

DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER

# 15 YEARS OF IMPACT



MY DREAM  
FOR A CURE



"DEBBIE BUILT THIS LEGACY, AND WE CARRY IT FORWARD."

— ANDREA P. EIDELMAN, CEO OF DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



15 YEARS OF IMPACT

Dear DDF Supporters,

Fifteen years ago, Debbie Zelman turned a devastating diagnosis into a powerful movement that continues growing stronger, more united, and more impactful each passing year. Today, as we reflect on 15 Years of Impact, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and pride for how far we've come and the community that helped make it all possible.

When Debbie hired me in April 2017, I never imagined I would be leading this organization just months later after her untimely passing in December. In those early days, we navigated uncharted territory, trying to find our way without the fierce and fearless woman who started it all. But even in her absence, Debbie's vision never left us. She had laid a powerful foundation rooted in compassion, justice, and relentless advocacy that set a road map for the future.

This year, we celebrated a major milestone: our largest-ever Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day, with 160 advocates from across the country convening in Washington, D.C. Their voices echoed through the halls of Congress, resulting in vital progress toward increased federal funding for stomach cancer research.

In addition, our successful efforts led to language in the Senate FY25 National Defense Authorization Act for H. pylori testing in the Armed Forces, marking another historic achievement that would have made Debbie incredibly proud.

And while advocacy remains the heartbeat of our work, our reach has expanded through innovative programs and partnerships. We continued our educational initiatives, supported groundbreaking research, strengthened our health equity efforts, and deepened our impact through meaningful collaborations in the community.

Together, we raised awareness about this terrible disease, illuminated monuments worldwide, mentored countless patients and caregivers, and created spaces—both in person and online—where people could connect, learn, and heal.

Fifteen years is more than a number—it's a testament to perseverance, dreaming big, and never giving up. **Debbie built this legacy, and we carry it forward.**

Thank you for believing in our mission, turning pain into purpose, and making each milestone possible.

With the sincerest appreciation,

**Andrea Eidelman, Esq.**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MY DREAM  
FOR A CURE





# OUR COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH

For 15 years, Debbie's Dream Foundation has driven innovation in gastric cancer research through bold partnerships and sustained investment. In 2024, our commitment to the future of science grew stronger than ever.

- DDF-AACR Innovation and Discovery Grants: We continued our long-standing partnership since 2014 with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), funding high-impact research to identify new targets and improve outcomes for stomach cancer patients.
- Dr. Valerie O'Brien Recognized as a Luminary: A 2018 DDF-AACR grantee, Dr. O'Brien's research into *Helicobacter pylori* and stomach cancer progression was spotlighted in national media. She was honored with the 2024 Luminary Researcher Award for her groundbreaking work in modeling early disease mechanisms.
- Federal Policy Breakthrough: Thanks to our advocacy efforts, language drafted by DDF was included in the Senate FY25 National Defense Authorization Act to initiate *H. pylori* testing among U.S. Armed Forces members — a potential game-changer in early detection.
- In 2024, DDF awarded a \$250,000 grant to Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) to support a pioneering study on treatment resistance caused by malignant ascites in gastric cancer patients. The research is led by Dr. Samuel Klempner, a gastric cancer oncologist, and Dr. Alexandra-Chloé Villani, a systems immunology researcher. Their work will examine how ascites fluid suppresses the immune system and diminishes the effectiveness of therapies like immunotherapy. By targeting the immune barriers created by ascites, this research aims to deliver new therapeutic options for patients with few existing treatments and move promising findings toward clinical trials.

AACR American Association for Cancer Research



Dr. Valerie O'Brien



Dr. Samuel Klempner



MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL



SINCE 2014, DDF HAS DIRECTLY AWARDED MORE THAN \$2.6 MILLION IN GASTRIC CANCER RESEARCH FUNDING.



15 YEARS OF IMPACT

## PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Debbie's Dream Foundation's Patient Resource Education Program (PREP) continues to be the cornerstone of patient and caregiver support. This comprehensive suite of free services empowers individuals diagnosed with stomach cancer—along with their families and caregivers—to face their diagnosis with strength, clarity, and compassion. Our signature mentorship program connects patients and caregivers with experienced peer mentors who offer guidance, emotional support, and firsthand insight into treatment pathways, clinical trials, symptom management, and navigating survivorship. Through a specialized matching process, patients are never alone in their journey.

In 2024, PREP expanded through a strategic partnership with Gilda's Club South Florida, an affiliate of Cancer Support Community, enhancing holistic care through Gilda's Healthy Lifestyle Program. DDF also offered monthly support groups, customized information kits, and a robust Lecture Library featuring our educational webinar series and sessions from our Ask the Experts Symposium that covered palliative care, psychosocial recovery, and survivor-led Q&As. All educational sessions are archived on the DDF website and YouTube channel, ensuring access to critical information anytime, anywhere.

DDF's support and education also reached new global heights in 2024. Through a formal partnership with KIBOUNOKAI, a nonprofit in Japan, DDF began distributing educational materials and resources to patients and families across Asia. In November, DDF co-hosted its first-ever South American Symposium in collaboration with Clinica Bonnadona in Barranquilla, Colombia—empowering patients, caregivers, and clinicians throughout Latin America with tools for improved care and early detection.

2,226

Engaged Webinar  
Participants

4,785

Supported Through  
Nutrition

72,650

PREP Participants



# 2024 NUTRITION PROGRAM

## EMPOWERING PATIENTS THROUGH EVERY MEAL

Navigating nutrition during cancer treatment remains one of the most common challenges for stomach cancer patients. In 2024, DDF expanded our Nutrition Program to provide trusted, comprehensive content that supports patients in maintaining strength, managing symptoms, and finding joy in eating again. We continued our collaboration with renowned culinary and nutrition experts to curate a growing library of recipes, dietary tips, and practical tools tailored specifically for the stomach cancer community. These resources are accessible 24/7 at [www.DebbiesDream.org/resources/nutrition](http://www.DebbiesDream.org/resources/nutrition).

### LIVE COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS & MODIFIED RECIPES

In 2024, our popular Facebook LIVE cooking demonstration series returned with all-new segments featuring Emmy-nominated Chef Nathan Lyon and Clinical Oncology Dietitian Mary-Eve Brown of Johns Hopkins. Together, they offered seasonal recipes modified for gastric cancer patients, highlighting easy-to-prepare dishes that prioritize flavor and gut-friendliness. The duo also answered top nutrition questions submitted by the community—addressing real patient concerns with clarity and compassion.

This year's episodes emphasized managing common side effects like nausea, early satiety, and fatigue, while reinforcing the importance of nourishment throughout every stage of the cancer journey. DDF's nutrition content continues to be a trusted favorite across our platforms, empowering patients and caregivers with practical, uplifting support.





# SUPPORT & EDUCATION

CONNECTING PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS TO KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTS, AND EACH OTHER.

At DDF, education is empowerment. In 2024, we expanded our program's digital offerings and in-person events to ensure patients, survivors, and caregivers have access to the latest in medical guidance, psychosocial support, and survivorship tools—whenever and wherever they need it.

Through monthly virtual support groups, informative webinars, and expert-led symposiums, our support and education programming continued to meet patients where they are in their journeys. These sessions are always free and open to the public, with recordings archived in our Lecture Library at [www.DebbiesDream.org/lecture-library](http://www.DebbiesDream.org/lecture-library).

## MONTHLY STOMACH CANCER SUPPORT GROUPS



Debbie's Dream Foundation and Memorial Cancer Institute Present:

**Virtual Monthly Stomach Cancer SUPPORT GROUPS**

Led by Psychologist Jessica Ketterer, PhD

First Thursday of Each Month 4:30-6:00 pm EST  
\*\*\*With the exception of July 2024

January 4, 2024  
February 1, 2024  
March 7, 2024  
April 4, 2024  
May 2, 2024  
June 6, 2024  
July 11, 2024  
August 1, 2024  
September 5, 2024  
October 3, 2024  
November 7, 2024  
December 5, 2024

For More Information Call Toll-Free 1-855-475-1200

Register Here: [www.debbiesdream.org/inspire\\_events](http://www.debbiesdream.org/inspire_events)

Thank you to our PREP Sponsors:

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In partnership with Memorial Cancer Institute (MCI), DDF continued to offer monthly virtual support groups designed for stomach cancer patients, caregivers, and their loved ones. Held via Zoom on the first Thursday of each month, these sessions provided a consistent space for community and connection. Each group was led by Dr. Jessica Ketterer, Ph.D., of MCI, who guided attendees through shared discussions focused on wellness, coping strategies, and navigating care. The topics varied monthly, fostering open dialogue and a strong sense of belonging among participants.

## MENTOR MATCHING PROGRAM



Through our Patient Resource Education Program (PREP), DDF's peer mentorship program remains a vital resource for those facing stomach cancer. Our innovative matching system pairs patients and caregivers with trained mentors who offer insight, encouragement, and lived experience from diagnosis through survivorship. Whether someone is newly diagnosed or years into their journey, this program offers compassionate guidance while building lifelong bonds. In 2024, mentor matching continued to grow as both a meaningful support system and an opportunity for community members to give back in a deeply personal way.



# SUPPORT & EDUCATION

## MIND, BODY, SPIRIT FACEBOOK LIVE SERIES

In early 2024, DDF continued its Mind, Body, Spirit Series, offering holistic tools to support emotional and physical wellness for patients and caregivers. In January, Episode 1 featured Dr. Liem Quang Le, a licensed acupuncturist from Moffitt Cancer Center, presenting on the benefits of Integrative Medicine for Stomach Cancer Patients. Dr. Le shared insights from his background in acupuncture, human nutrition, and functional medicine, and offered actionable ways to complement conventional care with integrative approaches. Episode 2, Canvas of Comfort: Coping with Cancer Through Art Therapy, aired in April and was led by Emily Lipson, LPC, ATR, a licensed professional counselor and registered art therapist. Emily guided participants through creative exercises designed to promote relaxation, self-expression, and emotional release—offering a safe space to explore healing through art. Attendees were encouraged to follow along with their own materials and share their creations with the community.



## ASK THE EXPERTS GASTRIC CANCER EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

In November, DDF hosted its annual Ask the Experts Gastric Cancer Educational Symposium at the iconic Guitar Hotel at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Florida. The event brought together medical professionals, survivors, caregivers, and community partners for a full day of learning and connection.

Key sessions included:

- Innovations in gastric cancer treatment
- Palliative care and psychosocial recovery
- Survivor and caregiver-led Q&As
- Guided stress-relief techniques and well-being support

The symposium was hosted in conjunction with the Illumination Ceremony & Celebration Dinner and featured partnerships with YMCA of South Florida, Gilda's Club South Florida, and HCA Florida Healthcare.





# SUPPORT & EDUCATION

## EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS



### STOMACH CANCER EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS


Each year, Debbie's Dream Foundation hosts expert-led webinars as part of our ongoing Stomach Cancer Educational Series, giving patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals access to the latest in research, care, and clinical guidance. In 2024, the series began in February with Dr. Zachary Brown of NYU Grossman Long Island School of Medicine, who presented on the evolution of surgical approaches for peritoneal metastasis. In April, Dr. Sahana Rajasekhara of Moffitt Cancer Center explored holistic symptom and mental health support in her webinar on supportive care for cancer patients. Dr. Samuel Klempner of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School returned in July to present the ASCO 2024 Updates, highlighting critical research trends in gastric cancer. In October, Dr. David Ilson of Memorial Sloan Kettering shared updates on emerging clinical trials and targeted therapies. The series wrapped in December with Dr. Melissa Lumish of Case Western Reserve University, who presented on young-onset stomach cancer and its growing impact on younger patients.

DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER PRESENTS

### EVOLUTION OF SURGICAL MANAGEMENT of Peritoneal Metastasis from Gastric Cancer

**FRIDAY**  
February 23, 2024

**TIME**  
12:00 pm EST

**SPEAKER**  
  
Dr. Zachary Brown  
Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery at NYU Grossman Long Island School of Medicine

REGISTER NOW  
[WWW.DEBBIESDREAM.ORG/INSPIRE\\_EVENTS](http://WWW.DEBBIESDREAM.ORG/INSPIRE_EVENTS)

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DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER PRESENTS

### SUPPORTIVE CARE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

**FRIDAY**  
April 19, 2024

**TIME**  
12:00 pm EST

**SPEAKER**  
  
Dr. Sahana Rajasekhara  
Interim Chair at the Department of Supportive Care Medicine, Moffitt Cancer Center

REGISTER NOW  
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DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER PRESENTS

### ASCO 2024 UPDATES WEBINAR

**MONDAY**  
July 22, 2024

**TIME**  
3:30 p.m. EST

**SPEAKER**  
  
Dr. Samuel J. Klempner  
Chief Medical Oncologist, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Harvard Medical School

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DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER PRESENTS

### CLINICAL TRIALS UPDATES WEBINAR

**TUESDAY**  
October 8, 2024

**TIME**  
1:00 p.m. EST

**SPEAKER**  
  
Dr. David Ilson, MD, PhD  
Gastrointestinal Oncologist, Attending Physician, Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital

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DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER PRESENTS

### YOUNG ONSET OF STOMACH CANCER

**THURSDAY**  
December 19, 2024

**TIME**  
12:00 p.m. EST

**SPEAKER**  
  
Dr. Melissa Lumish  
Clinical Assistant Professor, CWRU School of Medicine, University Hospitals, Cleveland

REGISTER NOW  
[WWW.DEBBIESDREAM.ORG/INSPIRE\\_EVENTS](http://WWW.DEBBIESDREAM.ORG/INSPIRE_EVENTS)

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# HEALTH EQUITY & GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

## REACHING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES AT HOME & ABROAD

In 2024, Debbie's Dream Foundation strengthened its commitment to health equity by expanding programs that address disparities in education, access, and care—both in the U.S. and internationally. Through targeted outreach and powerful collaborations, DDF made critical resources more accessible to communities disproportionately impacted by stomach cancer.

DDF's Health Equity Program grew significantly this year with the support of sponsors like Amgen, Arcus Biosciences, Astellas, Bristol Myers Squibb, Daiichi-Sankyo, Merck, and Tito's Handmade Vodka. Live events were delivered in partnership with community-based organizations, including YMCA South Florida, United Way of Broward County, and Deerfield Beach Community Cares. We partnered with organizations like CancerCare to share co-branded educational videos, and Triage Cancer's expert-led webinars helping patients and families navigate the stomach cancer journey. In addition, DDF launched a new collaboration with Gilda's Club South Florida, offering our patients access to Gilda's Healthy Lifestyle Program—a holistic initiative that complements our PREP mentorship services by addressing nutrition, physical activity, stress relief, and emotional wellness for those impacted by cancer.



Deerfield Beach  
Community Cares  
An Oasis of Health & Hope





# HEALTH EQUITY & GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

## REACHING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES AT HOME & ABROAD

In the spring, DDF was honored to collaborate with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center for its 2024 Gastroesophageal Cancer Research Center Retreat, where DDF's patient advocates and mentors participated in a collaborative discussion with MSK researchers on how real-world experiences can inform better clinical care and research outcomes.



Internationally, DDF marked two major milestones in 2024. In May, we launched a formal partnership with KIBOUNOKAI, a respected nonprofit in Japan, to expand stomach cancer education and support throughout Asia.



In December, DDF co-hosted its first South American Gastric Cancer Symposium with Clínica Bonnadona in Barranquilla, Colombia—delivering vital updates on prevention, treatment, and survivorship to patients and professionals across Latin America.





# ADVOCACY

TWELVE YEARS OF DRIVING  
POLICY CHANGE & FUNDING  
THE FUTURE



Photo: A historic 160 advocates gathered for DDF's 12th Annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.

In 2024, Debbie's Dream Foundation's advocacy efforts reached new heights. What began in 2013 with fewer than 50 advocates has grown into a powerful national movement. This year, DDF returned to Washington, D.C. with over 160 advocates for our 12th Annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day, participating in more than 180 meetings with lawmakers. Our advocates—survivors, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and volunteers—shared their stories and demanded action, leaving a lasting impact on congressional offices.

This year's efforts helped lead to one of DDF's most important legislative victories to date: the inclusion of language in the Senate's FY2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to explore the implementation of an H. pylori testing program for members of the U.S. Armed Forces. This breakthrough was the result of language drafted by DDF and years of advocacy to raise awareness about the link between H. pylori infection and gastric cancer.

In addition, our ongoing work with Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo (D-CO) resulted in the introduction of a bipartisan bill calling on the National Cancer Institute to review screening guidelines for high-risk populations—another major step toward improving early detection and prevention nationwide.

DDF invites patients, caregivers, and supporters to join our advocacy efforts each year. Whether sharing your story on the Hill or supporting from home, every voice helps drive change and keeps stomach cancer on the national agenda.



**WE ARE BUILDING A MOVEMENT THAT HONORS EVERY PATIENT'S VOICE—AND TURNS THOSE VOICES INTO POLICY.**

—ANDREA P. EIDELMAN, CEO OF DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER



# SCHOLARSHIPS & CREATIVE IMPACT

EMPOWERING YOUTH  
& HONORING LEGACY  
THROUGH EDUCATION

## 2024 DDF YOUTH ART CONTEST

In 2024, DDF proudly hosted the Youth Art Contest, inviting artists and photographers under 18 to submit original works for a chance to be featured in our line of blank greeting cards. These beautifully designed cards are shared with patients and supporters throughout the year and help fund critical programs through proceeds. Participants submitted artwork inspired by the vision of a world free from stomach cancer, using both traditional and digital mediums. Contest winners received a \$100 scholarship and were spotlighted on our website and social media.

This year's talented winners included:

- Grand Prize - Emily Huang, 13 (Richmond, VA)
- Youssef Mounir El-Manukabady, 18 (San Ramon CA)
- Hayden Salnick, 9 (Camarillo, CA)
- Ariana Ortega, 18 (Orange, CA)
- Julian Clifton, 16 (Bento, LA)
- Macie Brown, 10 (Moline, IL)



## SUSAN HAINES REID SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2024, the Reid family, in proud partnership with DDF, was thrilled to award a \$1,000 scholarship from the Susan Haines Reid Scholarship Fund (renewable for 4 years) to Madison Matthews. The annual scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Susan Reid—a devoted wife, mother, and fervent advocate for stomach cancer awareness who sadly passed in 2015—successfully continued its mission of support and remembrance. It is awarded to students local to Susan's hometown in Cumberland County, North Carolina, whose family has been affected by cancer to help students focus on learning at college while lessening the financial burden.

**Photos:** The Reid Family (pictured above) hosts an annual Golf Tournament benefitting the Susan Haines Reid Scholarship Fund in honor of Susan Reid, who passed away from stomach cancer in 2015. The 2024 scholarship recipient Madison Matthews (pictured to the right), was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.



"I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ANYONE WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THIS INCREDIBLE GIFT WHICH HAS OPENED DOORS AND GIVEN ME PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PURSUE MY DREAM CAREER, AND HONOR MY DAD AND EVERYTHING THAT DDF STANDS FOR IN THE PROCESS. EIDELMAN, CEO OF DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER."  
- MADISON MATTHEWS, 2024 SHR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



# GASTRIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

## LIGHTING THE WAY THROUGH GLOBAL SOLIDARITY & LOCAL IMPACT

In November, DDF once again joined forces with My Gut Feeling of Canada and partners across five continents for the annual Power of Periwinkle Campaign—a worldwide initiative to illuminate landmarks in recognition of Gastric Cancer Awareness Month. In 2024, more than 150 monuments across five continents participated, including One World Trade Center, Niagara Falls, and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. DDF's proud contribution to this global effort was the illumination of the world-famous Guitar Hotel at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida—an unforgettable moment that served as the backdrop for one of our most inspiring events of the year.

### 2024 ILLUMINATION CEREMONY & CELEBRATION DINNER

#### AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF IMPACT AND INSPIRATION

On November 9, 2024, DDF welcomed survivors, caregivers, advocates, healthcare professionals, and supporters to the Illumination Ceremony & Celebration Dinner, held beneath the glowing strings of the illuminated Guitar Hotel. The event raised more than \$119,000 in support of critical stomach cancer research and celebrated the strength and spirit of the DDF community.

The evening featured emotional tributes, live entertainment, and the presentation of DDF's prestigious Luminary Awards, honoring individuals who exemplify excellence and dedication in the fight against stomach cancer:

- Luminary Researcher Award: Dr. Valerie O'Brien
- Luminary Physician Award: Dr. Samuel Klempner
- Luminary Patient Advocate Award: Jonathan Porter

Together, we shined a light on the lives impacted by this disease, celebrated 15 years of progress, and reaffirmed our shared commitment to curing stomach cancer.





# AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF IMPACT AND INSPIRATION





# AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF IMPACT AND INSPIRATION

This year's Illumination Ceremony & Celebration Dinner was made possible in large part by the extraordinary generosity of The M. Douglas Family, who contributed \$50,000 in honor of their daughter and sister, Carrie Argueta. Carrie, a passionate supporter of DDF and a fierce advocate for stomach cancer awareness, tragically passed away in January 2025. Her spirit and determination to make a difference live on through this meaningful gift, which helped light up the iconic Guitar Hotel in periwinkle, fund critical research efforts, and bring the community together for an unforgettable evening of unity and remembrance. We are deeply honored to carry her legacy forward in the fight to cure stomach cancer.



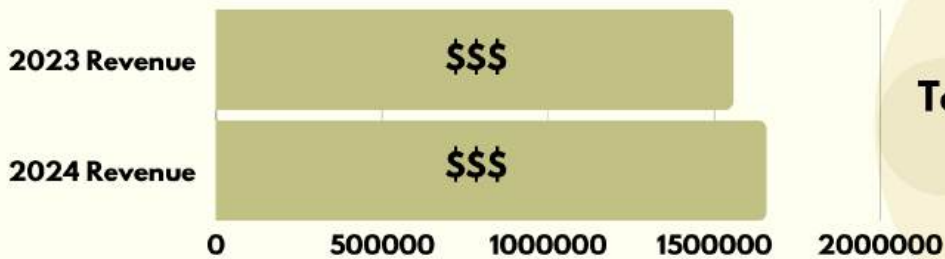


# FINANCIALS

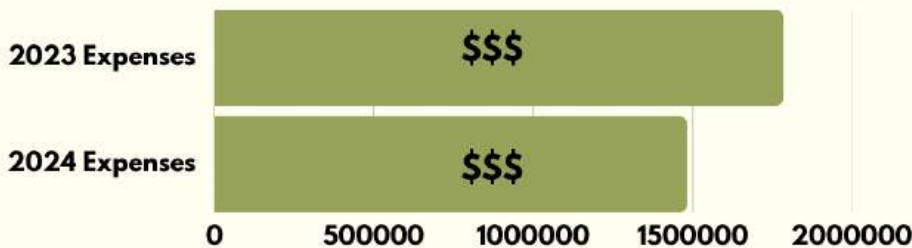


## INVESTING IN IMPACT

In 2024, Debbie's Dream Foundation remained committed to financial stewardship and mission-focused growth. With 88% of revenue directed toward programs, DDF ensured that donor contributions and grants fueled direct services, research, education, and advocacy. DDF continues to meet the highest standards of accountability and transparency, maximizing the impact of every dollar received. These figures reflect a continued focus on research funding, education, and national advocacy efforts that change lives.



**Total Revenue 2024**  
**\$1,656,571**



**Total Expenses 2024**  
**\$1,482,109**





# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

## PARTICIPATE

- **Fundraisers and Events** - Turn your passion into action by hosting or attending a fundraising event.
- **Mission Ambassador** - Become an ambassador in your state or area. Host an information booth sharing information about DDF resources.
- **Patient Resource Mentor** - Become a PREP Mentor and help people like you who need a little inspiration to keep fighting.
- **Share Your Story** - Share your story or the story of someone you know to inspire others, whether as a patient, family member, friend, loved one, or caregiver!
- **Spread Awareness** - Help us spread the word by emailing and/or posting information about Debbie's Dream Foundation on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and more!

## DONATE

- DDF is able to fund research, promote awareness, and provide education and support services to stomach cancer patients and their families because of generous donations.
- DDF is a 501(c)(3) charity, so all donations are tax-deductible.
- DDF encourages our supporters to design their own individual Facebook fundraising pages. This is a wonderful way to honor a loved one or support fundraising for an event.

## ADVOCATE

- Have November declared as Curing Stomach Cancer Month in your state. Contact your elected officials to submit a proclamation request.
- Join DDF advocates and supporters from across the nation in Washington, DC, for our Annual Stomach Cancer Capitol Hill Advocacy Day.
- Ask Congress to invest more federal resources in gastric cancer research and to again include stomach cancer as one of the cancers under the PRCRP.





# FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

CELEBRATING OUR GRASSROOTS CHAMPIONS



In 2024, we proudly honored the extraordinary individuals behind some of our most impactful fundraisers of the year. This year's Fundraiser of the Year was awarded to Lisa and Jeff Bartoszewicz, who created and hosted Strides for Stomach Cancer, a 5K walk/run held at Kinderberg Park in Germantown, Wisconsin.

Lisa, a stomach cancer survivor, and her husband Jeff turned their personal journey into a powerful community event that raised over \$20,000 for DDF's research, advocacy, and patient support programs. With more than 200 participants, their event brought together families, survivors, local businesses, and advocates to raise awareness and fund change—all while celebrating survivorship and remembrance in motion.





# LEADERSHIP

## In Memoriam

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