

We Are Family

dragonfly.org/chicago



2024

IMPACT REPORT

The Dragonfly Foundation - Chicago

FROM OUR DIRECTOR TO YOU



This is my favorite time of year. Why? Because it gives us the opportunity to step back, look at the big picture, and truly recognize what this community has been able to accomplish over the past fiscal year. The day-to-day is filled with tasks and to-do lists, patient support requests, grants to write, meetings to be had, events to plan, board meetings, and so much more. ***Our mission never wavers as we strive to support pediatric cancer patients and their families by providing them with strength, courage, and joy.*** But to take a breather and stop to see the success and recognize the impact on our patients and families is the best gift of all.

We have quadrupled our impact in almost every program we offer since inception – from Adopt a Family, to our Night of Courage, and everything in between. Our hospital offerings have grown, meaning we are able to support more families and front-line staff than ever before. And our increase in partnerships continues to drive our success.

After fiscal year 2020, Chicago's first as an official chapter, I hand-delivered Dragonfly cookies to local donors. The following year, I sent sweatshirts. Last year I hand-wrote cards due to the sheer increase in donor volume. I am now faced with the reality that our base of support has grown so exponentially that I am unable to personally thank all of you. But I recognize this as a wonderful thing. So here I am, ***saying thank you.*** You are undoubtedly making an enormous difference in the lives of our courageous Dragonflies.

With much gratitude,

Jessica Merar, CCLS
Director, Chicago



OUR MISSION

The Dragonfly Foundation Chicago is a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to supporting local pediatric cancer patients and their families by offering strength, courage, and joy at the time of diagnosis, throughout treatment, and beyond.

We do this by fulfilling day-to-day essential needs (brought to our attention through front-line staff at all eight of our area partner hospitals), such as gas cards, grocery cards, household essentials, toys, and more.

We create community - by providing opportunities for our families to enjoy sports games, holiday outings, and fun experiences, which provide a distraction from their daily treatments.

Our many hospital programs help our partner clinical teams to provide stellar, developmentally appropriate care, such as our hair loss kits and treatment-related stuffed animals.



PARTNER HOSPITALS



LOYOLA
MEDICINE



MEET OUR TEAM



Christine Neitzke
Founder and Executive
Director



Jessica Merar, CCLS
Director, Chicago



Silvia Dulsat Planas
Manager of Programs
and Patient Relations

ADVISORY BOARD

Marc Rubin, MAS, Ph.D, CPA
Board Chair

Michael Sell, CPA
Board Vice Chair

Laura Nessel
Board Development Chair

Jennifer Wicks, MD
Board Treasurer

Sydney Martin, MS, CCLS
Board Secretary

Jaime Bronstein, LCSW

Jennifer Choi, MD

Sarah Davidson

Casey Foreman, Psy.D

Mike Lund, CPA

Stephanie Malk

Seth Schrank, MS, CISA

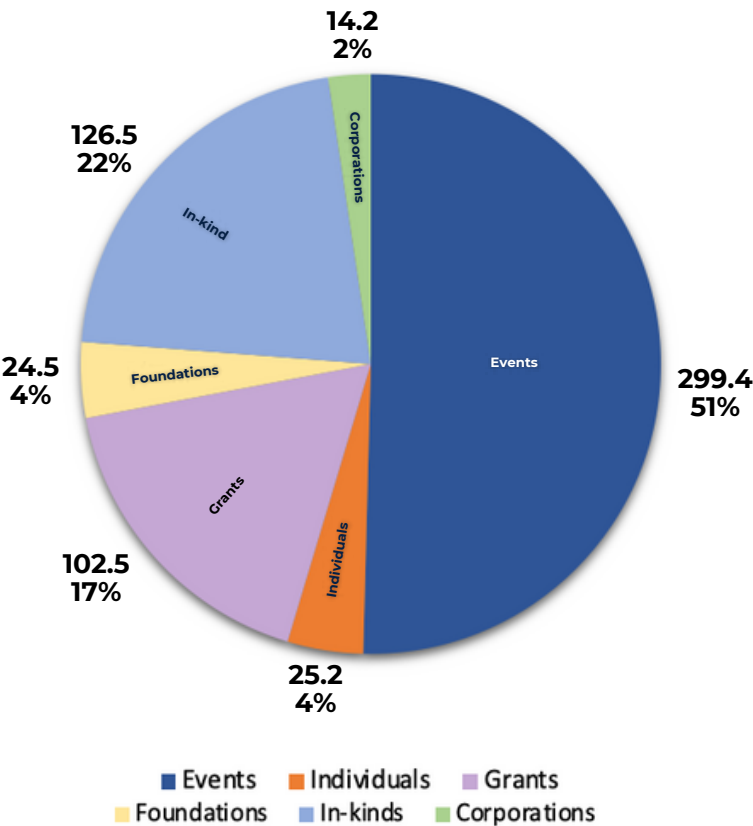
Erinn Siegel

A Year In Review

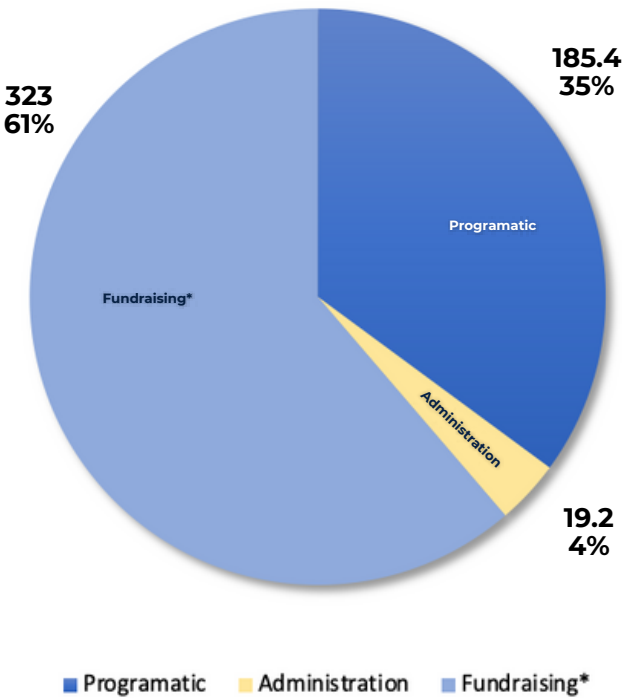
2024 FINANCIALS

(For financial information regarding The Dragonfly Foundation, please see our audited financials and Form 990 at [Dragonfly.org](https://www.dragonfly.org))

FY 2024 Revenue Components (\$000)

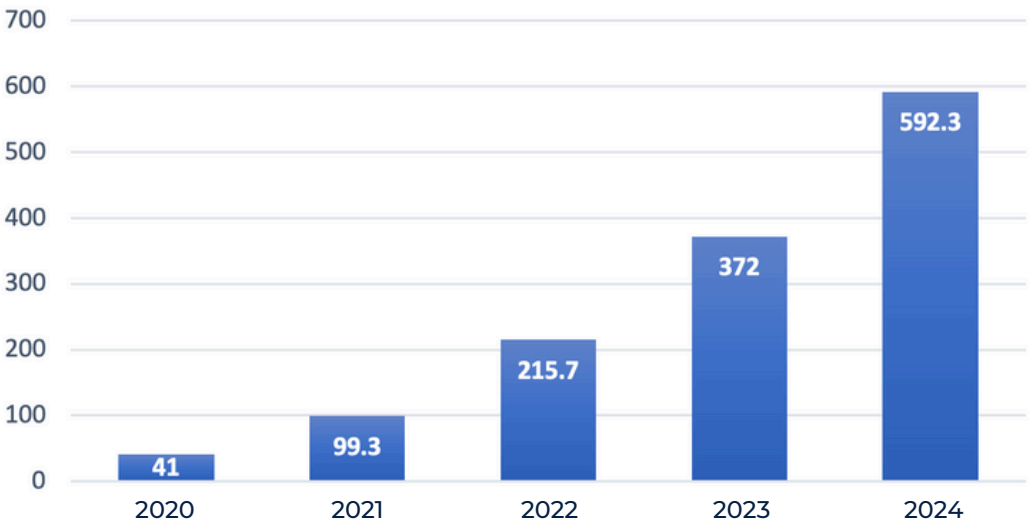


FY 2024 Expenses Components (\$000)



*this FY does not represent a typical year due to hosting two Golf Classic events within the same timeframe, resulting in skewed fundraising expenses for the year

Five Year Gross Revenue Growth (\$000)



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&

PROGRAM IMPACT



URGENT REQUESTS



146 daily
needs
fulfilled

Dragonfly works directly with front-line staff to identify and fulfill incoming requests to support patients' and families' daily needs. From sending gas cards to help offset costs of travel to treatment, to supplying household essentials, celebrating milestone occasions, or sending meals - Dragonfly hopes to ease the day-to-day burden of our families' journeys.

CHEMO DUCKS



40

treatment-related
stuffed animals
delivered

Dragonfly is proud to be the sponsor of the Chemo Ducks initiative at Lurie Children's with hopes of expanding to other partner hospitals. This cuddly pal is a teaching tool that helps kids understand their treatment protocols and procedures.

ADOPT A FAMILY



72

families supported
through the
holiday season

Every holiday season, Dragonfly provides support to families treated in our partner hospitals to make the holiday season brighter. Each donor receives a wish list that they can fulfill to bring joy to those we serve!



**I AM STILL
ME®**



71

kits sent out to
patients enduring
hair loss

Our ISM booklet offers insight into patients' experiences with hair loss, all from the perspective of peers who have previously endured the journey. Paired with a soft pillow case and a comfortable hat, this care package is delivered to those in need.

ABBY'S ACTIVITIES



48

children received
swimming or art
supplies

Through her family's desire and initiative, we are able to honor the life and legacy of Abby Shapiro – who adored and found reprieve in extracurricular activities such as swimming, art, and much more. This program allows us to support patient swim lessons and bedside art therapy sessions at our partner hospitals throughout the year.

PATIENT AND FAMILY EVENTS



71 families enjoyed a Dragonfly outing

Our "Dragonfly Family" comes together to help families find fun ways to connect and spend time together without worrying about the financial burden of it. Sporting events, days out at local attractions, holiday parties and more. All to forget the daily grind of treatment for a little while.

FRONT-LINE STAFF SUPPORT



15 instances of ensuring
staff take a moment
for self-care

Whether it is through our sponsored tea cart, our Joy Cart, or by sending coffee and treats, Dragonfly takes time to appreciate front-line staff at our partner hospitals to ensure that they take a moment to care for themselves as well.

ANNUAL **FUNDRAISERS**





3rd Annual
**NIGHT OF COURAGE:
DRAGONFLY
DERBY**





2nd Annual
**GOLF
CLASSIC**



Story of **HOPE**

Vivianna is a smart 9-year-old girl who loves singing, dancing, coloring, playing with Barbies, and receiving visits from family while she's in the hospital.

Her family's life suddenly changed in the Spring of 2023 when Vивиanna was diagnosed with B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

Being the outgoing social butterfly that she is, Vивиanna never complained (aside from not liking the hospital food!) She dealt with chemotherapy, losing her hair, and many of the side effects that come with treatment, all with a smile on her face.

Dragonfly stepped in and offered various activities and support which brought joy to their family. As mom Michelle states, **"I'm grateful to know that I have Dragonfly on my side."**

Vivianna's strength and attitude throughout treatment have been admirable. We know she'll move mountains.

Keep smiling, Vивиanna!!

Scan to watch



Vivianna's full story

A large, stylized dragonfly graphic in a lighter blue shade is centered in the background. The dragonfly's body is a long, thin oval, and its wings are composed of several elongated, teardrop-like shapes extending outwards from the center.

a special *thank you*

to all our Dragonfly families, our Cincinnati team, our dedicated volunteers, our partner hospitals and their front-line staff, Shay James Photography, our nonprofit partners, our crucial sponsors, our generous donors, our loyal local businesses, our corporate partners... and each of you who have supported our mission since March 2020.

The Chicago chapter would not be possible without you!



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