources but in the breadth and depth of its community

engagement. "It's not just about writing a check," Wayne explains. "It's about showing up, sharing the message and inviting others to be part of something bigger. When more people are involved, the burden doesn't fall on a few — it becomes a shared mission."

Their advocacy is critical for a community like Manhattan, where nonprofits often compete for attention and resources. By encouraging new supporters to join Pawnee's mission, the Sloans are helping to sustain the organization's vital work while building a broader network of compassion and care.

Looking forward, Wayne and Cindy dream of a future where mental health care is accessible to all who need it when they need it. They passionately support expanding services like the CSU and increasing inpatient care options, knowing firsthand how life-changing early intervention can be.

"We've seen how critical these resources are," Cindy shares. "It's about creating a community where people feel supported, valued and cared for. Pawnee is making that vision a reality, and we're honored to be part of it."

"The impact Wayne and Cindy have had on making the CSU a reality and advancing Pawnee's fundraising efforts is truly immeasurable," said Mike Rezkalla, Pawnee CEO. "Their leadership inspired countless community members to give, join the foundation board or attend fundraising events. Whether through their personal invitations or the example they set, the ripple effect of their generosity and dedication is nothing short of extraordinary. We truly appreciate all of the generosities they have shared with Pawnee."



From left: Wayne
and Cindy Sloan
with Otto.



Wayne and Cindy's story is a testament to the power of collective action. Their journey reminds us that while financial donations are essential, a mission's

true strength lies in the surrounding community. Their dedication inspires all of us to step forward — not just with our wallets, but with our hearts,

hands and voices — to ensure that no one faces mental health challenges alone.