

118

foundation

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Friend,

A former teacher of mine once told me, “Life will no doubt throw you a curve ball. It’s all about how you handle it.” I wonder if he would have guessed cancer would be my curve ball. Probably not - a cancer diagnosis seemed too far-fetched. Get in a car wreck, get rejected for a job, go through a hard break-up, sure. Cancer? No way. But it’s not until you are *faced* with the impossible that you can *achieve* the impossible.

Having cancer once felt like an impossible scenario for me, but it happened. Beating it, on some days, felt beyond impossible. But then I beat it. Forming a Foundation that would help other folks do the same felt impossible. But we did it.

Human to human here, there are some days it still feels like 118 Foundation is an impossible dream. My board and I were handed a God-sized project, and it has taken a heck of a lot of blood, sweat, tears, and faith to make 118 a reality - and it has taken even more to keep up with its growth. God has blessed every penny sent our way and multiplied our efforts beyond imagination. And, most importantly, He sent us partners like you. **We could not have given more than \$31,000 to young adults kicking cancer’s butt this year without you.**

Because of your support and generosity, the impossible task of creating this Foundation was made possible. **Thank you.**

Enjoy reading through this report. There’s a lot of good stuff in here - *and big plans for the future.*

With my deepest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sadie Knight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sadie" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Knight".

Sadie Knight
Founder + Executive Director

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS



Sadie Knight
Founder + Executive Director
Virginia



Brandon Knight
Board Member
Virginia



Autumn Lankford
Board Member
Virginia



Kyle + Elissa Gilliam
Board Members
Maryland



Erica Richardson
Board Member
Kentucky



Abigail Borron
Board Member
Georgia

YOUNG ADULTS + CANCER

There is never a convenient time to be diagnosed with cancer, but for AYA (adolescent and young adults) cancer patients, individuals aged 15-39, cancer interrupts some of the most formative, pivotal years of their lives. These individuals are building their professional careers, finishing or just beginning college, digging in to or out of financial debt, and planning with excitement for the future. But cancer interrupts that important groundwork.

AYAs face a unique set of challenges. Many feel isolated from their friends and family and frustrated **their life has been put on pause**. They also face added stress from medical debt and potential fertility challenges, and because of their age, face a much longer road dealing with the aftermath of cancer.

WHY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

According to the American Cancer Society, "...**young adult survivors have higher rates of bankruptcy** and more frequently forgo needed medical care due to cost compared to older survivors. Financial distress among AYA survivors is often compounded by non-medical costs, such as student loans and raising children."

One of the most difficult consequences of having cancer is debt. Many AYAs have not had enough time to build financial security to tackle the crippling financial obligations that comes with medical bills and other expenses. The freedom they hoped for once in remission is overshadowed by financial burden. **Their lives are once again put on pause.**

LEARN MORE



KEY MILESTONES

March 2023

Sadie attends a conference at Waterfront Church in D.C. where God sends inspiration for 118.

June 2023

Sadie finishes treatment and goes into remission!

November 2023

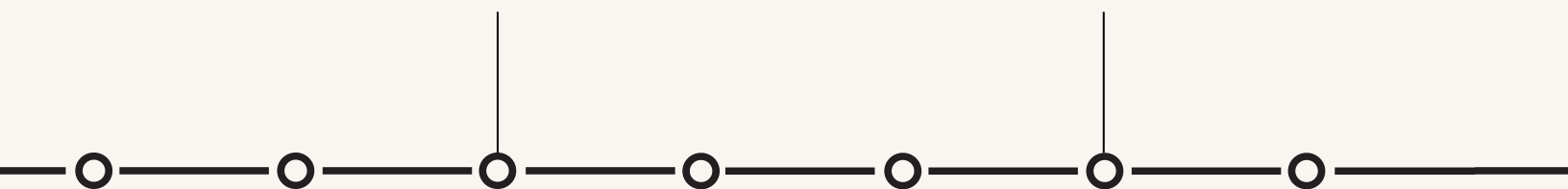
118 board members raise \$4,680.04 on social media to support 118's launch.

October 2023

Founding board members hold their first meeting.

March 2023 (continued)

Sadie receives a check from an anonymous source, which she uses to offset medical bills and buy the first tool in building the Foundation: a laptop.



**January 2024
(continued)**

118 awards its first Restoration Grant to a young woman from Texas, Madi.

October 2024

118 launches a rapid response campaign, "Tough Like Thomas," to support a young man named Thomas who is battling a rare form of cancer and in severe financial need. The campaign raised just over \$17,225.03 in just two weeks.

January 2024

118 Foundation officially launches! Between the launch event, online fundraising, and volunteer efforts, 118 raised \$21,599.02 to jumpstart its service to AYAs.

May 2024

Used book sale fundraiser brings in \$1,104.36.

December 2024

118 receives its first non-profit grant from a family foundation.

2024 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenue

Total: \$63,401.71

- Tough Like Thomas Campaign: \$17,225.03
- Launch Activities: \$11,599.02
- Event Sponsorships: \$10,000
- Direct giving: \$8,621.17
- Corporate Donors: \$7,300
- Grants: \$5,000
- Social Media Fundraising: \$1,301.69
- Used Book Sale: \$1,104.36
- Kendra Scott Event: \$919.25
- Savings Account Interest: \$331.19

NOTE: Transaction fees are accounted for.

AYA Support

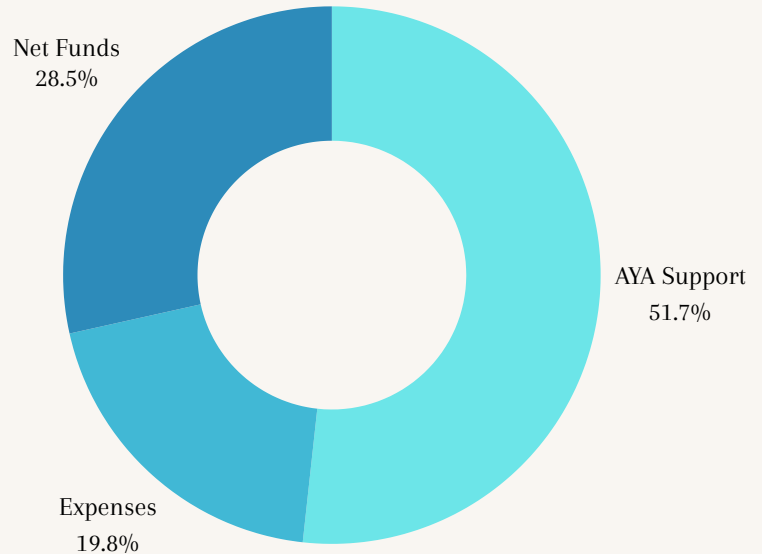
Total: \$31,225.03

- Tough Like Thomas Campaign: \$17,225.03
- Restoration Grants: \$14,000

Expenses

Total: \$11,939.42

- Events: \$9,314.95
- Administrative Expenses: \$1,782.47
- Marketing/Communication: \$842

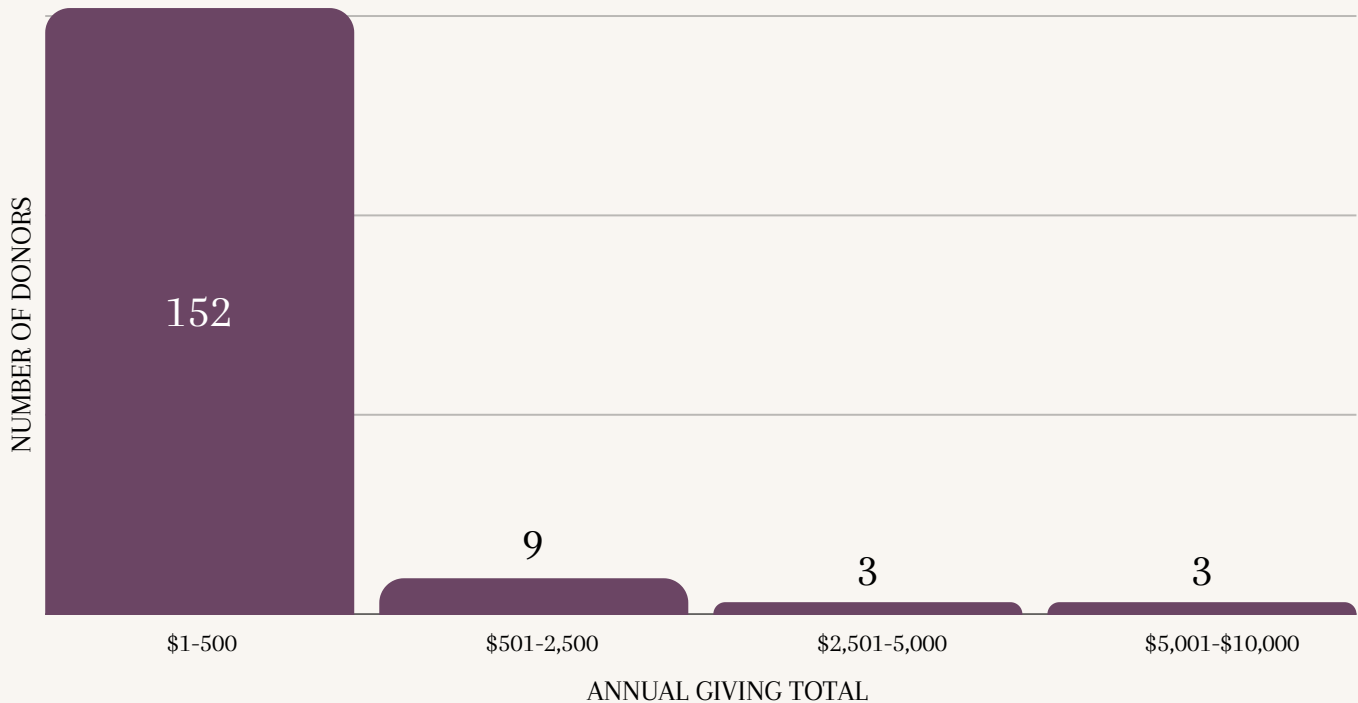


62% of 118's 2024 spending provided direct support to AYAs.

2024 Net Funds: \$20,237.26

DONOR TRENDS

In 2024, **167 individuals** generously gave to the 118 Foundation with an average donation of \$202.55. The data below displays a trend in **grassroots partnership** with most donors giving a total of \$500 or less in the calendar year.



NOTE: This data does not include contributions from anonymous donors or individuals who donated through PayPal social media fundraising.

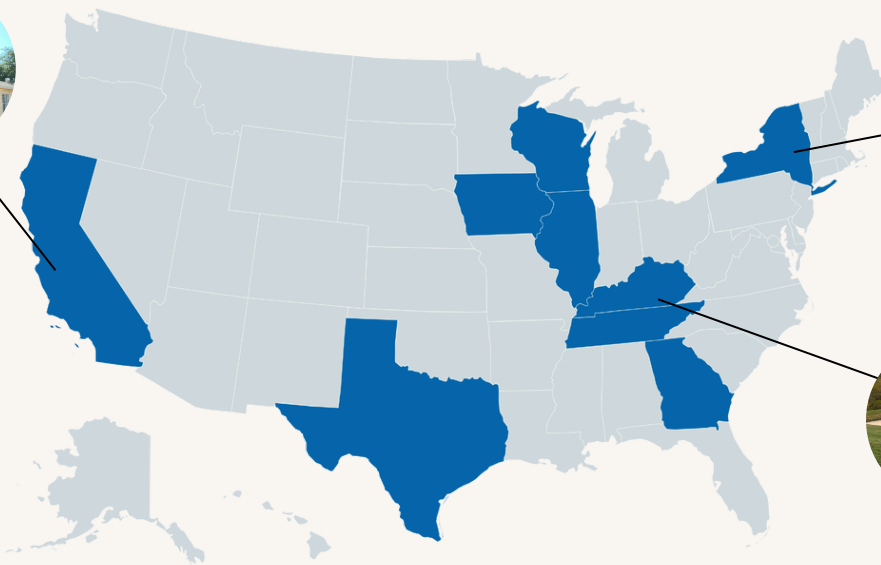
RESTORATION GRANTS

118's primary tool to support young adults overcoming cancer is its Restoration Grant program. 118 Foundation is committed to the comeback from cancer and these grants are an investment in that comeback. Recipients may use the grant for whatever they need to find restoration. This year, recipients have used the funds for acupuncture therapy, physical therapy, treating their family to dinner, and celebrating their birthday. Although, the grants are mostly used to offset growing medical bills.

in 2024: 14 to AYAs in **9**
\$1,000 grants were awarded **states**



Heather Santiago
Las Angeles, CA



Luiza Li
Brooklyn, NY



Josh Erb
California, KY

A guilt-free cup of coffee . . .

Amelia has a heart as big as her home state of Wisconsin. She's an incredible agriculture teacher, helping students with their agricultural projects, training them for competitions, and spending long hours traveling to and from events. But her love for others doesn't stop with her students: She shines light on every person she meets. In fact, she makes a handmade gift for every one of her friends who are getting married, including several quilts.

How does she do it all? Coffee. A direct quote from Amelia: "If I can start my day with black coffee, I can make it through."



Amelia is the first person we served through the Restoration Grant program. In her application, she wrote that she would use the funds for medical bills and to treat herself to a "guilt-free coffee," meaning she could go to a coffee shop and buy herself a simple cup of coffee without experiencing guilt from not putting that money toward medical bills.

Young adults overcoming cancer are crippled by debt, and the stress of that debt holds them back from participating in simple pleasures - like drinking a cup of coffee at a coffee shop without worrying about the price tag. It's dehumanizing.

Because of the Restoration Grant program, Amelia got her guilt-free coffee - and help rebuilding parts of her life that cancer tore down.

Tearing down brick walls . . .



In October, the Foundation was presented with an opportunity to support a young adult with cancer in a way that was not on the board's radar: a rapid response campaign the Foundation called "Tough Like Thomas." And when you read his story below, you'll see why the Board was moved to act.

Cancer doesn't discriminate against who it decides to attack, and the story is no different for Thomas. Cancer doesn't care that Thomas is 22 years old, has a family who has recently suffered great loss, or that he has a girlfriend and a job and a big, beautiful future ahead of him. Stage 4 cancer hit him and his family like a ton of bricks - and the situation became dire.

Thomas was diagnosed with GIST (a gastrointestinal stromal tumor), which is a very uncommon type of gastrointestinal cancer. As you can imagine, treating an uncommon cancer is extremely difficult and complicated. Unfortunately, healing from this type of cancer comes with an immense cost. As Thomas' mom put it, they... "hit a brick wall," as costs continued to pile up.

Thomas and his family needed hope. They needed love. They needed to know that there is a community that supports Thomas and his family and hasn't given up on his comeback. They needed help tearing down that brick wall.

118's network showed up. In just two weeks, 118 raised \$17,225.03 to support Thomas and his family.

GOALS + GROWTH



118's goal is to have church partners and donors in **every region of every state.**

This way, grant recipients can **identify a community nearby that supports them and is invested in their story.**

The 118 Foundation aims to award **100 grants by the year 2034**, meaning, on average, 118 will award three grants per quarter every year starting in 2024.

118's goal is to reach AYAs across the nation, not just in the D.C. area. In order to do so, we aim to continue to build connections with churches, cancer centers, and non-profits across the nation to reach AYAs.

2025 AREAS OF FOCUS



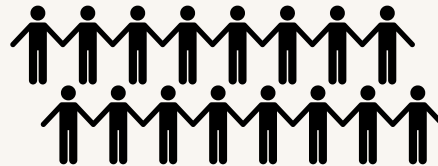
Church partnerships are a key segment of the vision for 118 Foundation. In 2025, 118's goal is to build **5 new church partnerships**.



The 118 Foundation Board has been overwhelmed by the generosity of our donors and partners and are confidently pursuing a fundraising goal of **\$100,000** in 2025.



118 has a goal of awarding 100 grants by to 2034. To stay on track with that goal, 118 aims to award at least **12 grants** in 2025.



When asked what else 118 can do to support AYAs, Restoration Grant recipients noted the need for community. In 2025, 118 Foundation plans to address this need through a group called **The Restoration Group**.

HOPE

Romans 5:3

When faced with a catastrophe as devastating as cancer, hope seems frivolous, but **it can carry a devastated heart to victory**. Apostle Paul's words in Romans 5:3 guide 118's stake in this principle, reminding us that **hope is strengthened through perseverance**.

HEALING

Luke 5:17-26

The effects of cancer far surpass physical ailments: Cancer attacks the mind and soul as well. Patients and survivors need a full spectrum of healing, and no one exemplifies this type of healing better than Jesus. In Luke 5:17-26, we see Jesus first forgive a man of his sins and then heal him from his sickness, proving the Lord is interested in healing more than just our physical bodies; He wants to mend our souls as well. This idea is central to 118 as this Foundation aims to help cancer patients and survivors find a **full spectrum of healing and recovery**.

HUMILITY

Matthew 22:36-40

One of the toughest parts of having cancer is losing independence. It's not easy asking for help—especially when it comes to small, everyday tasks. But there is strength in admitting you need assistance, and **118 celebrates those who search for support**. In Matthew 22, Jesus reveals the greatest commandment is to love God and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself. **Humanity was created to support and love each other deeply**, but it can take great humility to accept the need for love and community.

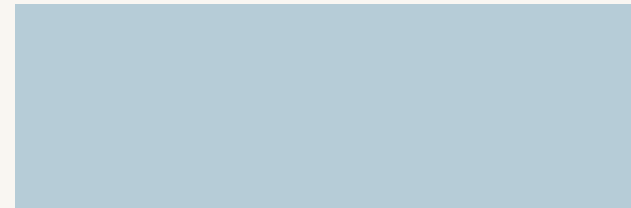


Jon's Fund

Jon's Fund is named after Mr. Jon Randles, a gifted and revered pastor and evangelist whose impact on the Christian faith can be felt across the nation—especially at his son's church, Waterfront Church DC. His story of perseverance, passion, and strength continues to inspire generations of people, and in his spirit of his dedicated service, the central value of this fund is to provide assistance that impacts generations.

118 will provide financial assistance grants through this fund, and it will grow to be largely supported through church partnerships. Because of this, recipients will have a direct link to a community of faith that supports them.

Fiscal Year 2025 budget: \$10,000



NOTE: FY25 runs from August 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025.

The Knight Fund

This fund is named after Brandon Knight, who cared for and walked closely beside Sadie as she faced cancer. He consistently provided her support however she needed it, and in the same nature, the money devoted to this fund will be used to ensure 118 can remain flexible and nimble to best serve the AYA community.

This fund is supported by traditional fundraising and crowdsource funding and is married to Jon's Fund to provide greater support to AYAs. The Knight Fund will cover operational costs, special projects, content development, and future expansion. As 118 is still in its infancy, this fund is carefully managed and invested in to ensure the Foundation has sufficient resources to continue to expand its reach.

Fiscal Year 2025 budget: \$21,000



NOTE: FY25 runs from August 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025.

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER

DONATE

Loving on young adults overcoming cancer requires serious financial investment, and each gift is carefully managed and nurtured to make the biggest impact. If you are interested in partnering financially with this Foundation, please know your investment will be taken with the utmost appreciation and dedication to our mission.

PRAY

118 has a strong foundation of faith and was built on a bedrock of prayer. As this Foundation continues to grow, please pray that God sends people, provision, and purpose. Pray AYAs find refuge through this Foundation and that it may point them toward the hope and healing they are searching for.

VOLUNTEER + CONNECT

We are all gifted with unique skills, insight, and community. Growing this Foundation will require a diversity of perspectives and expertise. If you are inspired by the purpose and vision of this Foundation, please consider contributing your gifts to 118.

Thank you!

Launching a non-profit is not for the faint of heart, and running one takes many hands. The 118 Foundation Board would like to thank each and every person who supported our launch and helped us accomplish our mission this year, with extra special thanks to David and Selby Tennent, Ashley and Matt Smith, Jordan and Andrew Healey, the McLerran Family, Rebecca Hollis, the R. McConnell Foundation, and our corporate sponsors represented below. We couldn't accomplish our mission without you. Thank you for your partnership and for loving on those who are too dang young to have cancer.

The 118 Foundation Board,

Sadie. Brandon. Autumn. Elissa. Kyle. and Erica





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118foundation.org