Hafiz Sikder has nearly 20 years of experience in various leadership roles in the life sciences industry. Partnering with several big-name consulting agencies, he noticed one thing: the relationship was often transactional. When he left to start his boutique oncology and rare disease think tank in 2016, he vowed to change that.

At Axiom Healthcare Strategies, Sikder disrupted the model by building a team with deep clinical and commercial expertise and innovative minds. He embraced a people-first strategy, which turned out to be the secret to his success. An ecosystem that focuses on people—clients, patients, and teammates—all centered on a singular goal of transforming patients’ lives.

“We’re not a traditional agency where we will take on a book of business and manage it like managing a budget line,” says Sikder. “We will always come back and say, ‘Have you considered this?’ or ‘How about this pivot in thinking?’ The money can always come later.”

And it has. In just four years, Axiom Healthcare Strategies surged 685 percent in growth, creating a disruption in the typical consulting industry.

“Giving back to society is an equally important part of leaving an enduring legacy, and Sikder built caring for others into Axiom’s DNA. Growing up in Bangladesh with a Jesuit and Muslim upbringing, he saw what it means to have a life with service at the core. The think tank’s nonprofit arm, Axiom REACH, offers cancer patients free rides to their doctor’s appointments, provides full tuition scholarships and pre-professional support to underrepresented students pursuing careers in health care through its unique cohort-model ARGOS program, and sponsors lodging at Hope Lodge, NYC, providing free housing for cancer patients receiving treatment.

“The Axiom REACH foundation has significantly contributed to the American Cancer Society over the last three years, providing critical funding and support,” said Dr. Mark Goldberg, American Cancer Society Board member. “The Axiom team has now set their sights on helping ACS obtain funding to address disparities that prevent equal access to cancer screenings and care across all communities.”

Team Axiom strongly believes genetic coding should dictate one’s prognosis in cancer, not your zip code. “It’s unacceptable that, as a society, we would allow such disparities across racial divides,” Sikder says. “We are here to change that.”