



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Meet Dre and Dad

**We Are Family**  
dragonfly.org



# WE ARE FAMILY



## The Dragonfly Foundation 2021 Annual Report

### Contributors

*Ally Brokaw, Kathy Doering, Carrie Ellis, Zak Geier, Amy Hafner, Laurel Markley, Jessica Merar, Christine and Jim Neitzke, Greg Vehr*

### Designers

*Tom Tally, T2Design*

### Contributing Photographers

*Bambino International, Hartong Digital Media, TR Gormley, Dragonfly Families*

### Special Thanks To All Our Dragonfly Families

*Special Thanks: To all our Dragonfly families. Our partner hospitals: Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Dayton Children's Hospital, Advocate Children's Hospital - Oak Lawn, Advocate Children's Hospital - Park Ridge, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Loyola University Medical Center, and University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital, Rush University Medical Center*

### Website:

Chicago and Cincinnati: [Dragonfly.org](https://www.dragonfly.org)

### Chicago

Email: [Chicago@dragonfly.org](mailto:Chicago@dragonfly.org)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/TheDragonflyFoundationChicago](https://www.facebook.com/TheDragonflyFoundationChicago)

Instagram: (@the\_dragonfly\_foundation)

Twitter: @dragonfly\_IL

Mailing: 833 Central Ave #1306, Highland Park, IL 60035

### Cincinnati

Email: [info@dragonfly.org](mailto:info@dragonfly.org)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/TheDragonflyFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/TheDragonflyFoundation)

Instagram: (@the\_dragonfly\_foundation)

YouTube: The Dragonfly Foundation

Twitter: [@TheDragonflyFoundation](https://twitter.com/TheDragonflyFoundation)

Mailing: 506 Oak Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Phone: 513-494-6474





**A**s we reviewed the successes of The Dragonfly Foundation (TDF) in 2021, we also considered the opportunities that lie ahead for this wonderful organization committed to supporting the families of pediatric cancer patients.

Before we mention those successes and opportunities, however, it is helpful to share the comments of Dr. John Perentesis, Director of Oncology & Chief of Cancer Programs at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, about TDF:

"The Foundation is out of the box. It actually focuses on the patient experience and what the struggles and other issues that patients and their families are faced with day-to-day in getting treatment for cancer. The goal and the mission of bringing joy and happiness to families is really extraordinarily needed, and it's a huge void in care across the country... It is affecting families in a remarkably positive way that really is unparalleled. It is a direction and way we need to go nationally."

Most importantly, the Dragonfly mission is to support pediatric cancer patients and their families. We do this through the many programs and services we discuss in this annual report. We also are preparing our home, The Landing, to provide a loving space for patients and families to escape the clinical setting of a hospital for a healing atmosphere of play, peace and happiness.

To that end, we have identified a generous funder and are looking forward to replacing the windows at The Landing and, thereby, protecting the home from water damage and enhancing energy efficiency. We have also identified generous support for a new roof on the carriage house.

All of this...and more will happen in the coming year. We can't wait!

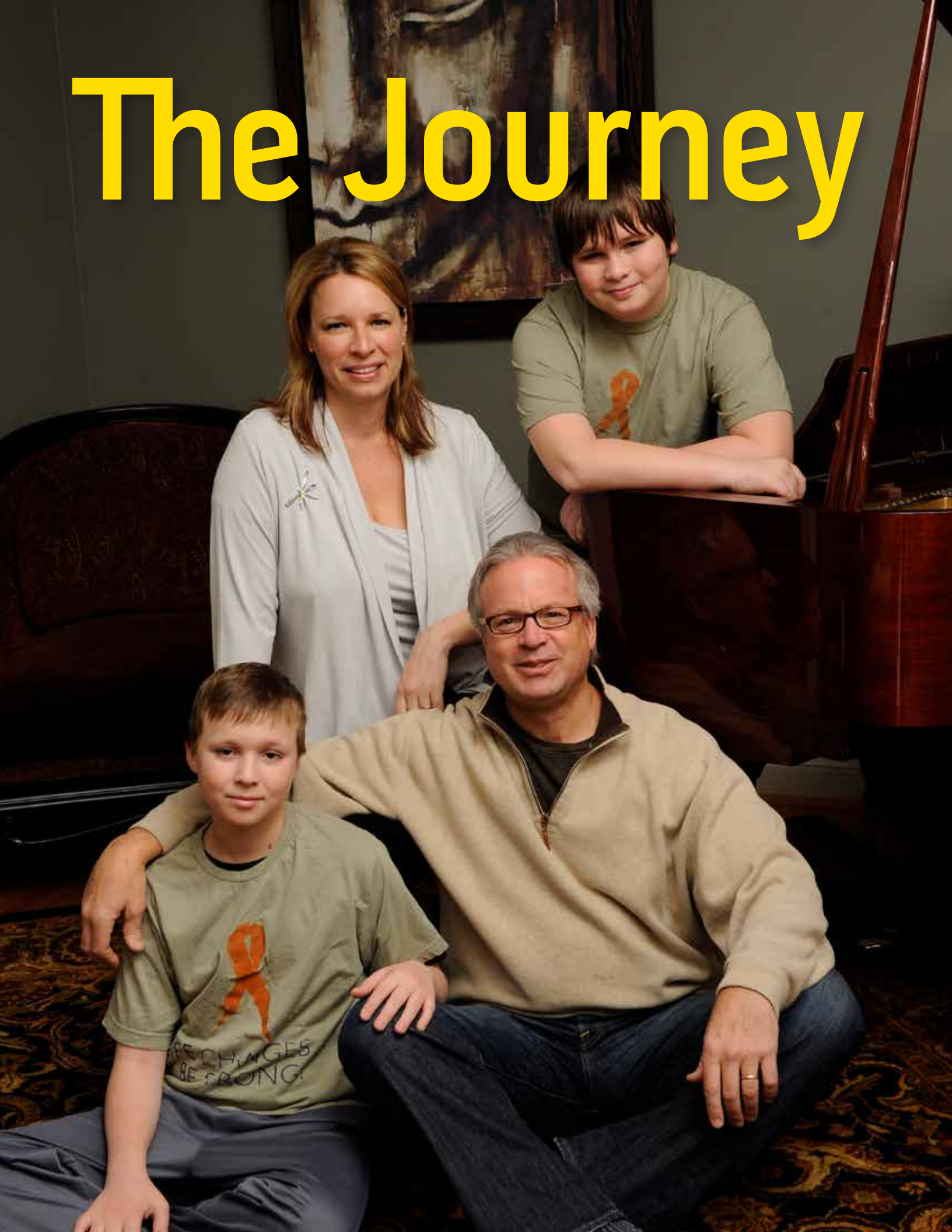
Sincerely,

Laurel Markley  
Board Chair

Christine Neitzke  
Executive Director



# The Journey





# to Dragonfly



**M**att has always been active, especially as a child, and never, ever complained about anything in terms of health, until September of 2009. At that point, he started saying he was experiencing breathing problems. As any parent would do, I took him to the pediatrician who could not find anything wrong with him, saying that it could be allergies or asthma. From that point, we went to an allergy specialist, who also could not find anything wrong with him. As a parent, it is confusing to know how far to take things. We decided to wait it out.

Then February 2010 hit, and he was diagnosed with pneumonia. At that point, he really couldn't take in a full breath, and he kept saying, "What if I have cancer?" I immediately erased that vision from his head, because that seemed to be so unreal.

After two rounds of antibiotics for pneumonia, with no sign of getting better, our pediatrician ordered an X-ray. Within hours she contacted Jim and me and set up for Matt to go to Cincinnati Children's Hospital for a scan. I don't think our family will ever forget that day or the quiet moments of waiting. Certainly, it had to be scar tissue from the pneumonia. They asked us not to leave and told us that a doctor would be coming down to talk with us. We immediately began to worry but had to hold it together even more so, for Matt, our young son.

Dr. Absalon was the doctor and asked to sit with us privately. I don't remember much from the conversation, other than "Matt has cancer, and he has a mass the size of a baseball outside of his lung." The mass was pushing on his lung, causing his breathing difficulties. That moment, that day, that time, changed our lives forever. Our family, with our older son, Sam, age 12 at home, and Matt, our jobs, our life, within a moment, would never be the same. They put Matt in a wheelchair, and we followed him up to the fifth floor, where we saw babies, children, young adults, all battling cancer. Everything you should never see. We were taken to a single, white, sterile room, where our journey began.

The next few months were a blur for our family. Through faith, family, friends, and excellent medical care from the hospital, Matt was able to overcome his battle with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. While we were at the hospital, we met many families that were going through similar journeys. So many types of cancer, so many ages of children. Many were local, and many came to Cincinnati Children's from far away. We felt a connection

with the families; we all were dealing with the uncertainty of whether our child would get better. Our family felt a need to do something, a need to help families going through a cancer diagnosis. We were not sure exactly what that need would be, but through working with the hospital, we defined that need. The need was to help families in many ways that would create a positive psychosocial impact on their well-being.

This need led to the creation of Dragonfly.

Many people ask, "Why Dragonfly?" Dragonflies symbolize transformation. At our organization, we truly believe that what these patients, families, and caregivers go through is transformational, and we are here to help. Everyone is different; every need is different. We work directly with partner hospitals to help meet the needs of families and patients.

People think that we created Dragonfly, but in a way, Dragonfly created us.

We now have a new journey.

*Christine & Jim*





THE

# Landing



The  
Dragonfly  
Foundation®

506  
Oak  
Street

*“A home away from home  
for the whole family.”*



# WHAT WE DO...

The logo features a stylized dragonfly in blue and yellow, with the word "dragonfly" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.

dragonfly



## BIG BLUE CARE BAG

Each newly diagnosed family receives a care bag to help adjust to the hospital.



## DISTRACTIONS IN THE HOSPITAL

Dragonfly provides fun ways to keep our patients connected and entertained while at the hospital.



## HAIR LOSS

"I Am Still Me" is a program to help patients cope with the effects of chemotherapy and hair loss.



## CARING FOR THE FAMILY

Dragonfly helps to care for the whole family while focusing on the patient.



## URGENT NEEDS

Sometimes, even the smallest of items can be lost during treatment; Dragonfly finds ways to make things better.



## LIFE AT HOME

Dragonfly provides ways to keep the family safe and healthy outside of the hospital.



## THINGS TO DO/ EVENTS

There are many resources to help families find fun ways to spend time together.



## ADOPT A FAMILY

Every holiday season, Dragonfly provides support to families in and outside of the hospital to make the holiday season bright.



## THE LANDING

The Landing is a community center that is a "home away from home for the whole family."



## HELPFUL RESOURCES

Dragonfly provides resources to help families navigate the journey and find ways to spend time together.

# Story of HOPE

In June of 2017, Henry was like most 9-year-old boys his age. He was enjoying summer break -- playing in soccer tournaments, practicing swimming in the morning, competing in swim meets in the evening, and attending basketball camp during the day. To say he was busy, energetic, and lively would be an understatement. But Henry's busy life all changed on June 16, 2017. His mom, Denise, felt a lump on Henry's neck and immediately took him to the doctor's office. Within hours he was admitted to the ER. After several tests, and just three days later, Henry was diagnosed with T-cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma. For the next 30 days, Henry remained in the hospital to receive his intense, life-saving first round of chemotherapy.

After getting out of the hospital, Henry continued to receive treatments at the Cincinnati Children's outpatient facility. Henry had several more incidences where he was hospitalized due to illness from being immunocompromised. Henry could not attend school or be out in public for fear of getting sick. This was very hard for Henry and his siblings, Benjamin 12 and little sister Anna 5. They tried to make the best of a difficult situation. Henry never complained and tried to keep a positive attitude throughout his cancer journey. He struggled some with his hair loss and his swollen face but still smiled. Henry is such an outgoing boy, he told his mom

that he looked forward to going to the outpatient clinic so he could talk with the nurses and doctors.

Fortunately, the Dragonfly Foundation provided another way for Henry to get out and enjoy events. Henry barely left the house during his treatments except for going to the clinic and some Dragonfly events. Dragonfly provided an outlet for him. There was a level of excitement that he could go to these events and feel a little normal again. The events that were in suites provided a safe haven for Henry and his family. He could be at the event and be separated from the public and germs. Henry and his siblings got to see the Harlem GlobeTrotters. They absolutely loved it! Another favorite for Henry was watching the Cincinnati Reds game from the Pilot House, a riverboat deck. He would have never gone to this game during his intensive chemotherapy without Dragonfly arranging this for our family.

Henry finished his chemotherapy treatments in October of 2019. Henry is thankful that Dragonfly is available for him and other children who are undergoing cancer treatments.

Denise & Tom



HENRY



# A Year In Review



Nearly **6,500 Dragonflies and family members served** since 2010.

An additional **\$10,000 in gift cards** and meals were donated to families in the hospital during Thanksgiving and the Holiday Season.



**More than 1,000 gifts** were donated to families over the holidays, reaching more than 175 families; this includes inpatient and outpatient gifting.



**Sent families to** Reds games, Bengals games, Kings Island, Cyclones Games, Concerts, Comedy Shows, Fall Festivals, Summer Bash, Holiday drive-thrus, Tennis Matches, FC Cincinnati Games, Lazer tag, Go Karting and many more events throughout the year. Nearly 2,000 individuals enjoyed tickets to our events.



More than **165 deliveries** were made to Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Since 2010, we have provided programs and services totaling more than **\$12 million to patients and families.**



**TDF helped provide** 10 Laptops, donated 8 Ipads, as well as 2 Xbox Ones, 2 PlayStation 4s and 2 Switches with extra controllers for each console and over 50 new games to the Critical Care Tower at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

# LEADERSHIP

## Emeritus Board

Marty and Amanda Brennaman

## Board of Directors

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Robert Brown, Esq. Vice Chair

Dwayne Emerson, Secretary

Mat Whited, Treasurer

Jack Brendamour

Bill Carigan

Brad Cates

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Peter Clayton

Dave Cook

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Megan Ossenbeck

Beth Reichert

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Marc Starks

## Advisory Board

Jim Browning

John Burns

Trish Elam

Tony Ricci

Scott Seger

Wayne Speer

Tom Stieritz

Donna Thorman

Steve Wanamaker

Bob Wysocki

Kim and George Vincent

## Leadership Team

Ally Brokaw

Carrie Ellis

Zak Geier

Amy Hafner

Jessica Merar

Christine Neitzke

Greg Vehr

Mike Witham

## Ambassadors

Stella Davies, MBBS, PhD, MRCP

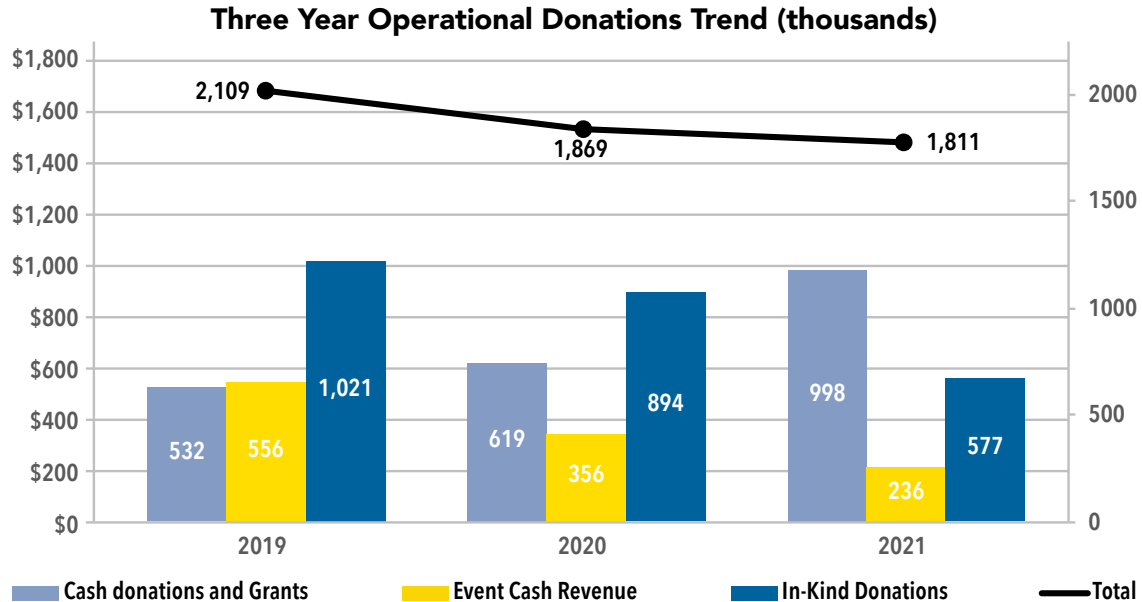
John Perentesis, MD, FAAP



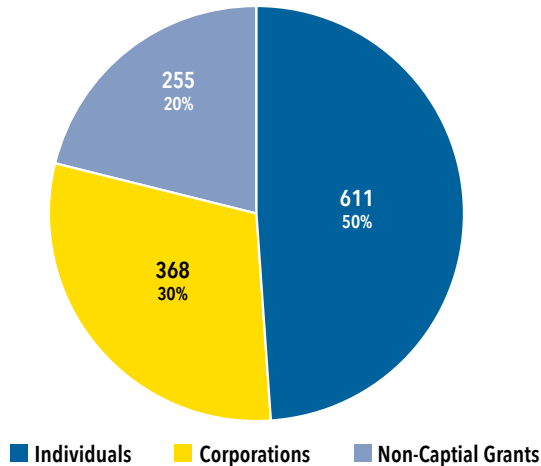
# 2021 FINANCIALS

(for further information please see our audited financials and Form 990 at Dragonfly.org)

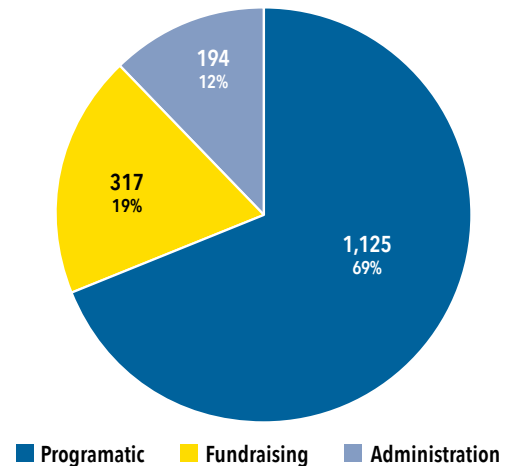
- Donation levels in 2021 were significantly impacted by COVID including our ability to hold public fundraising events.
- For fiscal 2021 management determined that presenting event revenue net of expenses was a more accurate depiction of the economic impact derived from events. Therefore, for the fiscal years shown in the chart below event revenues are presented net of relevant expenses.



**FY 2021 Cash Revenue Components (\$000)**



**FY 2021 Expense Components (\$000)**



**Financial Position as of June 30, 2021 (\$000)**

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Cash                        | 402                 |
| Other Current Assets        | 45                  |
| Property and Equipment, net | <u>1,746</u>        |
| <b>Total Assets</b>         | <u><u>2,193</u></u> |

|                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Current Liabilities                   | 81                |
| Long-term debt net of current portion | <u>610</u>        |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>              | <u><u>691</u></u> |

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Net Assets<sup>(a)</sup>:</b> |                     |
| Without Donor Restrictions       | 456                 |
| With Donor Restrictions          | <u>1,046</u>        |
|                                  | <u><u>1,502</u></u> |

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b> | <u><u>2,193</u></u> |
|---|---------------------|

a: For fiscal year 2021 the change in net assets was \$175,000



# THE **DRAGONFLY** DIFFERENCE

