

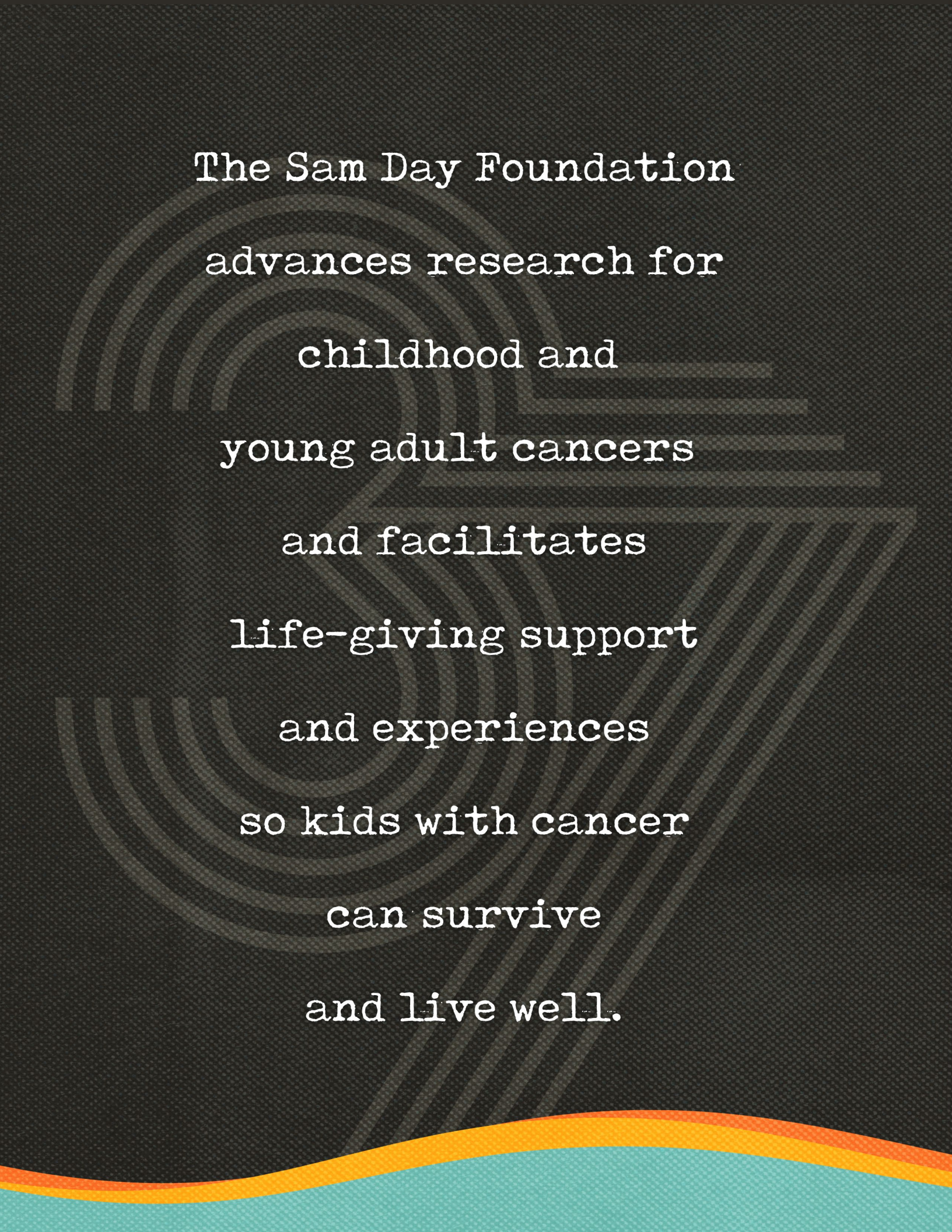


**SAM DAY
FOUNDATION**



one day

2024/25
annual
report



The Sam Day Foundation
advances research for
childhood and
young adult cancers
and facilitates
life-giving support
and experiences
so kids with cancer
can survive
and live well.

What a year it's been.

The 2024/25 fiscal year has brought big, meaningful growth for the Sam Day Foundation — and we know exactly who made that possible: **you**.

Whether you gave, fundraised, volunteered, or spoke up for kids with cancer, your trust in us fuels everything we do. It's an incredible honor to have your support.

We've been at this for seven years now. In that time, we've invested \$2.7 million into research for childhood sarcomas and brain tumors — some of the most destructive cancers children face. And, in 2022, we redefined our mission to reflect how we've evolved. We're not here to simply fund research — we're here to move it forward. That means listening to families and doctors, pushing researchers, advocating for families impacted by cancer, and stepping into roles that influence the drug development pipeline. We believe research should be urgent, and we're doing our part to make that happen.

This year, we made a leap. We more than doubled our staff, from 1.5 to 3.5 full-time positions, with both new roles fully funded by grants. And together we raised \$1.5 million, our biggest fundraising year yet.

We hold ourselves to a high standard because kids with cancer deserve nothing less. From our events to the studies we fund, we aim for excellence. Every research proposal goes through a careful review process, and even our favorite scientists have to earn their place with strong, standout work. We believe this process keeps our eyes wide open and the last thing we want to do is fund research that isn't actually going to help kids. We can't fund everything — but we're committed to backing what shows the most promise.

Thanks for believing in this mission and walking beside us. We don't take your support for granted—not for a second.

With deep gratitude,



Lorna M. Day
Executive Director
Sam Day Foundation



From Potential to Progress

ONLY 4% of the National Institute of Health's cancer research budget is dedicated to childhood cancers.
Sarcomas and brain tumors receive just a sliver of that amount.

When you take a real look at childhood cancer, it's hard not to get angry.

Most of the anti-cancer drugs kids receive today were developed over 40 years ago. Yes, they can save lives — but they often come with a lifetime of health issues. And while adult cancer research keeps moving forward, childhood cancer is still way behind, mostly because it's so underfunded.

Even the scientists who are working day and night to find better answers often can't get their discoveries out of the lab and into real treatment plans. Too many good ideas end up stuck on paper.

But here's the thing — it doesn't have to stay this way. There are brilliant minds doing the work. There is progress to be made. And, with the right support, we can change the story for these kids.

We believe that. And we're not giving up.

Here's how we try to overcome these issues.

We invest in today's most promising science — and nurture tomorrow's leading researchers through feedback and early support.

Childhood sarcoma and brain cancer are still our top funding priorities — not just because they're some of the most aggressive cancers, but because they've seen far too little progress in the past few decades. You'll see that reflected in the projects we fund, and more importantly, in our deep commitment to finding better, less toxic treatments for the kids who need them most.

But moving research forward takes more than just money. It takes collaboration — with leading scientists, doctors, and the families who live this every day. That's why we work hand-in-hand with expert reviewers and advisors to make smart, focused funding decisions. Because we're not just chasing progress — ***we're pushing for real change.***



Research

In seeking excellent research projects, special consideration goes to:



Together, we're fueling a future where childhood cancer research is smarter, faster, and more compassionate.

Here's what we've accomplished in the 2024/25 fiscal year:

\$100,000

Investigating menin as a metastatic factor in Ewing sarcoma
Dr. Beth Lawlor, Ph.D. M.D. – Seattle Children's Research Institute

This project was entirely funded by the Shoultz Family community after the loss of their beautiful daughter, Eden Shoultz. An external \$50k match made this a \$150k project.

\$150,000

Targeting alternative splicing events in medulloblastoma metastasis
Dr. Tamra Werbowetski-Ogilvie, Ph.D. – Baylor College of Medicine

\$150,000

Uncovering mechanisms of cellular therapy dysfunction in rhabdomyosarcoma
Dr. Erica Braverman, M.D. – University of Pittsburgh

\$150,000

Introducing synthetic lethality with nuclear export inhibition in pediatric sarcoma
Dr. Casey Langdon, Ph.D. – Medical University of South Carolina

\$150,000

Investigation of metastatic osteosarcoma drug tolerant persister cells and strategies for their elimination from the lung
Dr. Alexander Davies, D.V.M., Ph.D. – Oregon Health and Science University/Knight Cancer Institute

\$100,000

Expanding tumor specific immunotherapy for Ewing sarcoma
Dr. Brian Ladle, M.D. Ph.D. – Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

This project is a \$1.5M collaborative effort by five foundations led by women who have lost their kids to Ewing sarcoma. The group formed the coalition ACES – Accelerating Cures for Ewing Sarcoma. SDF will contribute \$300K over three years.

Publication

BIT: Bayesian Identification of Transcriptional Regulators From Epigenomics-based Query Region Sets

This SDF-funded research team developed a groundbreaking new machine-learning tool to better understand how genes are turned on and off in disease — especially cancer. The approach, called BIT, uses a more accurate and layered method to identify which proteins are driving tumor growth. SDF's contribution will apply this technology to rhabdomyosarcoma cancers.

- **Cancer Research Communications**

CTOS Poster

SDF-funded research at Seattle Children's Research Institute is focused on improving outcomes and reducing cardiotoxicity in children with Ewing sarcoma. This important work was featured at the Connective Tissue Oncology Society (CTOS) conference, where it received a poster award for excellence. The project continues to move in the right direction, with ongoing momentum and impact.

- **CTOS Poster**

Bringing CAR T-cell Innovation to Osteosarcoma

This project, funded by SDF, aims to bring a novel FOLR1-directed CAR T-cell therapy — originally developed for pediatric leukemia — to children and young adults with osteosarcoma. Dr. Elizabeth Loggers and her team at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center continue to characterize FOLR1 expression in osteosarcoma (and other sarcoma subtypes) and has demonstrated promising results in preclinical osteosarcoma models. The project has since moved forward with additional funding, and we are excited to announce that a clinical trial is expected to open for osteosarcoma patients within the next six months. This effort represents a powerful collaboration between leading research institutions and holds tremendous promise for improving outcomes in this aggressive cancer, starting right here in the Pacific Northwest.

Accelerate

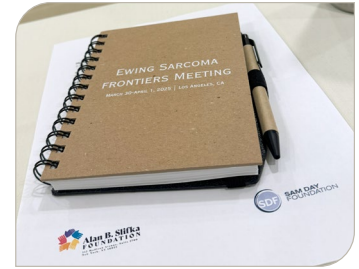
Lorna Day was invited to Amsterdam for a global childhood cancer research meeting where scientists, pharmaceutical leaders, regulators (including the FDA and EMA), and advocates came together to explore new strategies for improving treatments. A central focus was the potential for anti-GD2 therapies — already used in neuroblastoma — to benefit children with sarcomas. **It was a chance to be a voice for young people with cancer in a room full of people with the power to make childhood cancer treatments more curative and accessible.** We look forward to sharing a published summary of the meeting in the coming months.



Progress

Ewing Frontiers

We jumped at the chance to financially support and participate in *Ewing Frontiers*, a landmark meeting uniting researchers committed to advancing treatment for Ewing sarcoma. Progress in this area has been painfully slow, but this meeting brought renewed energy and collaboration. Hosted in part by the Alan B. Slifka Foundation — whose beloved son, Max, died of Ewing sarcoma just days before Sam — we convened the right people to focus on a key research opportunity: the tumor microenvironment (TME). The group was small enough for deep discussion, yet diverse enough to spark new ideas. We are eager to support the next steps of this collaboration and help drive progress forward.



Sam Day Endowed Lectureship in Pediatric Oncology



Dr. Doug Hawkins, Chair of the Children's Oncology Group and based out of Seattle Children's Hospital, joined the Pediatric Oncology team at Doernbecher Children's Hospital for an open lecture and a full day of mentorship and teaching. That evening, SDF Board members gathered with Dr. Hawkins for dinner — offering a meaningful opportunity to connect with the leadership of the largest pediatric cancer research network in the country.

Wellness

This year, we delivered 54 wellness boxes to young people in Washington and Oregon diagnosed with sarcoma or brain tumors. Each box is filled with thoughtful items to help support their bodies and lift their spirits during treatment.



Well ONE DAY Newsletter

SDF's monthly newsletter is published on Substack by Emmy-winning journalist and osteosarcoma mom, Kate McMahon. We're proud to offer these free resources to cancer families, supporting them as they work to restore their children's health and well-being.

- **Topics include:**

- Nutrition and sleep
- Mental health and emotional well-being
- Promising research developments
- Reflective and inspiring personal essays

Well ONE DAY is relevant for families facing any type of childhood, adolescent, or young adult cancer. There are currently 223 engaged subscribers.

Scholarship



Evan Burns

Evan Burns, a student at Sunset High School, is our 2025 Sam Day Memorial Scholarship recipient. The Sam Day Memorial Scholarship is given to a Sunset High School student who has chosen to live well while dealing with a chronic illness or physical disability. Evan came to us with a health story that has molded him into a compassionate and mission-driven young man. He plans to pursue a career in medicine and expressed he has “learned about what makes a good provider by being a patient.” Evan will attend the University of Oregon this fall.



“When we heard the word “cancer” for our son, our world suddenly felt like it was crashing down all around us. Thankfully our connection to the Sam Day Foundation shone a light into a dark time and provided us a community and resource to help throughout the treatment process. We continue to hold onto the hope for more research and better, less toxic treatments for kids with cancer that the Sam Day Foundation is supporting.”

– Eleanor Wilkinson, cancer mom

“As a junior clinician-scientist, I am deeply grateful to the Sam Day Foundation for their unwavering commitment to supporting research that aims to improve treatment and outcomes for children and adolescents facing some of the most aggressive cancers. SDF’s critical research funding has been instrumental in advancing our work to develop less toxic, more effective therapies for patients with Ewing sarcoma. SDF also provides invaluable support to patients and families navigating the most difficult moments of their lives, and I am especially thankful for the compassion and support that Lorna and the team have extended to patients and families that I have cared for. I am so thankful for all SDF does to advance science and support patients and their families!”

– Shireen Ganapathi, M.D., Seattle Children’s Hospital

Events

37-Mile Challenge
September 2024
 611 participants
 \$57,000 raised



Sam Day Soiree
March 8, 2025
 520 participants
 \$670,000 raised



Events

Sam Day Buddy Run
May 17, 2025
20 runners
\$60,000 raised



Volunteers

There's a special kind of energy at Sam Day Foundation events — one rooted in compassion, joy, and an unshakable sense of purpose. That energy is brought to life by our dedicated volunteers, who show up in gold shirts, with bubble wands, cheers, and open hearts. Whether helping at a gala or rallying at a race, they bring lightness to heavy topics and community to every corner of our mission. These aren't just volunteers — they are the heartbeat of SDF, each one believing that their presence and effort play a role in changing outcomes for kids with cancer.



Leadership

Staff

Lorna M. Day
Executive Director

Tracee Hiller
Operations Assistant

Mike Lee
Director of Development

Oona Vasel
Director of Finance
and Operations

Research and Advisory Committee

Yoon-Jae Cho, M.D. - Committee Chair
Oregon Health and Science University

James Amatruda, M.D., Ph.D.
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles

Kelly Bailey, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pittsburg

Steven DuBois, M.D., M.S.
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Jean Mulcahy Levy, M.D.
Children's Hospital Colorado

Praveen Raju, M.D., Ph.D.
Rady Children's Hospital

Board of Directors

Lorna M. Day (*Founder*)
Founder, Executive Director
Sam Day Foundation

Sarah Friend (*President*)
President
The Partners Group

David Smith (*Treasurer*)
Global Treasury Manager (*Ret*)
Microsoft Corporation

Drew Pinson (*Secretary*)
Financial Advisor/Portfolio Advisor
Merril Lynch Wealth Management

Stacy ApRoberts
Oncology Account Manager
Nuvation Bio

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Police Chief
Portland Police Bureau

Emily Hager
Regional Estimating and
Preconstruction Manager
Andersen Construction

Eric Haskins
Managing Director
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Stephen Roberts, M.D.
Division Head, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology,
Robert C. Neerhout Chair of Pediatric Oncology
Associate Director for Pediatric Oncology
Knight Cancer Institute Doernbecher
Children's Hospital, OHSU

Board Emeritus

Tracy Nurdyke
Oregon Area Director
Mission Increase

Nancy Reynolds
Manager of Corporate and
Partnership Development
Rady Children's Hospital

Leadership

This fiscal year, we more than doubled our staff — an exciting milestone made possible through the generosity of the Elizabeth B. McGraw Foundation and the Murdock Charitable Trust.



Thanks to the Murdock Charitable Trust, we welcomed **Mike Lee** as our new Development Director. His position was fully funded by their grant, enabling us to expand our fundraising capacity and community outreach.



The Elizabeth B. McGraw Foundation fully funded the position of **Oona Vasel**, our new Director of Finance and Operations, ensuring we have the expertise to steward our resources effectively and sustainably.

Operational funding like this strengthens our foundation, allowing more donor dollars to flow directly into groundbreaking research and vital wellness projects for the families we serve.



| Lornā, Natalie & Bob



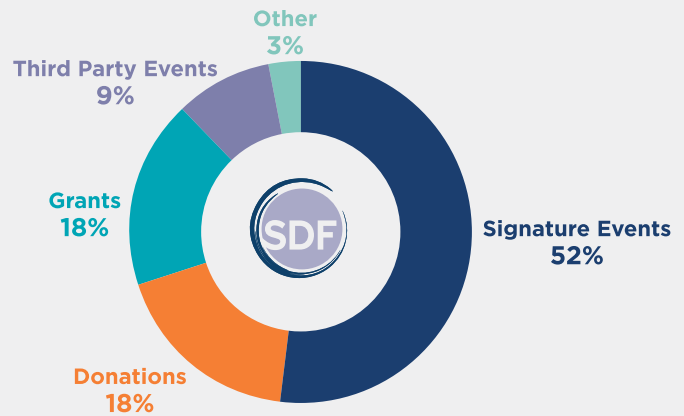
| Sam Day

Financials

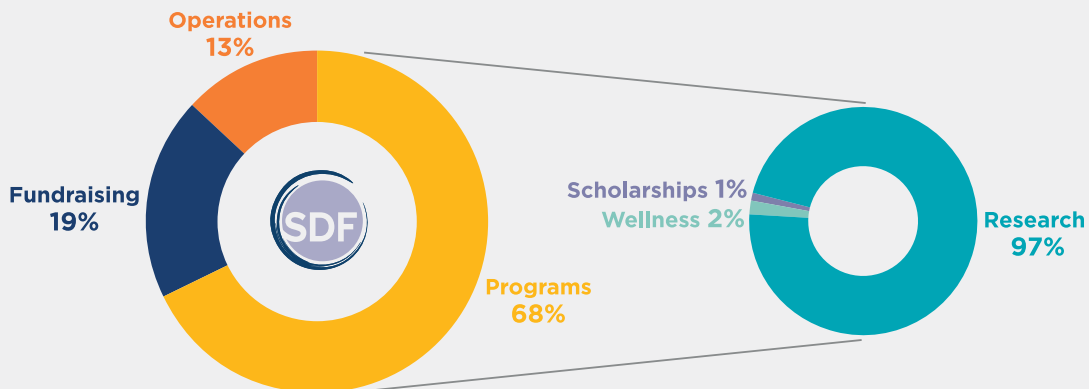
Revenue 2024-2025

Revenue

Signature Events: \$788,000
 Donations: \$271,000
 Grants: \$283,000
 Third Party Events: \$134,000
 Other: \$43,000
 Total Revenue: \$1,519,000



Expenses 2024-2025



Expenses

Programs: \$856,000
 Fundraising: \$240,000
 Operations: \$163,000
 Total Expenses: \$1,259,000

Programs

Research: \$837,000
 Wellness: \$14,000
 Scholarships: \$5,000
 Total Programs: \$856,000

 <https://www.instagram.com/samdayfoundation>

 <https://www.facebook.com/theSamDayFoundation>

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sam-day-foundation>



| Charlye



| LeeAnn



| Noemi



| Hammy



| Maximus



| Marco



| Matthew



| Eden



| Orion



| Seth

ONE DAY



Grants



Corporate Partners



Andersen Foundation

Franz Bakery

Umpqua Bank

Unum Group

Western University
of Health Sciences

Evolve Physical Therapy

Cambia Health
Foundation

In Kind Partners

Zahne Calzada
Photography

Brass Design

Portland Video
Production

Old Trapper
Beef Jerky

Miracle Signs

DJ Dan Wood

Dynamix Crew
DJ Mike & DJ Kevin

Portland Embroidery



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progress
will prevail
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