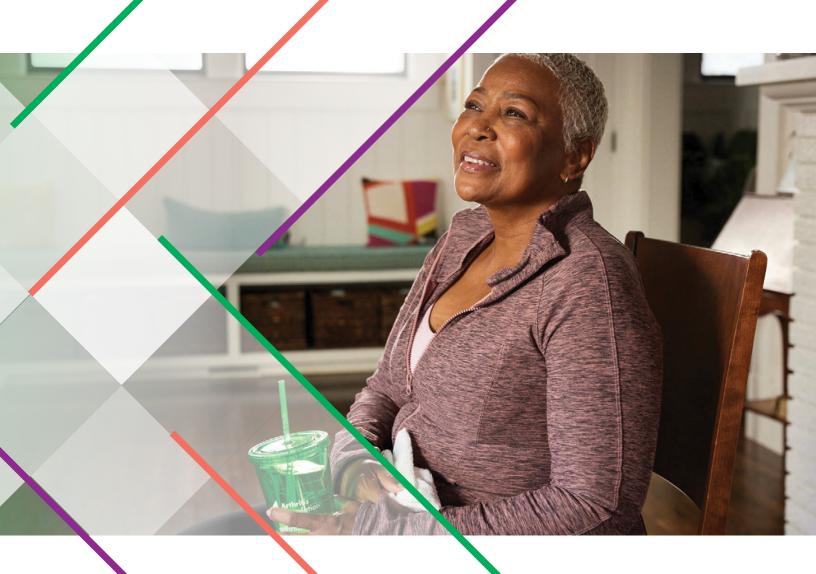
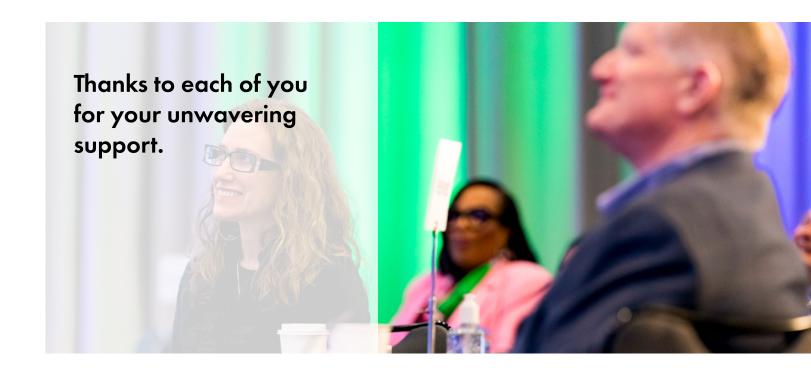
PROGRESS & 2024 Annual Report POSSIBILITIES









Letter From CEO & Board Chair

Reflecting back on 2024, we are proud of the progress the Arthritis Foundation made on behalf of the nearly 60 million people in the U.S. who are diagnosed with arthritis. In this annual report, you will see how we have continued to build on our mission and improve the lives of people affected by arthritis.

Over the next several pages, you will learn about our progress in science that strengthens our understanding of the different types of arthritis. The advocacy team has been securing incredible wins for patients to achieve an ideal model of care. And the accessibility to our patient and health care provider resources has proved to be valuable and impactful.

Looking back on 2024 has given us the opportunity to reflect on how thankful we are to our partners, donors, volunteers and patients who made our progress possible. Thanks to each of you for your unwavering support as we work together to further our mission of uniting and serving the arthritis community.

With gratitude,

Steven Taylor

President & CEO
Arthritis Foundation

Dennis Ehling

Chair, National Board of Directors

Arthritis Foundation

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PROGRESS IN SCIENCE

In 2024, our science department pushed the boundaries of arthritis research and helped shape the future of rheumatology. Through strategic grant funding, innovative collaborations and programs designed to grow and support the workforce, we advanced discovery in osteoarthritis (OA), juvenile arthritis (JA) and other forms of arthritis. Each effort was guided by a single goal: bringing science closer to solutions that can transform patients' lives.



\$12 million invested in research grants in 2024

Pioneering the Future of Osteoarthritis Care

Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common form of arthritis, affecting more than 32 million Americans. Often associated with aging, OA can also begin early — sometimes in adolescence, especially after sports injuries or joint trauma. Once it starts, it can steadily worsen, limiting movement and quality of life. That's why the Arthritis Foundation is leading the charge with bold research aimed at preventing OA, slowing its progression and finding better treatments before it takes hold.

In 2024, three flagship initiatives — **TOPS**, **PIKASO** and the **OA Think Tank** — laid vital groundwork to reshape OA care:

- TOPS (Trial of Preventing Osteoarthritis With Surgery): Supported by the Arthritis Foundation along with the NIH, TOPS is a four-year clinical trial exploring whether a structured program of dietary weight loss, exercise, and weight-loss maintenance can prevent knee osteoarthritis (OA) in women aged 50 and older with obesity. Unlike most OA research, which focuses on managing existing disease, TOPS will enroll women who do not yet show signs of knee OA. Researchers will track joint changes with MRI and assess pain, mobility, inflammation, quality of life, and cost-effectiveness to gauge the program's overall impact. If successful, the study could shift the focus of OA care from treatment to prevention—offering a new strategy to stop this common, disabling joint disease before it begins.
- PIKASO (Preventing Injured Knees from Osteoarthritis Severity Outcomes): The PIKASO Trial (Preventing Injured Knees from Osteoarthritis Severity

Outcomes) is testing whether metformin, a safe and widely used diabetes drug, can slow or prevent OA following a major knee injury. Supported by the Arthritis Foundation and leading experts, this randomized trial will explore whether metformin can protect injured knees. Animal and human studies suggest it may have disease-modifying benefits, and PIKASO could offer a new approach to keeping joints healthy after injury.

• OA Think Tank (With AOSSM): The OA Think Tank brings together leading experts in sports medicine, orthopedics, and rheumatology to address the most pressing challenges in osteoarthritis. In 2024, a \$500,000 research grant — sparked by insights from a Shoulder Osteoarthritis Think Tank held ahead of the AOSSM Annual Meeting — launched new studies targeting one of the most common and difficult-to-treat forms of OA.

Together, these initiatives represent a bold shift in OA research — moving from managing symptoms after the disease is established to stopping OA before it can limit lives. By fueling prevention, early detection and innovative treatment, the Arthritis Foundation is working to transform the outlook for millions living with or at risk for OA.

- "The individual burden of osteoarthritis is tremendous, and the burden to the health care system is overwhelming."
- Jason Kim, PhD, Vice President of Osteoarthritis Research Programs at the Arthritis Foundation

Advancing Juvenile Arthritis Research

The Arthritis Foundation strengthened our commitment to children with juvenile arthritis (JA) through major research and training initiatives. Partnering with the Childhood Arthritis & Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA), the Foundation awarded more than \$1.6 million in research grants — bringing total research grant support since 2016 to over \$8.1 million. These funds drive studies on JA and related diseases, exploring causes, improving treatments and advancing disease management for kids and teens. Additional funding sustains CARRA's operations and its vital Registry.

The Foundation also invests in the future of care. Through our partnership with the Pediatric Rheumatology Care & Outcomes Improvement Network (PR-COIN), the 2024–25 Quality Improvement Education Program will train up to six pediatric rheumatology fellows in quality improvement skills to better serve young patients.

By fueling both groundbreaking science and specialist training, the Arthritis Foundation ensures children and families affected by JA gain access to better treatments, stronger support systems and renewed hope for a healthier future.

"By working together, we can advance pediatric rheumatology research faster to help improve the lives of children who have these complex conditions."

Mathieu Nelessen, past CEO
 CARRA

\$8.1M+

Total CARRA-Arthritis
Foundation research grants
awarded since 2016

\$1.6M+

Total CARRA-Arthritis
Foundation research
grants awarded in 2024





Percentage of all rheumatologists who practice in rural areas, even though 20% of the U.S. population lives there (Mannion et al., 2024)

Building an Inclusive Future in Arthritis Care

In many rural and under-served communities, people living with arthritis face limited access to specialized care. To address this gap, the Arthritis Foundation funded two adult fellowship programs in 2024, set to begin in July 2025. Notably, the University of Iowa will launch the nation's first designated Rural Rheumatology Health Track, bringing expert care to communities that need it most.

The Foundation also strengthened our commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, contributing \$150,000 to the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (AOFAS) Foot and Ankle Arthritis Development Program. This national initiative provides mentorship and hands-on training to medical students and residents from under-represented groups, helping build a more inclusive pipeline of arthritis specialists and researchers.

Through these investments in education, equity and research, the Arthritis Foundation is advancing our mission to ensure high-quality arthritis care and innovative treatments are available to everyone — no matter where they live.

"Taking care of under-served populations is our passion. We are committed to practicing medicine the way it should be, irrespective of a patient's background."

Alfredo Rivadeneira, MD, professor of medicine
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Turning data into insights and offering patients hope.

Gout cases are projected to increase by over 70% from 2020 to 2050, fueled mainly by population growth and an aging population.

(GBD 2021 Gout Collaborators. Global, regional, and national burden of gout, 1990-2020, and projections to 2050: a systematic analysis of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021. Lancet Rheumatol 2024;6(8):e507-e517. doi:10.1016/S2665-9913(24)00117-6)

Advancing Gout Research: UAB Gout Biobank

Caused by uric acid crystals in the joints, gout is an intensely painful form of arthritis. While lifestyle changes and medications can help manage symptoms, they don't always provide relief for all patients.

To help, the Arthritis Foundation partnered with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) to create the Arthritis Foundation TRUST Trial Gout Biobank. This unique research tool will help researchers collect and analyze biological samples that will lead to a better understanding of gout flares, gout progression, and how best to run clinical trials in gout.

This work is paving the way for more effective, personalized treatments — turning data into insights and offering patients hope for more predictable, manageable care.

"Gout's like a ninja. It sneaks up on you. When you think it's not doing anything, it's planning and it's sitting there. It's just waiting for an opportunity to hit. So you don't give gout an opportunity. You do everything you can to lower your uric acid level."

- Gary Ho, who lives with gout



LIVING WELL WITH GOUT: JIM'S STORY

Jim Klososky first mistook his intense toe pain for a break in his 20s, but doctors quickly diagnosed gout, preventing long-term joint damage. For years, he managed flares with diet and limited alcohol. As he got older, he added daily medication to keep attacks at bay. "Men don't need to be so stubborn and assume the pain will just pass," Jim says. "If you're in pain, go see a doctor. There's no point in suffering when there are treatments that can help."

Read more about Jim's story



AMPLIFYING ADVOCACY

2024 was a landmark year for advocacy at the Arthritis Foundation. Across the country, we lifted the voices of people living with arthritis, advancing policies, shaping legislation and driving progress that improves access to care, supports research and strengthens programs for the arthritis community.



The Arthritis Foundation is 139,962 Advocates strong — and growing!

of people with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are women. (ACR)

Championing Women's Health Research

In May — during Arthritis Awareness Month and National Women's Health Week — the Arthritis Foundation proudly endorsed the White House Initiative on Women's Health Research. This bold \$12 billion federal commitment marks a transformative step for millions of women with arthritis.

Women carry a disproportionate burden of arthritis. Yet women have long been underrepresented in research, leaving critical gaps in understanding how autoimmune diseases intersect with reproductive health, midlife changes and other women's health issues.

By voicing our support, we amplified the needs of women in our community and underscored the urgency of this investment. The initiative's focus — embedding women's health across federal research, advancing equity in study design and funding midlife-related conditions like arthritis — directly aligns with our mission.

For every woman with arthritis, this initiative brings renewed hope that answers, treatments and breakthroughs are within reach.



STORY OF YES

From Dismissed to Determined

When Andrea Reed of North Carolina walked into exam rooms exhausted and in pain, doctors focused on her weight instead of listening. Despite a family history of autoimmune disease and soaring inflammation markers, her warnings went unheard. For years, her undiagnosed seronegative spondyloarthritis silently damaged her spine, leaving her in constant pain. Only after years of persistence did she finally get the treatment that changed her life. Today, Andrea channels her journey into advocacy and wellness, inspiring others — especially women — to push for answers, demand better care and never give up on finding relief.

Learn more about Andrea's story.

2024 Advocacy Wins: Copay Assistance & Safe Step Act Progress

2024 marked major advocacy achievements for people with arthritis. The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services dropped its appeal of a ruling requiring that copay assistance count toward insurance deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums. This decision removes a critical obstacle in ending harmful "copay accumulator" policies, ensuring patients can afford medications, maintain treatment continuity and achieve better health outcomes. The Arthritis Foundation played a pivotal role through the All Copays Count Coalition, advocating for patients nationwide.

Safe Step Act Gains Momentum

The Safe Step Act, addressing "fail-first" step therapy protocols, gained 283 co-sponsors in the 118th Congress. Step therapy often delays access to prescribed treatments, worsening outcomes for chronic conditions like arthritis. The act sets clear timelines and a standardized, transparent process to protect the patient-provider relationship. With support from more than 200 patient and provider organizations, the Foundation continues to push for patient-first pharmacy benefit manager reform.

Looking Ahead

These victories demonstrate the Arthritis Foundation's dedication to removing barriers — financial and regulatory — so people with arthritis can access the treatments they need, when they need them.

"My hope is renewed for my daughter, who suffers from a form of juvenile arthritis, so that she will not have to unnecessarily continue to try and fail on multiple drugs not prescribed by her doctors, which would end up causing her greater joint damage. I know this bill will make a difference for so many families like ours."

- Maria Floyd, mother of a daughter with JA

In 2024, the Arthritis Foundation achieved over 15 state-level legislative victories across the United States, addressing critical issues such as step therapy, prior authorization and biosimilar substitution.



Generational Impact Award: Honoring Abigail Grace

Diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) at age 6, Abigail Grace turned her journey into activism. Now a high school junior balancing rigorous academics, she channels her experiences into meaningful action. Through her children's book, "A Chance to Dance," and the launch of B.R.A.V.E. for JIA (Building Respect and Values for Everyone), she promotes safety, inclusion and respect for all youth. Abigail successfully lobbied for South Carolina proclamations recognizing B.R.A.V.E. for JIA Month and Juvenile Arthritis Month, and testified on Capitol Hill with the Arthritis Foundation, amplifying young voices nationally.

At the 2024 JA Family
Summit, the Arthritis
Foundation presented our
inaugural Generational Impact
Award to Abigail. This award
recognizes individuals whose advocacy,
sparked by personal experience, drives lasting,
cross-generational change.

"Working with the Arthritis
Foundation has opened my eyes to
how I can use my voice. And now I
use my story to advocate."

- Abigail Grace, 2024 Generational Impact Award recipient

Advocates in Action: Arthritis Advocates sent over 1,000 messages to legislators in 2024 across 40 unique action campaigns.





states have enacted new legislation on priority arthritis issues, thanks partly to actions driven by Arthitis Foundation Advocates.

A New Toolkit to Power Advocacy

In 2024, we launched the Advocacy Toolkit, designed to strengthen and expand our volunteer network. It offers step-by-step guidance, sample messages and practical resources to ensure Advocates are prepared to engage decision-makers confidently. Already, the toolkit is helping more individuals turn their passion into progress, making advocacy efforts coordinated, accessible and impactful.

"I felt empowered by how, simply by sharing my arthritis experience, I was able to inspire my legislators to support our asks."

- Macy Coad, Junior Ambassador



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Whether online, on the phone or through social media, people with arthritis consistently turn to the Arthritis Foundation for answers, guidance and connection. In 2024, demand for reliable information and resources continued to grow across every channel. What unites these efforts is a simple but powerful goal: making sure every person who needs help can find it in the form that works best for them.

Our Helpline offers everything from help understanding symptoms to direction toward local resources.



23 million website visits in 2024

Connecting People, Knowledge and Community

Arthritis Helpline: Personalized Support

The Arthritis Foundation Helpline continues to be a trusted lifeline. In 2024, we handled **11,757 inquiries**, guiding patients and caregivers through symptoms and connecting them to local resources. Speaking directly with trained professionals often transforms uncertainty into clarity and reassurance — reminding everyone that no one faces arthritis alone.

Digital Reach: Expanding Access to Trusted Information

Our website and podcasts put evidence-based resources at people's fingertips. In 2024, the site saw **23 million visits**, and podcasts were downloaded **29,000 times**. Whether someone is newly diagnosed, exploring new therapies or seeking healthy lifestyle tips, digital access ensures guidance is available anytime, anywhere.

Social Media Success: Engaging and Connecting Millions

Social media drives education and connection at scale. Highlights in 2024 include:

- World Arthritis Day post: 147,000+ impressions
- Community question post: 28,000 impressions, 250 comments
- Instagram Reel: 24,000+ impressions
- Paid TikTok promotions during JA Awareness Month:
 3.3 million reached
- Across Facebook and Instagram, we reached
 13.3 million users each impression representing awareness, dialogue, and connection to Foundation resources.

"The individual I spoke with was professional, open and supportive. They provided available Foundation information, recommended additional resources and were attentive to my questions and concerns. I genuinely appreciated the conversation."

- Helpline caller

Direct Educational Programs: In Person and Online

The Arthritis Foundation continued to expand direct educational programming in 2024. In-person patient education events grew 22%, reflecting renewed interest in face-to-face learning. 69% of webinar participants reported great confidence in managing their arthritis. These programs provide not just information, but also community, giving participants the chance to share experiences, ask questions and gain confidence in managing arthritis.

Living Well Event Series: Focused, Impactful Learning

The Living Well series adopted a strategy of fewer, higherimpact gatherings, allowing for deeper engagement with local communities and intentional outreach to under-served populations, including lower-income and minority groups. Sessions covered topics from inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis to gout, pain management and life skills — all designed to help participants maintain independence and improve quality of life. Each event emphasized practical tools, guidance and connection, reinforcing the Foundation's commitment to empowering people living with arthritis.

"Ever since I got involved with the Arthritis Foundation and met others with arthritis, there's this connection. You're connected through a shared experience."

- Jake Anderson, MD, pediatric rheumatologist





BUILDING STRONG, CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Overcoming arthritis isn't just about medical breakthroughs. It's also about fostering strong, supportive communities where every person affected has the chance to connect, be heard and thrive. In 2024, community-driven efforts — from fundraising events to JA camps and Connect Groups — proved once again that when people come together, they can spark hope, raise awareness and drive meaningful change.





81,000 Number of people who attended Foundation fundraising events

Community Events: Connecting, Inspiring & Driving Change

Community fundraising events are at the heart of the Arthritis Foundation's outreach. They not only raise essential funds for research and support but also create shared experiences that bind people together. For many, attending a Foundation event is the first time they meet someone else with arthritis — a moment of recognition and relief that can be life-changing.

In 2024, more than **81,000** people joined forces through Foundation events:

- **59** Jingle Bell Run events
- **54** Walk to Cure Arthritis events
- 30 marquee gatherings
- 15 other special fundraising events

Every step, stride and shared story contributes to a growing movement of support and awareness.

"It's become a tradition for my family! We walk together to honor my father-in-law (who has arthritis and 'jingles in his jammies')!"

— Jingle Bell Run participant



STORY OF YES

Riding for a Cause

For Sheila Cline, arthritis once forced her to hang up her bike and leave behind the active lifestyle she loved. But after receiving an e-bike, Sheila discovered a new way to reclaim her health and passion for cycling. Today, she is not only back on the road but also participating in the Arthritis Cycling Experience, raising funds and awareness for the nearly 60 million people living with arthritis in the U.S.

Inspired by her daughter's own journey with juvenile arthritis, Sheila has transformed her challenge into motivation for others: proof that even in the face of pain, it is possible to move forward — and ride for something bigger.

Read Sheila's story.



STORY OF YES

From JA Camp to National Honoree

At age 7, Grady's swollen leg led to a JA diagnosis and years of flares, injections and daily pain. Finding JA camp transformed his outlook, giving him confidence, friendships and a true sense of belonging. Inspired by that experience, his team — The Grady Bunch — raised more than \$100,000 at Walk to Cure Arthritis.

At age 15, Grady was honored in 2024 as a national youth honoree, a role in which he continues to inspire others to stay strong, stay active and keep working toward a cure.

Learn more about Grady's story.



Uniting Families, Empowering Lives

The 2024 JA Family Summit exemplified the spirit of empowerment. Held in St. Louis, the Summit brought together 518 attendees, including 108 youth with juvenile arthritis (JA) and 275 family members and caregivers. Over several days, families participated in workshops, support groups and fun activities — experiences that helped them feel connected, hopeful and confident.

JA camp registrations increased 30% from 2023 to 2024, ensuring more young people could experience the transformative impact of JA camp. Camp Esperanza provided bilingual support for Spanish-speaking families, ensuring equal access to resources and community connections. More broadly, diversity, equity and inclusion strategies guided efforts to reach families who may have previously lacked opportunities to engage.

Survey results illustrate the impact:

- 90% of families felt more empowered.
- 85% felt more hopeful.
- 90% felt more connected to other JA families.
- 86% reported greater confidence in managing their child's arthritis.
- 59% learned new ways to help their child manage pain.

Beyond the numbers, the Summit is about building community. Lifelong friendships are formed, families leave with new tools and resources, and children gain confidence in living with JA. It is a turning point for many families, offering strength, knowledge and a sense of belonging.

"When my daughter was first diagnosed, it was easy to feel alone. Through my work on the JA Family Summit, I'm able to help bring families together. We're in this journey together."

- Corinne Pinter, JA Family Summit volunteer







Connect Groups are available nationwide — virtually and in-person

Live Yes! Connect Groups: Sustaining Lifelong Bonds

Beyond large events, the Arthritis Foundation's Live Yes! Connect Groups offer ongoing support through smaller, more topic-specific gatherings. In 2024, these groups grew by 15%, with 71 groups nationwide, including both national and local options.

Whether in person or virtually, participants came away engaged in meetings led by nearly 100 trained facilitators. Survey feedback showed the power of these connections:

- 72% felt more connected to others like themselves.
- 63% felt more confident in managing their arthritis.
- 59% felt more hopeful about the future.
- 55% learned new ways to manage their pain.

"I enjoy volunteering as a Live Yes! Connect Group facilitator because it brings me joy to help others with arthritis. Being a facilitator has given me an opportunity to meet some amazing people who have become lifelong friends and family."

— Tiffany Crawford, Oklahoma City Connect Group

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025: DELIVERING ON OUR MISSION

In 2024, we expanded our reach — and in 2025, we're aiming even higher. With partners, community outreach and the passion of our volunteers, we'll connect more people than ever through local groups and virtual education events. Every step forward will keep diversity, equity and inclusion at the center, ensuring our mission programs reach and uplift everyone living with arthritis.

2024 Corporate Partners

Pioneer \$1M-\$1.49M

Amgen

Pacesetter \$500K-\$999K

AbbVie

Alpha Omicron Pi

Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

Novartis

Zoetis

Signature \$250K-\$499K

Bristol Myers Squibb

Pfizer

Catalyst \$100K-\$249K

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Clayton Bollack

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DENNIS EHLING Vice Chair, California

WINELL BELFONTE Treasurer, Maryland

HELEN KING

Secretary, Pennsylvania

FRANK LONGOBARDI Immediate Past Chair, Florida

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New Jersey

ROBERT SANTIAGO Massachusetts

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Executive Leadership Team

STEVEN TAYLOR
President & CEO

KATIE BOBIN Senior Vice President, Field Management

SHERIESE DEFRUSCIO Vice President, Strategic Engagement

VICTORIA FUNG, MPH Chief Mission & Strategy Officer

CATHY HOOD
Senior Vice President, People
Operations & Facilities Management

KEITH MEADE Senior Vice President, Constituent Strategies & Operations

MICHAEL PRIVETTE
Chief Development Officer

SABRINA SEXTON
Chief Marketing Officer

Regional Leadership

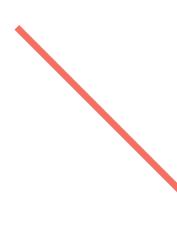
ANGIE BILLINGSLEY Region Vice President, Central West Region

LEANNE GRECO
Region Vice President, East Region

MELISSA HUGHEY Region Vice President, Southeast Region

STEVE ROCK
Region Vice President, Central East Region

ANNA RYAN Region Vice President, West Region



2024 Revenue

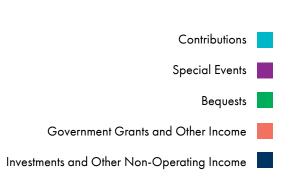
In 2024, the Arthritis Foundation invested over \$38.1 million dollars in research and public health education.

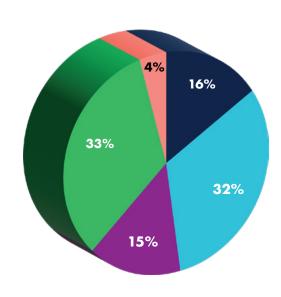
EXPENSES	\$65.2M	100%
Public Health Education	22.1	34%
Patient & Community Services	11.5	18%
Research	16	24%
Fundraising	8	12%
Management & General	6.4	10%
Professional Education & Training	1.2	2%

REVENUE & PUBLIC SUPPORT	\$54.7M	100%
Contributions*	21.2	32%
Special Event (net)	10.1	15%
Bequests	21.1	33%
Government Grants & Other Income	2.3	4%
Subtotal & Other Income	\$65.8M	
Investments & Other Non-Operating Income	11.1	16%

Net Assets End-Of-Year: \$203.9M

^{*}Includes \$4.6M in pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device corporate support, representing 7% of total organization revenue.







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