



The charities we assist do exceptional work to improve lives and better our communities. EAPD's Tax-Exempt Organizations practice is proud to spotlight the work of these charities in our Philanthropic Focus series. For more information about our clients and our practice visit [eapdTaxExemptLaw.com](http://eapdTaxExemptLaw.com).



# Charley's Fund

## Fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Charley Seckler is a 10-year-old cut-up with a mischievous smile and an irrepressible zest for life. The foundation that bears his name -- Charley's Fund -- has a singular mission: to save Charley's life and the lives of 60,000 children like him around the world who are afflicted with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a cruel muscle-wasting disease that is 100% fatal.

Duchenne is the most common and most aggressive form of muscular dystrophy. Developing treatments to overcome it may seem like an insurmountable challenge. But scientific advancements over the past few years have brought this goal within reach. Charley's parents, Dr. Benjamin and Tracy Seckler, formed the foundation shortly after Charley was diagnosed in 2005 at three years old. They did not start Charley's Fund to numb the sadness, anger, and fear that accompanied his diagnosis. They started Charley's Fund to end Duchenne.

In just six years, Charley's Fund has been instrumental in bringing three promising drugs to human clinical trials. These drugs have the potential to dramatically extend and improve the lives of children who, until recently, had no hope.

### A Focused Investment Strategy

Charley's Fund invests in biotechnology companies developing treatments for Duchenne.

The foundation also provides operational support to help new drugs move quickly and efficiently through the drug development pipeline. With over \$18 million already raised and smartly invested to date, the result is that for the first time ever, there's light at the end of the Duchenne tunnel.

### The Stars Have Aligned

Scientists know what causes Duchenne. The pathology of the disease is well understood. Several different therapies are now advancing into human clinical trials. The time is ripe for a major change in the lives of all children affected by this terrible disease. In what can only be a sign from the heavens, Charley turns 11 on 11/11/11. Charley's Fund has big plans to honor this highly auspicious day! [www.charleysfund.org/eleven](http://www.charleysfund.org/eleven)



For more information on Charley's Fund and ways in which you can help, please visit [www.charleysfund.org](http://www.charleysfund.org).

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