



IMPACT 2023 REPORT

A photograph of a middle-aged man and a woman standing outdoors. The man, on the left, has short grey hair and is wearing a grey zip-up sweater over a maroon shirt. He is looking down at the woman with a gentle smile. The woman, on the right, is wearing a dark blue turban and a grey jacket over a dark blue shirt. She is looking up at the man with a smile. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with trees and a cloudy sky.

Providing Compassionate
Support to Patients in Need

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.



Compassionate Support for Patients in Need

Dear Friends and Supporters,

A cancer diagnosis causes profound changes in a patient’s life. For some, one of the most pressing concerns is how to manage and pay for everyday living expenses during treatment. This is the primary reason the Florida Cancer Specialists (FCS) Foundation was created in 2011. The Foundation strives to reduce stress and worry for patients and their families who are facing severe financial hardship by providing assistance to cover essential living expenses, such as rent or mortgage, utility bills, phone and car payments.

In 2023, patient applications for assistance increased **36%**, resulting in the largest grant award year in our history. The FCS Foundation contributed over **\$2 million** in financial aid (up 9% from 2022), empowering nearly 1,200 adult cancer patients across Florida to concentrate on their healing journey. These grants were extended to adult patients no matter where they were treated, with no qualified applicant being turned away.

In the past year, revenue from our signature fundraising events totaled over **\$1.5 million**, with many generous donors renewing or increasing their support. From the annual **ME STRONG 5K Run/Walk**, held in DeLand, FL to the Hollywood-themed **Party Under the Stars** in Sarasota and the incredibly fun **Tampa Bay Gala** celebrating sports of all kinds, our guests opened their hearts and pledged financial aid for cancer patients in need. Due to the generosity of the Florida Cancer Specialists physicians in covering all overhead expenses for the Foundation, 100% of donations received go directly to patient grants.

We are also proud to recognize the ongoing growth of the Foundation’s Volunteer Program. Currently, we have **230 patient support volunteers serving 58 FCS clinics**. We also have **25** volunteers (in office and virtual) providing administrative support at the Foundation office, as well as countless volunteers assisting with fundraising events statewide.

This 2023 Impact Report highlights the collective impact of your generosity, thoughtful assistance and countless acts of kindness that have truly made a meaningful difference in the lives of cancer patients and their families.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support.

Raul Storey, MD – Co-Chair

Michael Diaz, MD – Co-Chair

Lynn Rasys – Executive Director





“

I am 75 years old and up until last year I was living on my Social Security and income from a part-time job. Then, in September, I was diagnosed with bile duct cancer and had to give up my part-time job. My expenses mounted. I was three months behind in my rent and my landlady was threatening eviction. I can't begin to tell you about the amount of stress I was under, knowing I had to vacate by December 31. That's when I appealed to this wonderful Foundation. I was approved for the grant and the funding went directly to my rent. This money was a godsend!”

Cheryl Brower, Grant Recipient – Coral Springs, FL

“

I was diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas with liver involvement. The Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation found it appropriate and necessary to help me, and my family. The Foundation assisted with the bills which, in turn, helped to alleviate stress and allow us to focus on the task of treating the cancer. I cannot thank the folks at the Florida Cancer Specialist Foundation enough for giving me a fighting chance. They are indeed angels in my eyes.”

Khalid Rentz, Grant Recipient – Lake City, FL



The Florida Cancer Specialists (FCS) Foundation provides financial support to qualified adult cancer patients in the state of Florida for expenses such as rent or mortgage, car payments and utility bills. By giving patients peace of mind in knowing that their bills are being paid while they are undergoing treatment, the FCS Foundation allows them to concentrate on what really matters – fighting cancer.

Due to the generosity of the Florida Cancer Specialists physicians in covering all overhead expenses for the Foundation, 100% of donations received go directly towards paying the essential non-medical living expenses of an adult battling cancer.

Our Mission

2023 Actions & Achievements At a Glance

- Provided over **\$2 million** in financial aid – largest grant award year in our history (up 9% from 2022).
 - Patient grant applications rose **36%** in 2023 – an overwhelming increase and the largest total requests for assistance in our history.
 - The FCS Foundation Volunteer Program has **230** patient support volunteers serving **58** FCS clinics. We also have **25** volunteers (in office and virtual) providing administrative support at the Foundation office, as well as countless volunteers assisting with fundraising events statewide.
- In 2023, revenue from our signature events totaled over **\$1.5 million**.
 - We are extremely proud to report that, since inception, the FCS Foundation has NEVER turned away any qualified patient’s application for assistance. Since inception, FCSF has raised over **\$19.5 million**, awarded **\$13 million** in grants and assisted over **8,600** patients and their families.

Accomplishments

Top Referring Health Organizations & Grant Awards per County

2023 Top Referring Health Organizations to FCS Foundation
1. Moffitt Cancer Center
2. University of Miami
3. AdventHealth
4. Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center
5. Orlando Health Cancer Institute
6. Memorial Regional Hospital - Hollywood
7. University of Florida
8. Cancer Specialists of North Florida
9. Cleveland Clinic
10. Miami Cancer Institute
11. Hematology Oncology Associates
12. Mayo Clinic

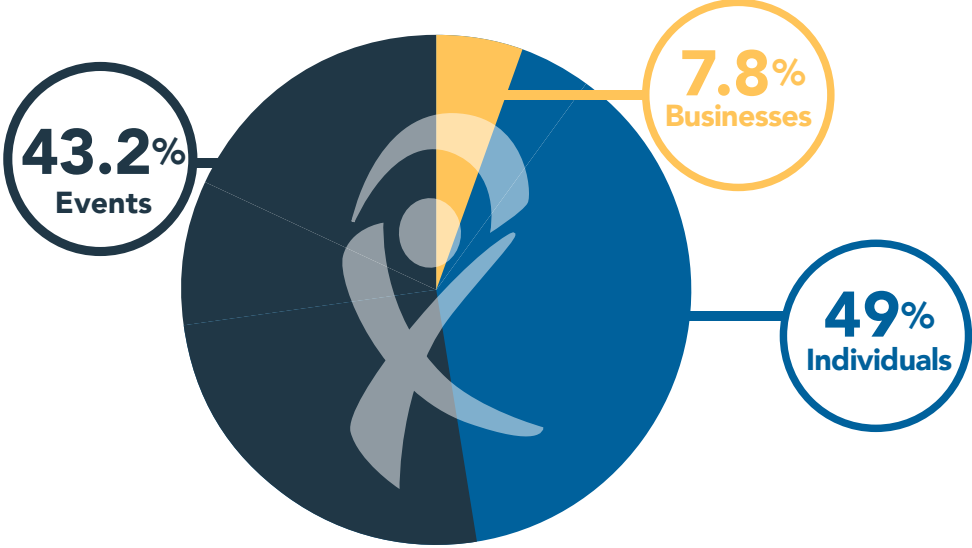
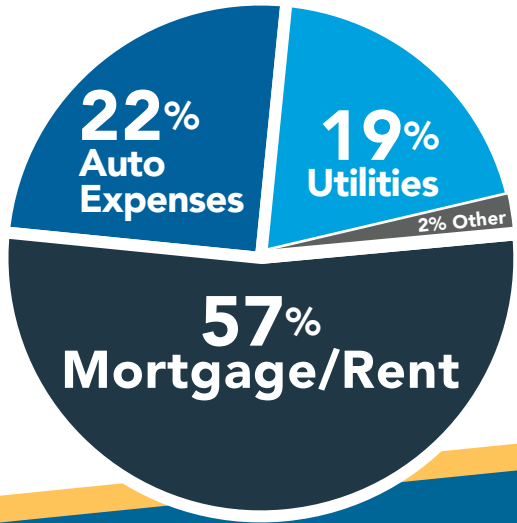
2023 Top Financial Aid Awards by County (totaling over \$1.3M in FCS Foundation financial aid)
1. Duval
2. Hillsborough
3. Volusia
4. Pinellas
5. Orange
6. Miami-Dade
7. Broward
8. Palm Beach
9. Pasco
10. Lee
11. Brevard
12. Polk

Financial Aid

During 2023, no qualified cancer patient was turned away, thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, donors and volunteers.

Since inception, the Foundation awarded over \$13M in patient grants and assisted over 8,600 patients and their families.

- Patient grants are \$2,000 per calendar year for non-medical everyday living expenses
- Provided over \$2M in financial aid; up 9% over 2022



Income Sources in 2023

Despite economic challenges and concerns over rising inflation, we raised over **\$2M** in 2023! Since its inception, the FCS Foundation has raised close to **\$19.5M**.

Income



Steve Langere | Volunteer

“My story began in 2016 when my beloved wife Danette was diagnosed with cancer. After her recovery in 2018, she found joy in volunteering every Wednesday at the Florida Cancer Specialists Tampa Cancer Center where she once received treatment. In 2022, cancer returned, and after 35 years together, she passed away. Seeking strength, I recalled her love for volunteering. In May of this year, I joined the Tampa Cancer Center as a volunteer in the infusion room—a decision I cherish. The supportive staff genuinely cares about patients. I recommend volunteering through the Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation; the reward exceeds the effort. Blessed to carry on Danette’s spirit, every Wednesday has become my favorite day, continuing her legacy in a small way.”



Foundation Board Members Testimonials



Tom Uhler | *FCS Foundation Board of Directors – Treasurer*

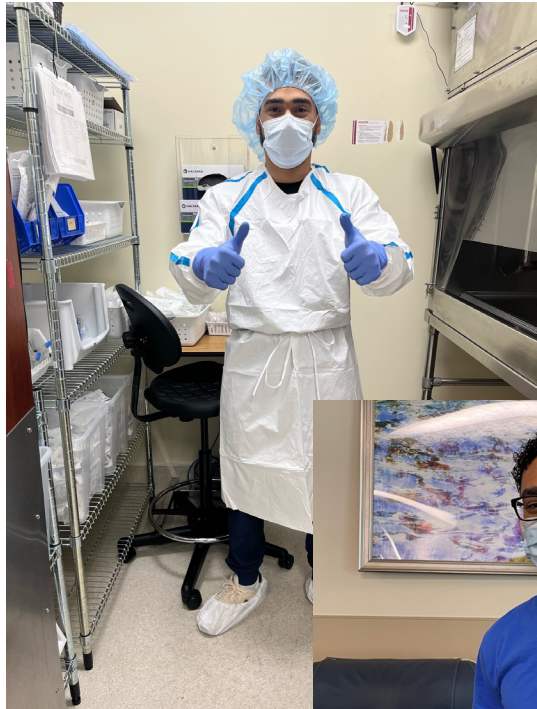
“There are many charitable organizations out there doing exceptional work and my wife, Linda, and I support a number of them. But the Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation provides direct assistance to those in great need - with minimal red tape and overhead. We are truly making a difference in lives all over Florida every day. That’s why we not only support them financially, but also choose to serve on the governing board.”



Patsy Sanchez | *FCS Foundation - Board Member*

“In 2014, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Cancer doesn’t discriminate - it can happen to anyone. Cancer impacts all of us, as everyone knows someone who has been diagnosed with cancer. While I dream of a day when all cancers can be cured and even prevented, there is much we can still do together. A cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming - emotionally, physically, and financially. And while cancer alone can be the most stressful experience of your life, coping with financial stressors can make it even more challenging. I know 100% of our donations to FCSF will go towards assisting with basic living expenses, so that patients can focus on healing and winning the fight of their lives. Everyone can do something for a FUTURE without cancer but TOGETHER we can make a positive impact TODAY on the lives of patients diagnosed everyday!”

“En el año 2014, fui diagnosticada con cáncer del seno. Cáncer no discrimina - le puede pasar a cualquiera. El cáncer nos incumbe a todos, ya que todos conocemos a alguien que ha sido diagnosticado con cáncer. Mientras sueño con el día en que el cáncer tenga una cura y hasta prevención, hay mucho que podemos hacer juntos. Un diagnóstico de cáncer puede ser agobiante física, mental y financieramente. Y mientras el cáncer puede ser la experiencia más difícil de tu vida, la preocupación de cómo afrontar las obligaciones económicas lo hacen aún más complicado. Sé que el 100% de nuestras donaciones al FCSF ayudan a pacientes a afrontar gastos de subsistencia para que puedan enfocarse en sanar y ganar la batalla más grande de sus vidas. ¡Todos podemos hacer algo por un FUTURO libre de cáncer pero JUNTOS podemos lograr un impacto positivo HOY en la vida de pacientes diagnosticados cada día!”



Jeremiah Mendez, Volunteer
Pharmacy Technician, Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute



“My experience at FCS throughout the years has been nothing short of amazing. I started my journey as a Patient Support Volunteer with the FCS Foundation at the Medical Park Cancer Center. During my time as a volunteer, I gained valuable experience assisting with patients and interacting with the FCS staff. At that time, I knew FCS was the place for me to grow and start my career. I currently work as a Pharmacy Technician at our Tampa locations providing care to patients firsthand by preparing and compounding their medications. My experience as a volunteer gave me the opportunity to pursue my interests in the medical field and gain a better understanding of this field of study that I will always be grateful for.”



PATIENT SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS


**230
Volunteers**


**58 FCS
Clinics**

FOUNDATION OFFICE SUPPORT


25 Volunteers
(in office & virtual)

- FCS Foundation supports cancer patients in many ways. Through our Patient Support Volunteer Program, volunteers provide comfort to patients undergoing infusion treatments at FCS clinics by bringing a warm blanket, snacks and beverages, or by lending a listening ear.
- The virtual volunteer program initiated due to the pandemic has now become a successful ongoing program. Volunteers assist remotely with responding to patient inquiries and processing applications.



February 3, 2024



February 24, 2024



March 2, 2024



April 6, 2024



Guide Star Platinum Seal 2023

Awarded the **GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency**, the organization’s highest level of recognition.



April 20, 2024



September 28, 2024



Fall 2024



December 2, 2024



LWRBA Member

A **LWRBA membership** allows us to be apart of a positive, continuously growing professional organization with tremendous diversity in its member businesses in the Lakewood Ranch region with its infectious forward-thinking mentality.



Named Four-Star Charity

A **Four-Star rating** is given to organizations who score a 90 or above in Charity Navigator’s review and is considered “Exceptional”.

Your participation in our signature events and fundraising programs is the best way to ensure that the FCS Foundation can continue to fulfill its mission to bring hope and peace of mind to cancer patients in need.

FCSF.org/Events

Join Us in 2024!

Officers



Raul Storey, MD
Co-Chair
Vero Beach, FL



Michael Diaz, MD
Co-Chair
St. Petersburg, FL



Cory J. Person, Esq.
Secretary
Tampa, FL



Thomas Uhler
Treasurer
Sanibel, FL



John Sodeika
Patient Liaison
Naples, FL



Lynn Cowdright
Volunteer Liaison
Bradenton, FL

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Sarasota, FL



Maen Hussein, MD
The Villages, FL



Cherylle Hayes, MD
Gainesville, FL



Tim O'Donohue
Ocala, FL



Patsy Sanchez
Tallahassee, FL



Marjan Zaun
Bradenton, FL



Rekha Rajan-Wilson, JD,
CHC, LHRM
Tampa, Florida
Effective January 1, 2024



Make An Impact

Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation appreciates the generosity of the corporations, foundations and individuals who make a difference in our communities. Their generous support makes a positive impact on the lives of cancer patients in the state of Florida. Thank you!



Donate

- In memory or in honor of someone special
- Monthly recurring gifts



Volunteer

- Patient Support volunteer
- Foundation office volunteers (virtual and in-person)



Special Events

- Committee membership



Leaving a **Legacy of Hope** assists cancer patients in need through a will, trust agreement, prepaid life insurance policy or other estate-plan vehicle.



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The Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides non-medical, financial and emotional support to cancer patients in the state of Florida. The Foundation's EIN number is 20-4616813. The Foundation is also registered in the state of Florida, Registration No. CH24320. A copy of the official state registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 800-435-7352 within the state of Florida. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.



FCSF.org