



2024 IMPACT REPORT

IMPACT



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with deep gratitude. It was a year where our community embraced the power of unity, storytelling, and action, and turned it into tangible progress to transform the future of sarcoma diagnosis and treatment. This mission is deeply personal for so many of us, and every milestone we reach brings more hope to patients, families, and the future of sarcoma care.



Our 2024 theme, “We Are the Voices of Hope,” was more than a rallying cry; it came to life in powerful ways. Nearly 1,000 participants, volunteers, and corporate partners helped raise \$262,000 at our annual Sarcoma Stomp, making it one of our most impactful events to date. In June, we unveiled the Seasons of Life installation at Levine Cancer Institute, the first permanent piece in our Growing Hope Through Art program, a lasting message of resilience and renewal for everyone who walks those halls.

We were deeply honored by the continued and growing support from our partners. The Clayton Baker Golf Tournament, organized by EY employees in memory of their beloved colleague, contributed \$230,000 to the Paula Takacs Foundation this September. Our long-standing partner, All In To Fight Cancer, has provided us with \$160,000 in lifetime giving through their poker tournament events, an incredible legacy of generosity and impact.

These efforts helped make possible the largest grant in our foundation’s history: \$345,000 to Levine Cancer Institute and Levine Children’s Hospital to support bold sarcoma research and launch the pilot year of our Emergency Financial Assistance Program. This initiative provided direct aid to patients across 10 major hospital systems in North Carolina, helping with essential needs like housing, food, utilities, and transportation. This expansion represents a meaningful evolution in how we walk alongside families facing sarcoma, through groundbreaking research and real-time support.

As we look toward 2025, we’re energized by what’s ahead. Our team is in the planning stages to launch the second installation of the Growing Hope Through Art program and deepen community-building through new social events. We will continue to fund innovative, life-changing research, and we are exploring a new initiative to offer tailored resources to sarcoma patients and caregivers from the moment of diagnosis. We’re also proud to introduce our newest tradition, the Champions Celebration, an annual gathering to honor the incredible donors and partners who fuel our mission.

Together, we are advancing something extraordinary: bold sarcoma research that opens global pathways to better treatments and faster diagnoses. Every story shared, every dollar raised, and every partnership formed fuels this progress. Thank you for standing with us and for being part of a mission that is bringing real hope to patients, families, and the future of sarcoma care.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Christine Wade



Executive Director

The Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research

2024 SARCOMA STOMP SPONSORS

AMWINS
AWS Fitness
Atrium Health
Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation
Bottlecap Group
Charlotte Pediatric Dentistry /
Burrow Welch & Culp
Charlotte Radiology
Consolidated Planning
Dexter Insurance Associates
Dolan Capital Group
Ivy Property Group
Mathers Reality
Morgan Stanley
NoahStrong Foundation
Perfect Balance Training Center
Performance Orthopaedics of the Carolinas
ProFast
SW Residential Design & Construction
Spectrum
State Farm
Sycamore Brewing
Todd Bucher Foundation
TowneBank
Uwharrie Bank

NONPROFIT SUPPORTERS

All In To Fight Cancer
Charlotte Toolbank
Christ Lutheran Church
Speed for Need

2024 TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL FUNRAISERS

A.M.'s Army
AWS Fitness
Aaron Ray's of Sunshine
Alan's Angels
Asia Starling
Battling for Benz
The Clayton Golf Tournament
Duck Cancer
Gavin's Guardians
Hands for Holly
Heather's Heroes
Josie's Joggers
Julia's Jamboree
Justine's Sarcoma Stompers
Lauren Nikides-Heacox
Maureen Roark
O'Charley's
Pat's Pack
Poppy's Warriors
Sharkoma Squad
Stompin' Cancer for Cassidy
Team Camp
Team Donna
Team ELISSA
Team Jennifer
Team Kim
Team London / AMWINS
Team Surfer Dev
Team Tip
Team Ben Moore
Towne of Paula's Peeps
#tonystitansforever

CHAMPIONS CELEBRATION SPONSORS

Atrium Health
 Bottlecap Group
 Carnegie Private Wealth
 Caymus
 Charlotte Radiology
 D FLAWLESS INT
 Dolan Capital Advisors
 ECM Solutions
 Greiner Bio-One North America, Inc.
 HSA Bank
 Ivy Property Group
 Liz Shea Designs
 Movement Mortgage
 Southeast Radiation Oncology Group



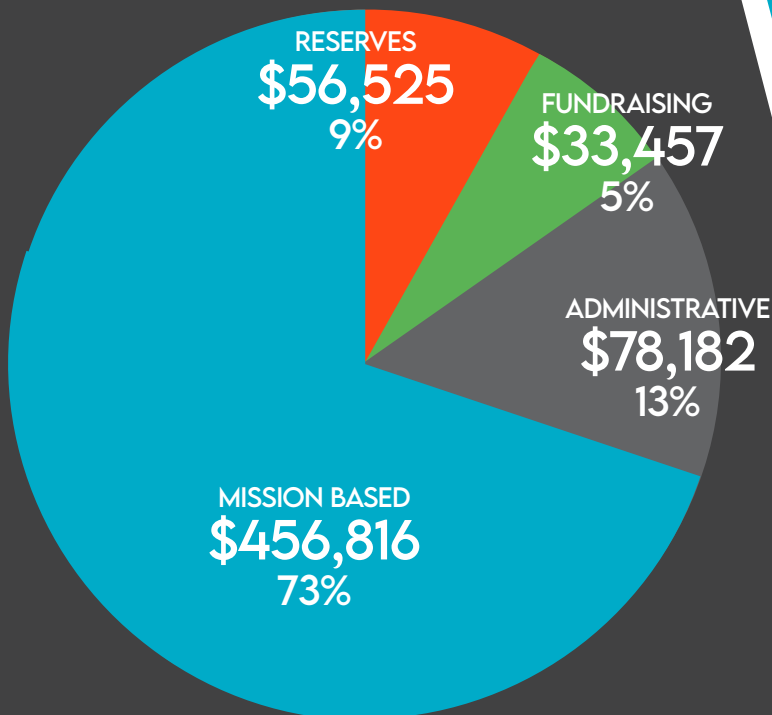
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Christine Wade | Executive Director
 Jim Barnes
 Charles Bartz
 Heather Franklin
 Suzanne Levine
 Maya Logan
 Heather Lopane
 Dr. Joshua Patt
 Elizabeth Romano
 Reilly Shea
 Douglas Sleeper
 Ashley Smith
 Lee Sugg
 Thomas Valle
 Dawn Whitmore





EXPENSES:



FINANCIAL REPORTING

2024 TOTAL REVENUE
\$626,980

2024 GRANTS
\$345,000

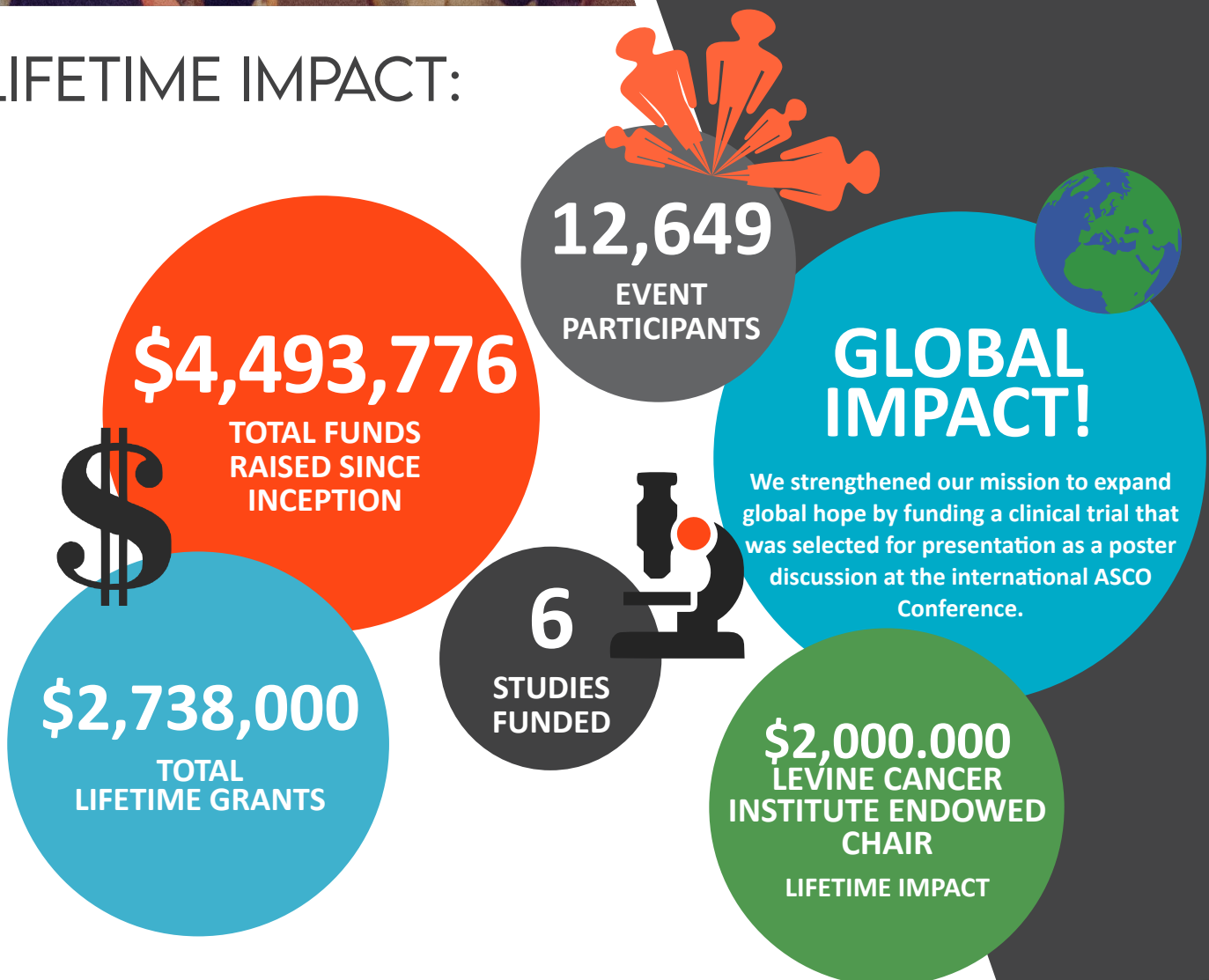
2024 TOTAL EXPENSES
\$568,455
(INCLUDES GRANTS)



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research is to raise funds for local research, and amplify awareness, accelerating the fight to eradicate sarcoma cancers. Through these endeavors, we open both local and global pathways for the development of new sarcoma treatments and increase the speed of accurate diagnoses.

LIFETIME IMPACT:



RESEARCH ADVANCEMENTS POWERED BY YOUR SUPPORT



Your continued support is opening bold new frontiers in sarcoma research. Every discovery brings us closer to more effective treatments and brighter futures for those affected by this rare disease.

Unlocking the Biology of Synovial Sarcoma

Protocol #: LCI-LCI-SAR-SYN-001

By analyzing archived tumor samples from patients dating back to 2009, researchers identified key genetic drivers linked to the spread of synovial sarcoma. The study explores the role of epithelial to mesenchymal transition in metastasis risk.

- Presented at the 2023 and 2024 international CTOS conferences.
- First manuscript is now in preparation for journal submission.

New Clinical Trial: Metformin in Advanced Sarcoma Treatment

Protocol #: ONC-SAR-2401

Synovial sarcoma tumors often use oxidative phosphorylation, an energy production method, to grow and spread. A new clinical trial will study whether Metformin, a widely used and well-tolerated diabetes drug, can block this process and improve outcomes when paired with standard chemotherapy.

- Protocol has been finalized and submitted to the FDA.
- Anticipated to open for patient enrollment in late 2025 or early 2026—pending IRB approval.

Circulating Tumor DNA: Advancing Blood-Based Monitoring for Sarcoma

Protocol #: LCI-SAR-BSTS-ctDNA-001

This prospective study will evaluate whether tumor DNA can be detected in blood samples, offering a real-time, non-invasive method to monitor disease and treatment response.

- Awaiting IRB approval, with plans to begin patient enrollment in 2025.

Early Detection Through Urine Testing

Raman Spectroscopy Molecular Urinalysis

Raman spectroscopy—a light-based technology—has shown early success in detecting sarcoma in animal models.

- A new human study will test whether this portable, inexpensive, non-invasive method can be used to detect osteosarcoma in patients.

Growing Tumors in the Lab to Personalize Treatment

Protocol #: LCI-SAR-Organoid-001

Scientists are developing a bank of 3D organoid models—miniature tumors grown from patient samples—to study drug resistance, immunotherapy, and personalized treatments.

- Now collaborating with Wake Forest to test promising therapies.
- Aims to build a foundation for precision medicine in sarcoma care.

NEW INITIATIVES WITH TANGIBLE IMPACT



In 2024, the Paula Takacs Foundation proudly advanced its mission by launching two major initiatives designed to bring healing, hope, and relief to those impacted by sarcoma. These efforts were made possible by our generous donor community and reflect our desire and commitment to surround sarcoma patients and their families with hope through healing environments, financial relief, and a community that cares deeply.

Growing Hope Through Art **Seasons of Life, Blown Glass Art Installation:** **A Living Tribute to Those Touched by Cancer**

This year, we debuted our first public art installation, Seasons of Life, at Levine Cancer Institute. This is the first project in our **Growing Hope Through Art** fund raising program. Created by artist Jake Pfeifer of Hot Glass Alley, this vibrant glass tree sculpture brings color, comfort, and beauty to all who pass through the space. More than art, it's a celebration of life, resilience, and the enduring strength of the sarcoma community.

A unique component of this program is donor engagement. Individuals can dedicate blossoms in honor or memory of loved ones touched by cancer, creating a lasting tribute while directly supporting sarcoma research. All proceeds fund critical local research to accelerate better treatments and outcomes.

Emergency Financial Assistance Program **Helping Sarcoma Patients Overcome** **Financial Barriers to Treatment**

In 2024 we secured funding to launch the Sarcoma Fund, a pilot financial assistance program in partnership with **Family Reach**, a national nonprofit dedicated to supporting families facing the financial burdens of cancer. While the Sarcoma Fund officially began assisting families in early 2025, it was fully funded by generous contributions raised in 2024, allowing us to hit the ground running and provide immediate support to families in need.

The program currently supports patients being treated at major North Carolina cancer centers, including Duke, UNC, Atrium Health, and Wake Forest Baptist, covering essential non-medical costs such as rent or mortgage, utilities, groceries, and transportation to treatment.

By eliminating financial stressors, this program helps ensure patients can stay on their treatment plans and focus on healing, not hardship. The Sarcoma Fund also includes access to Family Reach's Financial Resource Center for coaching and planning support.

"While our mission remains rooted in funding local research, expanding global hope, and amplifying awareness, we recognize that financial hardships can create barriers to treatment. Our partnership with Family Reach allows us to extend direct support to North Carolina sarcoma patients, ensuring they have the essential resources needed to focus on healing."
– Christine Wade, Executive Director

OUR VOICES OF HOPE



"On behalf of our Board, event sponsors, and the incredible participants in our annual Charlotte Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament at the Fillmore each March, THANK YOU, PTF! We are proud to support the mission of the Paula Takacs Foundation and excited for what the future holds in advancing sarcoma research through your extraordinary efforts!"

– Clifton Castello, Executive Director, All-In to Fight Cancer

"I met Paula over 20 years ago, always smiling, always shining. We became fast friends, and I watched her face sarcoma with incredible strength. Supporting her mission became personal. Today, I'm proud to see the Paula Takacs Foundation funding promising research and lifting up families fighting this disease. Paula would be so proud of how far it's come."

– Ashley Smith, Former PTF Board Member

"The Paula Takacs Foundation is making a profound impact in the fight against sarcoma, a rare and often overlooked cancer. Their commitment to funding novel clinical trials and exploring new approaches, including precision medicine and potential tumor markers, is accelerating the search for better diagnostics and therapies, offering real hope to patients locally and beyond."

– Johann H. Hsu MD, MPH, Levine Cancer Institute

"I first became aware of the Paula Takacs Foundation just three weeks after my second surgery at LCI to remove synovial sarcoma from my thigh. The "Sarcoma Is Cancer" sign on Providence Road grabbed my attention, and I immediately searched the web for the organization and signed up for the Sarcoma Stomp. I met survivors, families, physicians, and supporters, all combined into fundraising teams. Devastated to see that most of the teams participated in memory of their person who lost their battle with sarcoma, I realized that I, as a survivor, need to be loud for those who can't. As such, I am driven to raise money for sarcoma detection and treatment research through the life-changing PTF!"

– Kerry Lindauer, Sarcoma Survivor

"Dolan Capital Advisors proudly supports the Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research. We continue to be inspired by the efforts of this outstanding charity. Knowing that our financial gifts help fund clinical trials and sarcoma research at the Levine Cancer Institute and the Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte gives us immense joy. Please join us in protecting the gift of life by donating today!"

– Benjamin Dolan, CFP, President, Dolan Capital Advisors, LLC

MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT

There are many ways you can help advance innovative sarcoma research and amplify awareness. Whether you choose to give, volunteer, fundraise, or become a community partner, your involvement fuels hope and accelerates progress.

GIVE

Your generosity powers breakthroughs in research and care. Here's how you can make a difference:

- Donate in-kind items for events
- Give online at paulatakacsfoundation.org
- Mail a gift to PO Box 78416, Charlotte, NC 28271
- Submit a corporate matching gift through your employer
- Donate securities to maximize your impact through tax-advantaged giving

VOLUNTEER

Your time and talents are invaluable.

Explore current volunteer opportunities at:
paulatakacsfoundation.org/current-needs

Opportunities may include:

- Event Support & Committees
- Board of Directors
- Internships
- Photography & Videography
- Website Management
- Keynote Speaking

AMPLIFY OUR VOICE

Help us spread awareness far and wide by engaging on social media. Like, share, and join the conversation to educate others, celebrate progress, and inspire hope on our platforms:

- Facebook | [@paulatakacsfdn](https://www.facebook.com/paulatakacsfdn)
- Instagram | [@paulatakacsfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/paulatakacsfoundation)
- Twitter / X | [@paulatakacsfdn](https://twitter.com/paulatakacsfdn)
- LinkedIn | Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research
- YouTube | [@sarcomaiscancer](https://www.youtube.com/@sarcomaiscancer)

FUNDRAISE & PROMOTE

Turn your passion into action:

- Form a team for the annual Sarcoma Stomp and fundraise in honor or support of a loved one
- Host your own event — from wine dinners to fitness classes or girls' nights out
- Partner with a business to donate a portion of sales during select time frames
- Be a digital advocate — share your story, repost our updates, and help amplify our mission

PARTNER WITH PURPOSE

Sponsor an Event or Program and demonstrate your commitment to local cancer research while elevating your brand and connecting with a purpose-driven community.

- Showcase your support for your employees, customers, and neighbors
- Align your business with a cause that creates lasting, local impact
- Download our Sponsorship Packet at Corporate Partners - Paula Takacs Foundation