

FY2025 Impact Report

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Compassionate
SUPPORT

Community
IMPACT



300 adults supported through Adult Bereavement Support programs

403 children and family members supported through Children's Grief programs and resources

132 patients with serious illnesses and caregivers supported

367 community members & professionals attended 15 educational events

17 Languages Spoken by our Volunteers

36 Years of Service to our Community

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(as of June 30, 2025)

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(as of June 30, 2025)

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Eva Cowen
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Penny Gladhill
Director, Volunteer Helping Hands

Mabilia Rastello
Bilingual Children's
Bereavement Coordinator

Leah Schwartz
Clinical Director, Camp Erin

Allison K. Stearns
Chief Executive Officer

Carol A. Walsh
Grants Specialist

Mandy Wark
Children's Bereavement
Program Assistant



Dear Friends of CaringMatters,

We have always believed that volunteering changes lives—not just for those who receive support, but for those who give it as well. At CaringMatters, we see this truth every day. Our volunteers form genuine relationships, find meaning in showing up for others, and experience the profound impact of compassion offered with presence and care.

CaringMatters is more than an organization to us; it is a community grounded in kindness, trust, and human connection. Our volunteers are truly the heart of this work. They provide comfort, practical help, and steady companionship to individuals and families navigating some of the most vulnerable and challenging moments of their lives.

This annual report reflects what we are able to accomplish together. With the dedication of our staff, volunteers, Board members, Trustees, and community partners, we continue to walk alongside families facing serious illness, caregiving, end-of-life, and grief. We meet them where they are—with dignity, understanding, and hope.

For 36 years, CaringMatters has been a constant and compassionate presence across Montgomery County. That legacy exists because of you—your generosity, your commitment, and your belief in this mission. Thank you for being part of the CaringMatters family and for ensuring that no one has to face these journeys alone.

With deep gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Rice".

The Hon. Craig Rice
Chair, Board of Directors



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allison Stearns".

Allison Stearns, MS, MPH, LCPC
Chief Executive Officer

**CaringMatters supports people of all ages
experiencing serious illness, caregiving, loss, or grief through
compassionate services — so no one faces their journey alone.**

Volunteers Add Value

CaringMatters' services are delivered by screened and trained volunteers, who receive ongoing guidance, continuing education, and supervision. Our volunteers are valued for their compassion, their willingness to help in time of need, and their many interests and talents that support all aspects of the organization.

183 volunteers served 9,901 hours

Our operating budget would increase by 30% if it included the monetary value of volunteer time.*

“The people we work with—and the work itself—are deeply genuine and caring. This work challenges me and makes me want to show up with thoughtfulness and compassion.”
— CaringMatters Volunteer

“The work is deeply meaningful, and I see every day how it makes a real difference in our community. And the people I work alongside are simply outstanding.”
— CaringMatters Volunteer

Our volunteers speak the following languages: Albanian, American Sign Language, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Guilarte, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Mandarin, Polish, Punjabi, Russian, South African Sign Language, Spanish, and Swahili

Thank you to our funding partner, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

* The value of the volunteer hour is \$35.53 in Maryland for a total of \$351,782 for FY2025. (Based on information from independentsector.org)

Volunteer Helping Hands

The **Volunteer Helping Hands (VHH)** program offers compassionate social and emotional support to individuals in Montgomery County facing serious illnesses, as well as their caregivers and families. Through a dedicated network of trained volunteers, the program provides critical services, such as companionship, emotional support, respite for family caregivers, and help with errands, meal preparation and other household tasks.

81 clients served

100% reported that their volunteer was caring and supportive.

100% said they would recommend VHH to others with similar needs.

“She hadn’t been out in weeks—or walked that far in five years. By the end of our walk, she was proud and feeling stronger.”
—VHH Volunteer

“The match couldn’t have been more perfect. They share so many interests, and she has become a remarkable presence in our lives. We truly treasure her visits.”
— VHH Client Family

“My CaringMatters volunteer brings such joy to my life. Her weekly visits ease my loneliness and have become essential to my well-being in hospice.”
— VHH Client

CaringMatters is licensed by the state of Maryland as a Limited Hospice Care Program. We supplement General Hospice Care Programs and support patients who are still pursuing curative treatment, as well as those who do not have a six month or less prognosis.

Thank you to our funding partner for all of our Patient & Caregiver programs, US DHHS Community Care Corps Grant implemented by the Oasis Institute



JustRides

JustRides, provided in partnership with Adventist HealthCare Cancer Services, provides free, reliable, and compassionate transportation for adults undergoing cancer treatment or dealing with blood disorders. Trained CaringMatters volunteers offer rides to and from appointments, helping patients and their families navigate the physical and emotional challenges of treatment.

26 patients received 826 one-way rides totaling 8,540 miles

88% reported that the social aspect of interacting with drivers was significantly important to their well-being.

88% of patients reported that they always feel listened to when they call the JustRides program.

“ My mother was overwhelmed with joy and gratitude. The kindness of the volunteer drivers made her feel truly welcome—and restored our faith in others.”

— JustRides Client Family

“ The side effects and long distance made it impossible for me to drive to radiation. My volunteer drivers made sure I didn't face it alone.”

— JustRides Client

“ The ride service has been a true Godsend — remarkably reliable and a meaningful source of connection. The volunteers brighten my day.”

— JustRides Client

Thank you to our funding partners,
Adventist HealthCare, Inc.,
and the Gail Robinson Fund



Caregiver Support Groups

CaringMatters' Caregiver Support Groups offer a supportive space for individuals caring for a seriously ill loved one. The groups, facilitated by trained volunteers, help reduce isolation and stress by allowing caregivers to connect, share their experiences, and find comfort in one another. Guided by principles of confidentiality, reflective listening, and caregiver well-being, the groups focus on supporting both the caregiver and their loved one.

25 caregivers supported

“Being part of this group has given me a space where I truly feel safe, comforted, and supported as I navigate the challenges of caring for my mom, who is a stroke survivor with dementia. The understanding, compassion, and encouragement I receive here makes a world of difference.” — Caregiver Support Member

“I leave each session feeling uplifted, not alone, and better equipped to face each day. Thank you to everyone who makes this group such a nurturing and invaluable community.”
—Caregiver Support Group Member

Thank you to our funding partner, Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, Maryland Department of Health



Handmade by a member of the Asbury Methodist Village caregivers support group, these fidget mats were created for participants to share with loved ones living with dementia. They have quickly become a meaningful and helpful resource for caregivers in the group.

Adult Bereavement Support Services

CaringMatters' **Adult Bereavement Support Groups**, facilitated by trained volunteers, connect individuals grieving similar losses, providing a safe space to share stories, find comfort, and learn from one another.

CaringMatters' staff also offers individual consultations and referrals to grief support resources, presentations to community groups, along with webinars on grief support through our **Community Education** program.

In December 2024, we held our annual **Tree of Love Celebration**, a heartfelt in-person memorial ceremony to honor and remember loved ones.

226 people attended Adult Bereavement Support Group sessions

60 people attended the 2024 Tree of Love Celebration

95% of support group members reported that they have gained tools to use in their daily life.

96% of support group members reported that they have found ways to better identify and express their feelings about loss.



Participant Feedback:

“I rarely talk about the loss of my late husband, so this support group has been invaluable. It’s the one place I can say things out loud and share how I really feel.”

“The group offers a safe place to talk openly about how badly I feel, without people trying to run away from the conversation.”

“I now recognize and accept that the group members care and support me. This realization has helped me talk about my loss which I had not been doing.”

Bereaved Caregivers Retreat

The **Bereaved Caregivers Retreat** is a free program for family and friend caregivers who have lost a loved one within the past two years. Participants connect with others who understand the challenges of caregiving through therapeutic group and individual activities, including grief support, journaling, self-care, relaxation techniques, and strategies for life after caregiving.

14 attendees

100% of attendees reported that they are better prepared to transition from focusing on their caregiving role to their own life post-caregiving.

100% of attendees reported that they gained tools/approaches that they will use to renew their lives.

“This was one of the most moving experiences of my life. At a time when I craved human connection, I felt deeply close to everyone there.”
— Retreat Attendee

“The facilitators’ leadership at the caregivers’ retreat was exceptional. I was amazed at how sharing grief brought not only emotional comfort but unexpected physical relief.”
— Retreat Attendee



Grief Education for Mental Health Professionals

In FY2025, our **Children's Bereavement Services** team provided informative webinars and presentations on children's grief to 173 professionals. CaringMatters delivered a specialized webinar, "How to Support Grieving Immigrant Students," for 18 Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) professionals.

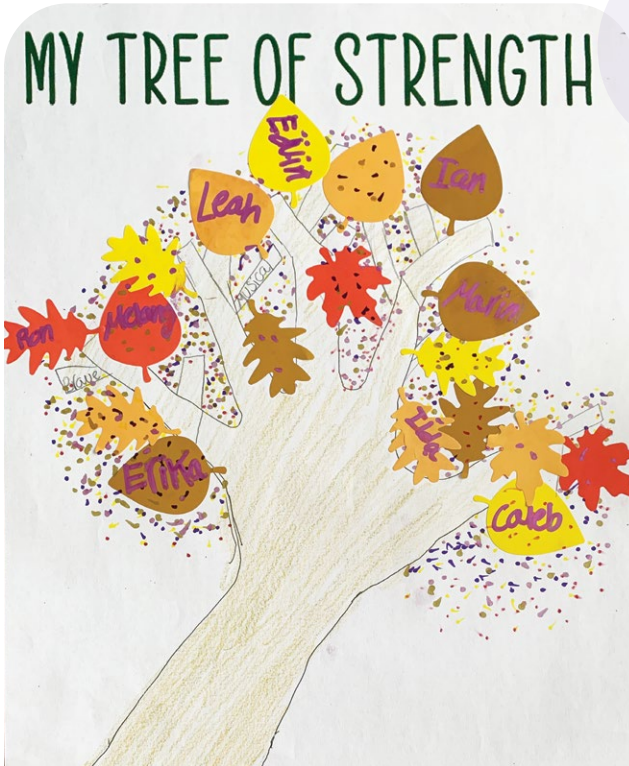
100% of participants strongly agreed they would use what they learned to support their grieving students.

Participant Feedback:

"I wish this could be an all-day training!"

Grief Information Support and Referral

Children's Bereavement Services staff responded to 143 requests for information and support for grieving children. These requests came from families and professionals from all over Maryland and across the country. Staff also consulted with 49 MCPS mental health professionals to provide guidance for support of grieving students' needs and readiness for a Good Grief Club.

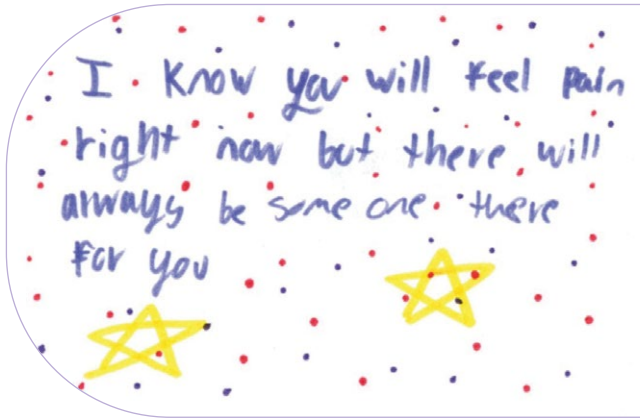


"After our school community's profound loss, CaringMatters surrounded us with empathy and guidance. Their responsiveness, resources, and personal support helped us navigate our earliest days of grief, and their continued availability remains deeply comforting."

Good Grief Club (GGC)

Good Grief Clubs are seven-week support groups to help children in grades K-12 explore their feelings, develop healthy coping strategies, and find comfort and safety in learning that they are not alone. The groups are facilitated by trained CaringMatters volunteers in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), independent schools, and other community-based organizations.

This year we developed and launched the Legacy GGC program for students grieving the loss of a classmate. Unlike typical groups with varied losses, this program provided a shared space for students to process their grief together and find meaningful ways to honor their friend. This year the first high school Legacy group was held.



229 students in 30 schools attended one of 35 GGCs

- 90% of middle school and high school students reported that they learned how to talk about their feelings in GGC.
- 90% of students who attended GGCs reported feeling less alone than they did before the group started.

Student Feedback:

- “I understand now that I’m not a wreck — I’m just grieving. And it’s okay to feel and express even the negative emotions, because they come from love.”
- “I’ve formed new friendships, learned how to cope, learned that grieving is okay. I used to hide or lock away my emotions, but now, I can fully express myself.”

Counselor Feedback:

- “One of our students began the group silent and in tears. By the end of seven weeks, he was fully engaged and among the most active participants.”
- “Every student asked if we could continue the group. Several shared that it was the first time they had ever felt supported in their grief.”

Thank you to our funding partners, Maryland Department of Health, Montgomery County Public Schools, and The Wolpoff Family Foundation

Parenting While Grieving Workshop Series

Parenting While Grieving: Supporting a Child Grieving the Death of a Parent, is an 8-week workshop series designed to help parents support their grieving children. The workshop focuses on essential parenting skills, including listening, expressing emotions, problem-solving, and setting limits, all within the context of a grieving family.

14 grieving parents attended

33 children, ages 3–18, impacted

100% of parents reported that the workshop improved their understanding of how children grieve based on their age and stage of development.

100% reported that they now have new ways to communicate with and listen to their children.

“ My listening skills have improved, allowing me to be more patient with my kids because I understand their perspective so much better.”



Family Nights

Family Nights are workshops held before major holidays to help families explore their feelings and memories about their loved ones, and plan for celebrations in the absence of their person.

36 adults and 40 children attended at least one of the five Family Night workshops

96% of adults and 90% of children reported that they were able to share their feelings about their loss with each other.



“Thank you for the great art project and guidance, which helped us to talk through these difficult emotions together.”

“I feel it is a privilege to support these children and their families in their grieving process and to see them sharing their grief with other families.” — Family Night Volunteer

“The workshop gave us the tools to talk openly with our children about grief and loss. It brought us comfort as we began to move through our grief together.”

Thank you to our funding partner,
The Newburger-Schwartz Family Foundation



Camp Erin



Camp Erin Montgomery County is a weekend, overnight camp, offered free of charge, for grieving children and teens, ages 6-17. The camp provides age-appropriate discussions and creative, fun-filled activities designed to help children share and connect with peers who have had similar experiences.

51 Campers served

100% reported that they learned healthy ways to express their feelings.

91% reported that they learned some tools and activities to help them through difficult feelings or times.

Volunteers are the key to the camper experience. Each camper receives a fleece blanket made by Harriet Friedman and a teddy bear handcrafted by Madonna Robins.

Camper Feedback:

“Putting a photo of my dad on the memory wall helped me understand that other kids were going through the same thing.”

“During the luminary ceremony, I felt like I actually got to talk with my mom.”

“I would change Camp Erin so that we would have more time at camp. I love you, Camp Erin!”



Audrey Rothstein Photography

Thank you to our funding partners, Bar-T, Inc., Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club, Eluna Network, Friends of Audrey Rothstein, The George Preston Marshall Foundation, and MATAN

Community Education

CaringMatters' Community Education raises awareness and builds community to help people address caregiving, end-of-life, and grief-related issues. In FY2025, workshops and webinars brought volunteers, community members, partners, and human services professionals together for constructive dialogue on relevant topics.

Webinars and Workshops:

- Beyond Facetime: Video Options for Staying Connected with Loved Ones
- Grief Allies: A Practical Guide for Friends, Family, Colleagues, & Neighbors of Grieving People
- Disaster Preparedness: Simple Steps for Senior Adults, Individuals with Serious Illness, & Caregivers
- Mortality in Popular Culture
- Death Cleaning & Decluttering: Why It Matters & How to Do It



367 community members and professionals attended webinars and presentations

90% of attendees agreed that they would use what they learned from the webinars in their personal and/or professional lives.

“Both presenters were authentic and provided a clear understanding of concepts. The case discussions and use of self was extremely engaging and helpful.”

“This was fantastic! Well organized, informative, concise and full of practical information!”

“Gratitude for such a meaningful presentation. My wheels are already turning, exploring how I can incorporate what I have learned into my work with participants who may be living with loss and grief.”

Thank you to our funding partner, AARP Maryland

The Pam Hard Legacy Circle



The Pam Hard Legacy Circle Members

Vivian & Raymond Bass

Debra Berner

Sandra & Pete Bracken

Marsha & Kenneth
Braunstein

Ken & Julie Cook

Lisa & Sean Creamer

Dominique Duong &
Peter Wong

Jerry & Carol Gimmel

Penny & Jim Gladhill

Steve & Jane Halpin

William Hard

Sara Harris

JC Hayward

The Honorable Cheryl Kagan

The Krewson Family

Audrey Rothstein &
Frank Lipson

Sam & Jody Lish

Colleen & Ron Luzier

Kathleen McCallum

Lisa McKillop

Joan & Ken Miller

Michele Potter

Toni Robinson

Anu Sharman

The Honorable Jeffrey
Z. Slavin

Allison Stearns

Tori & Matt Tomlinson

Carol Walsh

Stephen & Lucy Yee

In 2021, CaringMatters launched a special forward-looking initiative, **The Pam Hard Legacy Circle**. Named for a dedicated CaringMatters supporter, a loyal volunteer and dear friend who passed away in October 2020, this planned giving will help sustain our compassionate support programs into the future for generations to come. Pam was at the heart of this organization for many, many years.

A planned gift is any major gift, made in lifetime or at death, as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning. Planned giving allows donors to support nonprofits with larger gifts than could usually be made from ordinary income. These include gifts of equity, life insurance, real estate, personal property, or cash. For more information on the Pam Hard Legacy Circle, visit caringmatters.org/planned-giving.

FY2025 Highlights

- Hosted a celebration unveiling the new CaringMatters patio—dedicated in honor of CEO Allison Stearns and in loving memory of her husband, Eric—recognized key supporters, including the State of Maryland, The Hon. Cheryl Kagan, and the Montgomery Village Rotary Foundation, for making the transformation possible.
- Named as a grant recipient by several schools through The Giving Square’s Kids for Kids Fund, a dynamic civic experience for 3rd-5th graders in Montgomery County Public Schools, where they learn about philanthropy and participate in grantmaking decisions.
- Selected by Eluna as a partner organization for an advisory group to identify priority volunteer training needs and material formats for Camp Erin.
- Hosted a live viewing of the 2025 National Alliance For Children’s Grief National Webcast focusing on family dynamics and children’s grief.



Accountability



CaringMatters maintains its Standards of Excellence Designation with Maryland Nonprofits. Organizations receiving this prestigious recognition have been carefully evaluated and found to consistently model high professionalism in their self-regulation of ethical and accountability practices.



CaringMatters earned the Candid.org Platinum Seal of Transparency, showcasing our focus on mission-based results, as well as providing transparency to current and potential donors.

Thank You to Our FY2025 Event Sponsors!

CaringMatters Golf Tournament September 2024



Eagle Sponsors

Bill Hard
Brian Lemek

Par Sponsor

Kelly & Michael Sotak

Cocktail Reception

Ken & Ginny Grunley Family Trust

Breakfast

Vince and Linda Crivella

Lunch

Manders Companies

Beverage Cart

Sandy Spring Bank

Driving Range

BWE

Logo Ball

Shulman Rogers

Hole-In-One

Telligent Masonry

Cannon Shot

Drink More Water

Putt-A-Rama

Foulger Pratt

Long Drive — Women

Kynoch Environmental Management, Inc.

Long Drive — Men

Navigare Yachting

Long Drive — Seniors

ABC Supply Co., Inc.

Closest to the Pin — Women

RBC

Closest to the Pin — Men

Hann & Hann

Closest to the Pin — Senior

Ken & Julie Cook

Thank You to Our FY2025 Event Sponsors!

Silver Linings Gala

October 2024

Co-Chairs:

Lauren Grunley & Kathleen McCallum

Honorees:

Vivian & Raymond Bass and Penny Gladhill



Coral

Advanced Nursing & Home Care
Vivian & Ray Bass and Family
Sandra & Pete Bracken
Lisa & Sean Creamer
The Grunley Family
Irma Poretsky

Platinum

William Hard
Linda & Ian Kramer
Kathleen McCallum
Joy & Ron Paul
Sandy Spring Bank
Jacquie & Stephen Tennant

Gold

Audrey Rothstein Photography
Ken & Marsha Braunstein
Friends of Cancer Research
Steve & Jane Halpin
Toni Robinson

Silver

Asbury Methodist Village
Bar-T
Keith L. Cunningham & Ernest "Chico"
Rosemond
Jerry & Carol Gimmel
Penny & Jim Gladhill
Hope Gleicher & Andy Burness
Sara Harris
Kevin & Emily Kane
Tom & Clare Keller
Julie & Danny Krakower
Joan & Ken Miller
Prudent Management Associates
Surveillance Secure
US Wellness
VWG Wealth Management

Thank You to Our FY2025 Event Sponsors!

Raise Your Glass Fundraiser May 2025



Annual Charter Sponsors

Advanced Nursing + Home Care
Lisa & Sean Creamer
Bill Hard
Sandy Spring Bank
Kelly & Michael Sotak

Annual Choice Sponsors

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The Grunley Foundation
Joy & Ron Paul
The Sanford & Doris Slavin Foundation
Jacquie & Stephen Tennant

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Susanne and Pat DeGraba
Kathleen McCallum

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Sara Harris
Joan and Ken Miller
Ernest "Chico" Rosemond
Jeff and Patricia Rubin
Sailor Health
Amy Schiffman, MD
Shulman Rogers
Snyder Cohn, PC
VWG Wealth Management

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EDGE Floral Event Designers
Scene by the Heart Photography
Camley Images Photography
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Keepin' It Real Organized
Jon & Anne May
Lynn Lewis / Mast & Boom
Topgolf Germantown
Total Wine & More
Windridge Vineyards

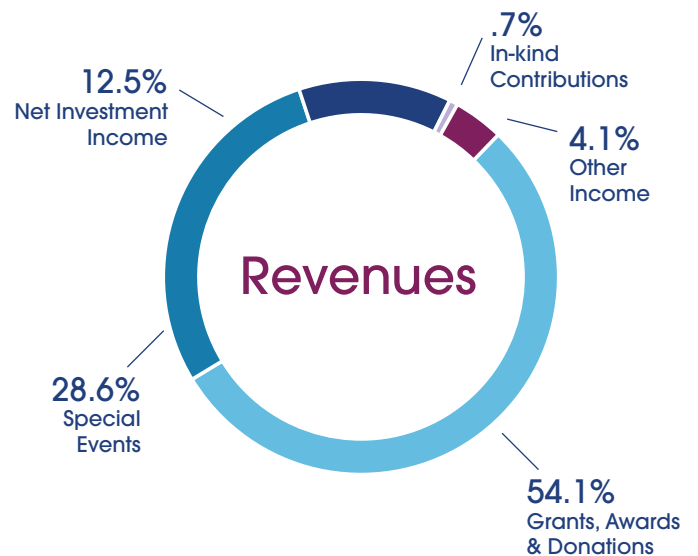
Financial Highlights

Fiscal Year

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

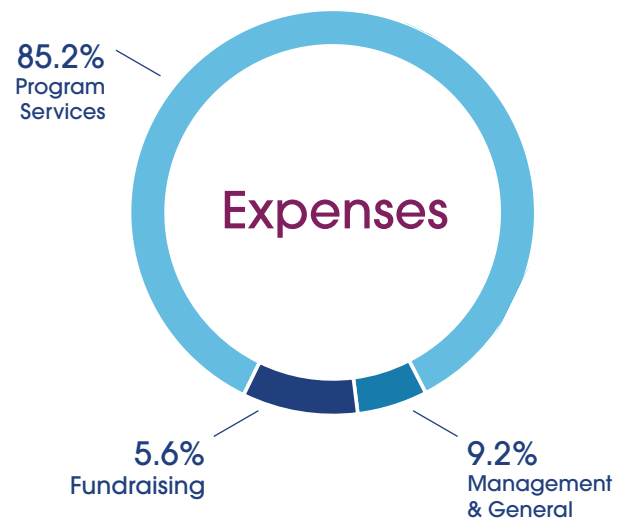
Operating Revenues

● Grants, Awards & Donations	\$ 645,003
● Special Events	\$ 340,888
● Net Investment Revenue	\$ 149,214
● In-Kind Contributions	\$ 8,473
● Other Revenue	\$ 47,965
Total Revenue	\$ 1,191,543



Operating Expenses

● Program Services	\$ 1,005,118
● Fundraising	\$ 66,047
● Management & General	\$ 108,121
Total Expense	\$ 1,179,286



Assets, Liabilities & Net Earnings

as of June 30, 2025

Total Assets	\$ 4,963,393
Total Liabilities	(\$ 183,351)
Net Assets	\$ 4,780,042

For every \$100 in expenses, \$85.20 is spent on program services.

None of our services are reimbursable by Medicare or private insurance.
All services are free of charge.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Administrative

Sloane Cooper
Joan Crowe
Monica Czaplinski
Beth Ingber
Viraj Lathigra
Joyce Miller
Linda Murray
Toni Robinson
Janice Ross
Anna Saylor
Denese Scott
Elizabeth Tinling
Marie Waldron
Carol Walsh
Sue Zarrett

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Linda Bart
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Jade Davis
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Laurie Altmark
Brady Brouillard
Mike Bucci
Evan Buskirk
Heidi Cohen
Anthony Corso
Talia Cowen
Monica Czaplinski
Susannah Dibble
Coleen Djouha
Timothy France
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Ross Stafford
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Laurene Thomas
Ethan Truszkowski
Carol Walsh
Steph Wilson
Nate Wolbert

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Carolyn Schick
Nicolette Stearns

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Susanne DeGraba
Joan Green
Edward Hagarty
Stacy Jacobs
Chris Palmer
Gail Rubin
Anu Sharman
Jacquie Tennant

Family Night

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Robin Chernoff
Difan Chuang
Lisa Creamer
Monica Czaplinski
Sandra Davis
Laura Forman
Sandra Gallagher
Katherine Gilbert
Abigail Gonzalez
Amy Greenberg

Araceli Hernandez
Gonzalez
Cheryl Kitt
Joan Miller
Jessie Nathans
Toni Robinson
Sheila Saunders
Anna Saylor
Denese Scott
Cecilia Thonet
Elizabeth Tinling

Garden Club

Nina Chase
Susanne DeGraba
Carol Plummer

Good Grief Club

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Linda Bart
Deb Berner
Allyson Booth
Difan Chuang
Monica Czaplinski
Susan Eisen
Flora Feldman
Laura Forman
Sandra Gallagher
Lois Geller
Judith Goozh
Mollie Haines
Beth Ingber
Cheryl Kitt
Courtney Koonce
Julie Krakower
Bennetta McDuffie
Joan Miller
Toni Robinson
Sheila Saunders
Anna Saylor
Jane Smith
Laurene Thomas
Katy Vilardo

Interdisciplinary Team

Marsha Aaron
Difan Chuang
Donna Murphy

Just Rides

Debra Berner
Bruce Childs
Carol Childs
Difan Chuang
Susanne DeGraba
Sandra Gallagher
Edward Hagarty
Bill Hard
Scott Hoekman
Jerrie Hoff
Linda Hope
Kevin Kane
Martina Koranteng
Julie Krakower
Mary Mathewson
Erjola Meksi Pulaj
Karen Ognibene
Toni Robinson
Ernest "Chico"
Rosemond
Teresa Smith
Sasha South

Parenting While Grieving

Deena Barlev
Difan Chuang
Monica Czaplinski
Sandra Davis
Sandra Gallagher
Katherine Gilbert
Linda Murray
Sheila Saunders
Anna Saylor
Denese Scott
Laurene Thomas
Elizabeth Tinling

Patient & Caregiver Services

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Difan Chuang
Rosanna Coffey
Ursula Daniels
Susanne DeGraba
Sandra Gallagher
Katherine Gilbert

Lauren Grunley
Edward Hagarty
Bill Hard
Sara Harris
Christine Hellauer
Joyce Heller
Jerrie Hoff
Linda Hope
Paula Jenson
Kevin Kane
Martina Koranteng
Julie Krakower
David Lassen
William Maas
Katharine Moorman
Donna Murphy
Monika Palmore
Kathleen Patchan
Laurie Pross
Eric Ries
Toni Robinson
Mary Kelly Robison
Margaret Rosario
Ernest "Chico"
Rosemond
Elizabeth Rubenstein
Sameena Sami
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Kathy Scanlon
Roxanne Schweitzer
Sasha South
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