



# 2024

Annual Impact Report

**10** Arizona Cancer  
Foundation for Children

Celebrating a Decade of Profound Impact | 2024



# Contents

---

A Letter to Our Community .....	1
Our Mission .....	2
Celebrating 10 Years .....	3
Program Pillars of Support .....	4
2024 Impact .....	10
Events .....	11
Campaign .....	13
Financials .....	14
Leadership .....	15

# A Letter to Our Community

---

Dear ACFC Community,

As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with immense gratitude for the support of our community. This year marked a significant milestone—Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children’s 10-year anniversary. Over the past decade, we have grown tremendously, expanding our programs and reaching more families than ever.

In 2024, we broadened our services by creating a Paint Splatter Room, providing an imaginative and therapeutic outlet for children, and introduced a Pantry, which ensures families have access to essential food and household supplies during difficult times. We also launched tutoring services in our Education Center to provide academic support for children facing cancer and their siblings. Additionally, Baxter’s Kitchen opened its doors, offering nourishing meals and a comforting space for families.

Through these initiatives, we served more families than ever before and provided a record number of financial support grants to those in need. Your support made it all possible, allowing ACFC to continue being a place of refuge, joy, and healing—a second home for so many.

With gratitude,



**Chrisie Abramo**

*President and Founder, Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children*

The success of our signature events, including the Ava’s Tree House Gala and the ACFC Golf Classic was a testament to the power of community. The 2024 Ava’s Tree House Gala raised a record-breaking amount of funding, allowing us to expand our impact even further.

Beyond the numbers, what truly defines this year are the moments of hope—the smiles of children as they experience a day of fun, the relief of a family receiving financial support when they need it most, and the bonds formed through shared experiences. These moments remind us why we do this work and why we must continue.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission to provide hope and support to families battling pediatric cancer. With your continued partnership, we know that 2025 will bring an even greater impact and brighter tomorrows for the families we serve.

Thank you for being part of our ACFC family. Your support fuels our mission, and your support changes lives.

# Our Mission

---

Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children provides social, emotional, and financial support directly to families managing the health and well-being of a loved one with pediatric cancer.

Since 2014, ACFC has supported more than 10,000 children and families. ACFC's 12,000 square-foot facility provides a centralized hub of support for pediatric cancer warriors and their families, all within one location. By providing essential services and programs, we aim to alleviate the burdens associated with pediatric cancer and provide support to the entire family.

A place where kids with cancer can be kids.





# Celebrating 10 Years of Profound Impact

Over the past decade, ACFC has grown from a small organization into a vital lifeline for families facing the unimaginable challenges of pediatric cancer. Founded in 2014 by Chrisie Abramo in honor of her daughter, Ava, ACFC has been guided by Ava's legacy in every program, initiative, and act of kindness.

From the beginning, ACFC recognized that the fight against pediatric cancer goes beyond medical treatment—it affects the entire family in every aspect of life.

In 10 years, ACFC has expanded from a single financial assistance program to **more than 10 comprehensive support programs**, increasing the number of families served by **20% annually**.



# Program Pillars of Support

---

Social

Emotional

Financial

# Social Support

ACFC offers a place where kids with cancer can be kids. Having a child with cancer can be very isolating for the entire family. Inside our 12,000 square-foot facility we offer families an escape from cancer. When families visit ACFC, they are offered:

**The Toy Store** is filled with a variety of toys, games, and activities. It is a special place designed to bring joy and comfort to cancer warriors and their families.

**The Paint Splatter Room** is a vibrant and interactive space designed to ignite creativity and bring joy to the entire family.

**The Imagination Station Play Area** is an engaging space designed to spark creativity, exploration, and joy for cancer warriors and their siblings.

**The Family Room** is a warm and inviting space designed to provide comfort, support, and respite for cancer warriors and their families.

**The Teen Center** is a dynamic and inviting space designed specifically for teenage warriors and their siblings to connect, relax, and engage in age-appropriate activities.

**Baxter's Kitchen** is a warm and welcoming space designed to provide nourishment, comfort, and support for cancer warriors and their families.

**The Family Pantry** is a vital resource that provides essential household items and groceries to families in need during their cancer journey.

**The Art Studio** is a creative and nurturing space designed to inspire artistic expression, promote healing, and provide therapeutic support to cancer warriors and their families.

## In 2024, ACFC:

Provided Support to

1,510  
families

.....

Hosted

745  
people for Sunshine visits



Thank you so much. It was such a wonderful day and it was so nice to meet all of the staff. We felt so loved, cared for, and supported today. I feel so blessed by you all!

Kirstie, mom of warrior Everly



2,579

people enjoyed ACFC's signature events

477

people enjoyed celebrations at ACFC

97.2%

of families said ACFC's programs had a positive impact on their social and emotional well-being

100%

of families reported that ACFC's financial assistance had a positive impact on their families lives

## Events

### Quarterly Events

ACFC hosts quarterly events for the entire community we serve, offering support, encouragement, and enjoyment to pediatric cancer warriors and their families. Whether in treatment or remission, all families are invited to join in the fun. These events allow families to connect with others facing similar challenges. A few of our events include a back-to-school event, a Halloween Spooktacular, and a holiday party with gifts for the entire family.

### Celebrations

We believe that every child deserves to celebrate their special day, especially while undergoing cancer treatment. ACFC offers personalized birthday parties for cancer warriors, complete with decorations, gifts, and activities tailored to the child's interests.

End of treatment celebrations are a joyous occasion that marks the completion of a child's cancer treatment journey. We are thrilled to be a part of this incredible milestone and help make it a memorable event.

### Special Events

We offer play visits, arts and crafts workshops, movie nights, mom's night out, date nights, and more for families. Warrior Wednesday was established to give children and their siblings the opportunity to create new projects each week during the summer. Led by various volunteer groups, it remains a success as the children love learning about photography, canvas painting, clay molding, Lego-building, and more.

# Emotional Support



## K9 Therapy

ACFC's K9 therapy program features specially trained therapy dogs, such as Leo and his furry volunteer friends, who provide emotional support and companionship to children undergoing cancer treatment and their families.

Provided

775

K9 therapy visits



## Counseling

ACFC's counseling services are provided by licensed mental health professionals who offer individual and family counseling sessions tailored to the unique needs of each family member.

Individual counseling sessions provide children and adolescents with a safe and confidential space to express their feelings, fears, and concerns about their cancer diagnosis. We support families from cancer diagnosis to end-of-life services, offering counseling services to the entire family.



## Calming and Respite Room

ACFC's Calming and Respite Room, generously sponsored by The Pollock Family, offers caregivers a peaceful space to relax and unwind. This thoughtfully designed room is equipped with state-of-the-art massage chairs and provides a much-needed sanctuary for those supporting children through their cancer journey.

ACFC's Wellness Program offers a variety of services and activities aimed at supporting physical, emotional, and mental wellness, including sound bowl therapy, meditation, yoga, red light therapy, and wellness events. The Wellness Program is dedicated to empowering cancer warriors and their families with tools and resources to enhance their overall wellness and quality of life amidst the challenges of pediatric cancer.



“ We want to thank ACFC so much for the grant. We truly appreciate it, and it will help us through this financial stress we currently have. ACFC has been nothing but amazing!

Monica, mom of warrior Mia

## Financial Support

Since 81% of the families we serve are low-income, financial support is a critical program that offers assistance to families facing the financial burdens associated with pediatric cancer treatment. Our financial support program aims to alleviate the financial strain on families by providing assistance with a variety of expenses related to cancer treatment. This support may include covering costs such as medical bills, hospital stays, medication expenses, transportation costs for treatment appointments, and other out-of-pocket expenses that families may encounter during their child's cancer journey.

Provided over

**\$575,000**

in direct financial assistance to families

### End-of-life financial support

End-of-life financial support is a compassionate program designed to minimize the financial strain faced by families during the challenging time of caring for a child nearing the end of their life. Our end-of-life financial support program offers assistance to families in various ways, including medical and funeral expenses, counseling and support services.

Provided End-of-Life Support to

**18**

families

# Thank You to Our Volunteers

At ACFC, our volunteers are the heart and soul of everything we do. In 2024, an incredible 387 volunteers dedicated 1,692 hours of service, resulting in a cost savings of \$56,595 for the foundation. Yet, the true value of their contributions goes far beyond numbers. Every hour spent supporting events, assisting with programs, or simply offering a comforting presence brings hope, relief, and moments of joy to the children and families facing the unimaginable challenges of pediatric cancer.

The compassion of our volunteers allows us to expand our reach and deliver vital services, from financial assistance to emotional support. Because of their efforts, families find a sense of community, caregivers gain moments of peace, and children experience joy in the midst of their battles. Whether they're helping behind the scenes, engaging directly with families, or contributing their skills and expertise, each volunteer plays an essential role in fulfilling the mission of ACFC.

387

Volunteers

1,692

Hours Served

\$56,595

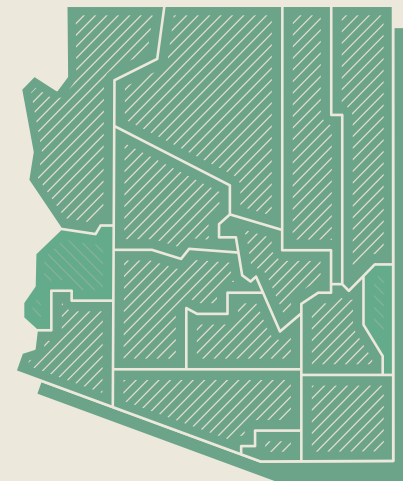
Cost savings to ACFC

Source: Independent Sector



**Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children serves children and families from all across the state of Arizona.**

Our vision is to help every single child diagnosed with cancer in the state of Arizona.



ACFC serves children and families from 13 Arizona counties.



# 2024 IMPACT

ACFC introduced many new programs, further impacting the families we serve.



## Baxter's Kitchen

Sponsored by the **Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation**, Baxter's Kitchen offers families a welcoming space to engage and enjoy meals together.



## Clothing Boutique

Provides families with a place to shop for free clothing, shoes, and accessories for the whole family.



## Paint Splatter Room

Sponsored by the **Carrillo-Williams Family**, the Paint Splatter Room offers families a fun and therapeutic way to let loose—throwing paint and covering the walls in vibrant color, creating joyful memories in the process.



## Calming and Respite Room

Sponsored by the **Pollock Family**, the calming and respite room has state-of-the-art massage chairs, giving caregivers a place to relax and unwind.



## Education Center

Offers tutoring and education support to cancer warriors and their siblings.



## Pantry

The pantry provides food and essential items such as pasta, beans, toilet paper, paper towels, etc. for free to families.

# Events

---



## Enterprise Golf Tournament

Guests enjoyed golf, lunch, and a raffle at Biltmore Golf Club.



## Beat Cancer Concert

Inaugural Charles Lake Beat Cancer Concert benefitting ACFC was hosted.

## 5th Annual Ava's Tree House Gala



Co-chaired by Lacey and Max Homa, and Abby and Connor Tryhus, guests enjoyed an exclusive evening filled with dinner, auction, and a live performance by country star Cole Swindell at The Phoenician Resort.

**Raised | \$1,100,000**

## 2nd Annual ACFC Golf Classic



Co-chaired by Laurie Sandau, Alex Kjellsen, and Carrie Bailes, guests enjoyed golf, lunch, and a raffle at Biltmore Golf Club.

**Raised | \$80,000**

## Tom Londen Memorial Golf Classic



Sponsored by Lincoln Heritage Life Insurance, guests enjoyed a reception, golf, lunch, and a raffle at Talking Stick Golf Club.

**Raised | \$125,000**





# Campaign

With a total cost of \$10 million, plans are underway to secure private support through a fundraising initiative with philanthropic commitments payable over three-to-five years via the *Kids with Cancer Can Be Kids* Campaign.

The *Kids with Cancer Can Be Kids* campaign will offer children the gift of childhood in a safe and comforting environment—a combination of peace of mind and marvel under one roof. Families will feel part of a community with ongoing support for as long as they need assistance.

Through this ambitious endeavor, ACFC claims a courageous and bold vision to radically transform the way children with cancer and their families are supported. Having worked with thousands of parents and caregivers, ACFC has uncovered the unfortunate reality that there is no place in Arizona that focuses on outpatient emotional support for children with cancer and their family members—until now.



## Troon Tackles Cancer

Members of the Troon Country Club have come together since 2018 to raise vital funds for ACFC's *Kids with Cancer Can be Kids* capital campaign.

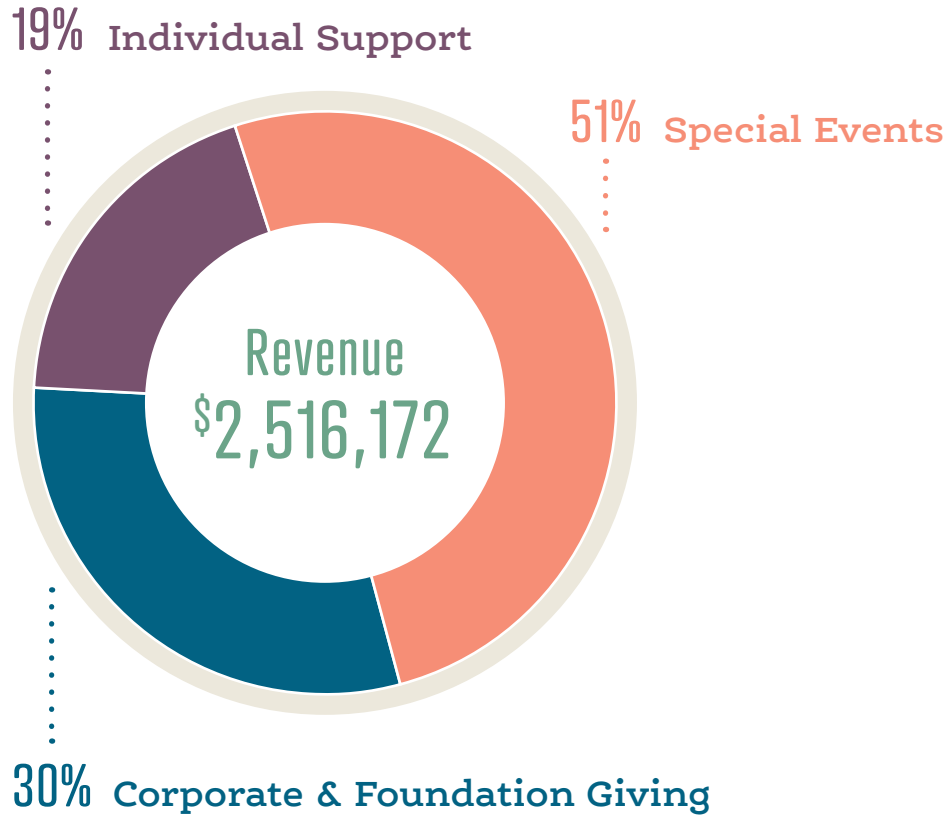
When our new facility is fully remodeled, we will be able to offer accredited education to students and on-site professional counseling to individuals and groups. These two new services alone will dramatically increase our impact.

Chrisie Abramo, President and Founder,  
Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children





# Financials



## Expense Allocation

77% Program 12% Fundraising 11% Administrative

“ .....

I have truly been honored to partner with you and your amazing support of children with cancer, and their families. The support you provide has made my job so much easier! Even more importantly, you lighten the financial burden of those in the thick of treatment. Families also love the fun events you work so hard to provide! I am in awe of what you have created Chrisie, and the impact you have had is immeasurable. I'm not sure what some of our families would do without the assistance you provide. Your team is incredible and so hard working. You all are simply the best!

Laura Davis, social worker;  
Diamond Children's Medical Center  
in Tucson.

# Leadership

---

## Executive Board

Chrisie Abramo  
Justin Dufour  
Bill Finch  
Bill Floyd  
Benjamin Hayes  
Alex Kjellsen  
Jennifer Mackay

## Advisory Council

Carrie Bailes  
Phil Beasley  
Belinda Blumenthal  
Vicki Bobrow  
Adalino Figueroa Jr.  
Jim Larson  
Matt Londen  
Laurie Sandau  
Kelly Vinger  
Glen Zeldin

## Staff

Chrisie Abramo President and Founder	Alyssa O'Brien Program Case Coordinator
Cristina Atabala Office Manager	Stephanie Pham Program Director
Paige Daniels Volunteer Coordinator	Andrea Smith Director of Philanthropy
Meg Emory Director of Events	Cara Woolery Executive Assistant
Bailey Finch Program Assistant	Leo Therapy Dog
Tyler Mahnke Vice President of Philanthropy	





“ .....

Thank you for such a grand event and for all the selfless staff and volunteers that took the time to help at the event. ACFC is so gracious towards us, and we appreciate you and the entire organization. Thank you, we love you.

Erica, mom of warrior Alaina

“ .....

Thank you so much! We weren't expecting all that. The food and supplies really helped us out. Logan had so much fun; we all did. We are excited to schedule another visit and bring her siblings!

Dennie, mom of warrior Logan