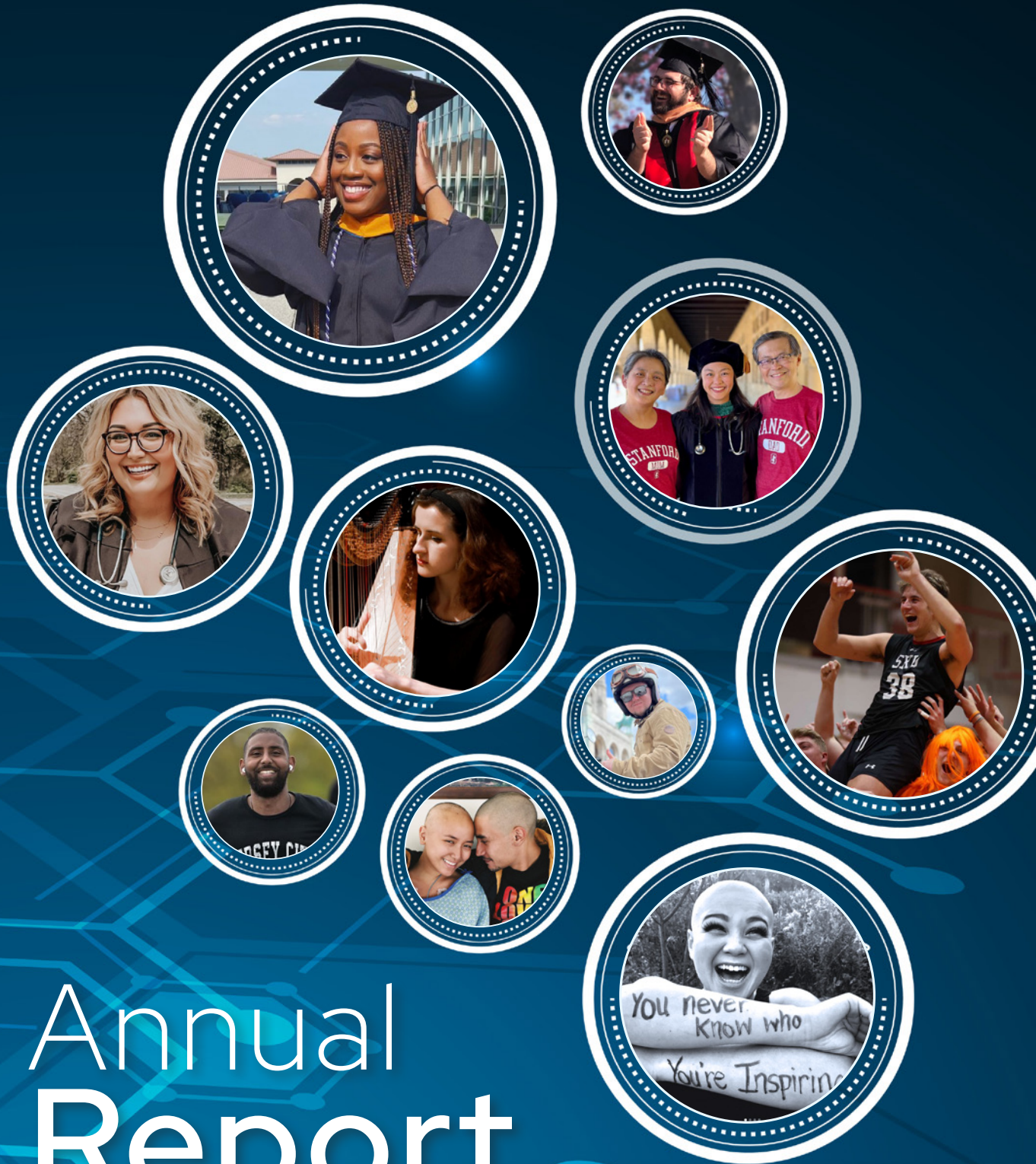


 **CANCER FOR COLLEGE**

DESTINED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Annual Report

CELEBRATING OUR IMPACT IN 2023

A Few Words from the Cancer for College Team

What an exciting time for Cancer for College as we continue to uphold our motto, **“Destined to Make A Difference.”**

The financial need among cancer survivors has never been more pressing in our 31-year history. Over the past decade alone, national tuition costs have surged by over 65%, outpacing wage growth by eightfold. Imagine the plight of a cancer-stricken family facing such exorbitant college expenses. For many, saving for education is a distant dream, overshadowed by mounting medical and personal debts.

Motivated by our commitment to aiding cancer survivors, our entire team, including board members, staff, volunteers, and donors, asks: “How can we do more?”

Last year, we pledged over \$1 million in scholarships for the first time. However, we recognize that this alone isn’t sufficient. Teaming up with our partners at Emry, spearheaded by CFC board member Mike Waterbury, we launched a medical debt relief program for our scholars, aiming to award over \$250,000 this year and expand it in the future. Additionally, we’ve enriched our scholars’

educational experiences with mentor programs covering vital topics like mental health, financial independence, and professional development. Furthermore, we’ve enlisted experts to share their insights and experience with our scholars, ensuring a holistic approach to their personal development.

To further our impact, we’ve welcomed new team members who will help us innovate and respond to the evolving needs of the cancer community. Our strategic **Bright Futures** campaign aims to achieve a \$25 million endowment, currently standing at \$15 million. This initiative focuses on increasing scholarship offerings, expanding medical debt assistance, enhancing educational programming, and establishing a corporate community headquarters.

We invite you to explore our annual report and stay connected through social media and our newsletter, where you’ll discover inspiring stories from our scholars and opportunities to support our cause. Our team is dedicated to helping cancer survivors thrive beyond the disease. We invite you to join us, along with your friends and colleagues, in championing the cancer community.

The Cancer for College Team



Craig Pollard
Founder, CEO



Stacy Pollard
Co-Founder



Will Ferrell
Hater of Cancer



Melody Bartholomew
In House Content Creator



Tabitha Engle
Director of Donor Development



Greg Flores
Executive Director



Ally Maas
Director of Marketing



Sana Moezzi
Director of Donor Impact



Kelly Powell
Office Manager



Kelli Vigorito
Director of Community
& Corporate Partnerships



Shelby Wane
Program Manager

Highlighting Our Impact On The Cancer Community

THE MISSION:

Cancer for College provides need-based college scholarships, educational experiences and medical debt relief to cancer survivors.

Cancer for College offers an expanding array of programs aimed at supporting cancer survivors. This includes need-based scholarships, educational experiences, and medical debt relief services, all designed to alleviate the impact of a cancer diagnosis and help survivors thrive through college and beyond.

In 2023, our successful fundraising efforts allowed us to surpass \$1 million in scholarships awarded, marking a significant milestone in our 30-year commitment to supporting cancer survivors through education. We awarded 12 Perpetual Scholarships based on merit and need across



Scholars enjoyed the Disney Leadership and Management Training Program.

various regions, including Southern California, the Pacific Northwest, the Carolinas, and the Chicagoland area. Recipients receive \$10,000 annually over four years, contingent on academic status and engagement.

As part of our scholarship program, we partnered with 17 companies, individuals, and foundations to award 25 Specialty Scholarships, allowing donors to select beneficiaries pursuing specific academic goals or with stories close to their hearts. Additionally, we proudly granted an additional 41 scholarships at the end of 2023 to students with significant financial need as part of our year-end surprise awards. In total, 151 need-based scholarships were awarded in 2023 to cancer survivors across the United States.

In the realm of educational experiences, we once again brought scholars together for the Disney Leadership and Management training program at Disneyland Park in California. We also partnered with Luminaries to provide wellness packages to all new scholars, aiding them in responding to challenges post-diagnosis and fostering positive mental and physical habits.

Furthermore, we launched a pilot program to address medical debt among our scholarship recipients, reducing scholars' medical debt by over 75%. In 2024, we aim to award \$250,000 in support through this initiative.



Scholar Matt Cairo has earned degrees from San Diego State & Iowa State.



Carolina scholar Ihsan Yuksel underwent a successful bone marrow transplant.

2023 Cancer for College Event Highlights

At Cancer for College, events are the lifeblood of our fundraising efforts. They fuel our programming and have allowed us to grow tremendously over the last year.

First and foremost, CFC has enjoyed a long and tremendous relationship with comedy icon Will Ferrell. Will and CFC founder Craig Pollard have a friendship that dates back their days as Delta Tau Delta fraternity brothers at the University of Southern California.

In 2023, CFC celebrated its 30th anniversary with a star studded comedy and music show titled, Will Ferrell's Best Night of Your Life 2. The show was held at the historic Greek Theatre in Los Angeles and featured performances from comedians such as Jo Koy, John Mulaney and Jon Stewart. The show also featured an all-star band led by Mike McCready of Pearl Jam with a variety of lead singers including Fred Armisen, Jack Black, St. Vincent, Beck and Hall of Famer Lindsay Buckingham. The show raised nearly \$2M for CFC.

For the third time in four years, CFC partnered with Jersey Mike's Subs for the Month of Giving. In March, stores throughout Los Angeles, Orange County, Ventura County and the Inland Empire

banded together and raised \$1.5 million for the cause. Over the lifetime of our relationship with Jersey Mike's, the company has raised over \$5M to support CFC's efforts in the cancer community.

The 30th anniversary also saw us ring in the 30th Annual Classy Golf Classic. The fundraiser that started it all for CFC was played at the historic Coronado Golf Course and was once again sold out. The event raised \$200K.

Other staple CFC events staged in 2023 included the One Classy Night - Carolina, the 11th annual Tin Cup One Club Challenge in San Diego and the 24th Annual Cherry Hawk Day at the Del Mar Race Track Races.

To learn about upcoming events, please visit our website at www.cancerforcollege.org.



Will Ferrell and Jack Black at Best Night of Your Life 2.



Fun and hi-jinks always rule at the Classy Golf Classic.



Scholar Emily May Serafim with NASCAR champion Kurt Busch and Pam Serafim



CFC Teams with Jersey Mike's Subs stores in SoCal for the annual Month of Giving campaign.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Consolidated Revenue

	Total
Individual Donations	\$620,661
Corporate Donations	\$1,984,389
Grants	\$10,000
Events	\$1,862,170
Donation	\$156,846
Campaign	\$151,200
Merchandise Donations	\$32,643
Total Operating Revenue	\$4,817,911

Expenditures

	Total
Event Expenses	\$768,946
Cost of Labor	\$750,152
Professional Fees & Legal Services	\$291,199
Programming	\$1,221,125
Operational Expenses	\$313,784
Total Expenditures	\$3,537,040

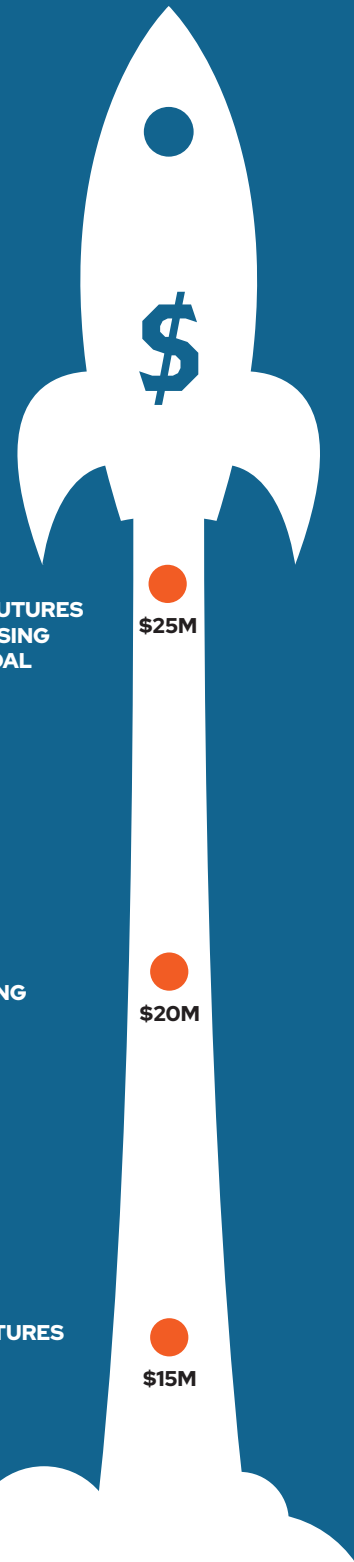
Net Operating Revenue	\$1,280,870
Net Revenue	\$2,788,762

Bank Accounts

CFC Checking	\$261,918
Investment Cash	\$1,034,406
Investment Accounts	\$14,477,928
Total Bank Accounts	\$15,774,251



2024 marks the kickoff of CFC's Bright Futures campaign where we plan to grow our endowment to \$25M which will allow for enhanced scholarships, educational opportunities, medical debt relief and a permanent home for the charity.



BRIGHT FUTURES

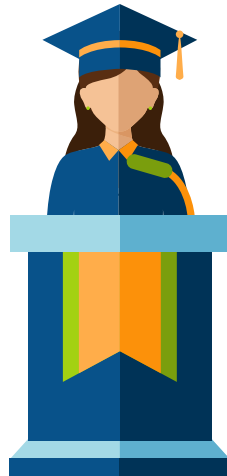
How Cancer Impacts The Cancer Community

By the Numbers



THE HIGH COST OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION

College education can exceed \$20,000 annually at public institutions and can surpass \$50,000 at private schools. These expenses create financial burdens, leading to significant debt and exacerbate socioeconomic disparities.



THE NEXT GENERATION

32% of our scholars are first generation college students and need additional support in achieving their goals.



DID YOU KNOW?

39% of all scholars are pursuing a career in health care. 34% of our female scholars are pursuing a career in the STEM field!

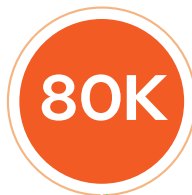


THE NEED IS HUGE!

CFC awarded 151 scholarships last year totaling over \$1M. There were hundreds of applicants that we could not help.



There are 15K new cancer diagnosis each year under age 20.



There are 80K new cancer diagnosis each year between age 20-49.



ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

The life expectancy for a young cancer survivor is now over 85%. It's more important than ever to ensure that these young people are prepared for a life after cancer.

HOW DO WE MAKE ENDS MEET?



Our average scholarship family has a household income of \$49K. Many live below the poverty level.



The cost of medical care and treatment in the first year after diagnosis is \$42K on average.

MEDICAL DEBT



THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

22% of cancer survivors have medical debt exceeding \$50,000.

28% of cancer survivors have their debt for over three years. 53% of those with debt had their debt sent to collections.

A HELPING HAND



Based on early data from our pilot program, 85% of medical debt recipients we have worked with were able to reduce their medical debt by 75 to 100%.

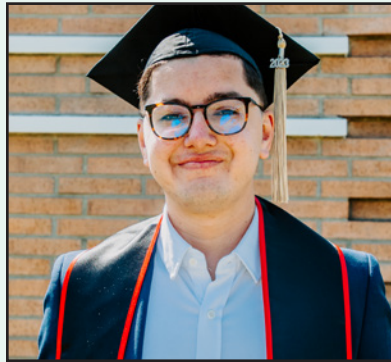
DRIVEN TO SUCCEED

Our scholars have achieved a graduation rate of 98% showing their incredible will to overcome and achieve. This far surpasses the national graduation rate of 58%.



Our Stories

Our scholars are like family. When they succeed, we all celebrate together! Here are some of our favorite scholar accomplishments from the last year. Follow us on social media if you'd like to share in the joy of their personal milestones.



Congratulations to 2x Scholar and Leukemia Survivor **Julian Castaneda** for graduating with a degree in Marketing from Cal State University, Northridge!

Julian started a nonprofit called Bags of Love, which supports young cancer survivors. The organization has done incredibly well, and this year, they are even sponsoring one of our 2023 CFC Scholarships. Julian is truly the embodiment of scholars who are #DestinedToMakeADifference!



Congratulations to **Ashley Cámara**, who graduated this spring from Dominican University with a Master of Social Work! She graduated in the top 9 of her cohort with a 4.0 GPA.



Congratulations to 2022 Scholar **Lily Garcia**, a recent graduate from UC Berkeley! This Hodgkin's Lymphoma Survivor received her B.A. in English and was awarded the Chauncey Whetmore Wells Prize for writing the best essay in a section of English 190, as well as the James Phelan Prize for excellence in the field of English.

Lily's future plans are to receive an M.S. in Historic Preservation from Columbia University, where she's heading this fall!



We're so excited to share that former scholar **Richie Suarez** has been accepted into the fantastic pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital...which is the #1 PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY!!!



Mike Thomson is a 4x cancer survivor, and a former CFC Scholar!

He graduated in August with his Master's in Communication from Texas State University! Mike also published a book in the Fall called "Finding Good," where he writes about his cancer journey and all the excitement and challenges that have followed. The book is available now.



Hodgkin's Lymphoma Survivor **Sha'leicia Simpson** graduated in 2023 from Emory University, and will be starting her career as a nurse on a bone marrow transplant floor!

FOLLOW OUR STORY
ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Meet CFC Scholar Grayson Zrelak

That Warrior Spirit

Grayson Zrelak is a two-time Hodgkin's Lymphoma survivor that was awarded the inaugural Jackson Byck Memorial Scholarship from Cancer for College in 2023.

Like many other survivors, Grayson has used his experience to benefit cancer organizations, speaking in front of donors and sharing his story to raise millions of dollars for deserving causes.

His enthusiasm and positive energy impressed the CFC scholarship committee, and everyone eagerly anticipated the University of Central Florida freshman and aspiring video game maker's future.

However, on January 16, 2024, Grayson faced another challenge. While riding his skateboard to work at a local Sonic in Florida, he was struck by an SUV while crossing the road. The impact left him critically injured, requiring transport to HCA Florida Lake Monroe Hospital in Sanford. Grayson underwent surgeries to repair facial, nasal, and cranial fractures and is now on the long road to recovery.



Despite the ordeal, Grayson remains determined. He plans to return to school, has applied for another scholarship, and intends to join the CFC team at an upcoming Disney Educational Experience in Orlando, Florida.

Grayson exemplifies the spirit of Cancer for College and our scholars. To support our scholars, please visit www.cancerforcollege.org.

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