

# SWIM

## ACROSS AMERICA

★ MAKING WAVES TO FIGHT CANCER ★

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2025



# OUR VALUES

## INSPIRATION IN ACTION

Our charity swims are celebrations of courage and community. Participants receive recognition, meaningful swag, and the knowledge that their efforts are funding real breakthroughs in cancer care.



## WELCOMING

Whether you are taking your first stroke or are an Olympic champion, everyone can Make Waves to Fight Cancer. We welcome volunteers, donors, and partners of all backgrounds.



## PERSONAL CONNECTION

Participants honor loved ones — parents, children, friends — with powerful and heartfelt messages that remind us why we Make Waves to Fight Cancer.



# OUR VALUES



## MONEY RAISED LOCAL, STAYS LOCAL.

Each of our chapters partner with an academic or community hospital to grant the proceeds directly. This inspires grassroots enthusiasm and builds community trust.

## SCREENING AND EDUCATION

Our community promotes the importance of screening which gives more options, better outcomes, and an improved quality of life.



# MAKING WAVES TO FIGHT CANCER ★

Dear Swim Across America Community,

We began with a simple yet bold belief, that a community united in purpose can turn hope into action by innovating new cancer treatments and improving quality of life. Because of you, that belief is becoming a reality.

Coast-to-coast and all year long, survivors, advocates, and partners raised critical funds that directly support innovative research, advance detection, and improved patient programs. Every dollar granted is action towards breakthroughs and support for families navigating the unimaginable. We are unique that the funds raised in each community stay local, strengthening relationships with academic and community partners, and ensuring donors know the impact of their generosity.

We celebrate progress because families continue to hear the words, “You have cancer” and deserve to hear, “There is Hope.”

We are committed to sharing our impact and inspiring generations to Make Waves to Fight Cancer with Swim Across America.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Rob Butcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Butcher  
*Chief Executive Officer, Swim Across America*

# OUR HISTORY

On Aug. 1, 1987, college lacrosse players and Olympians from the 1984 L.A. Games united for a first-of-its-kind charity swim—a grueling 17-mile relay across Long Island Sound.

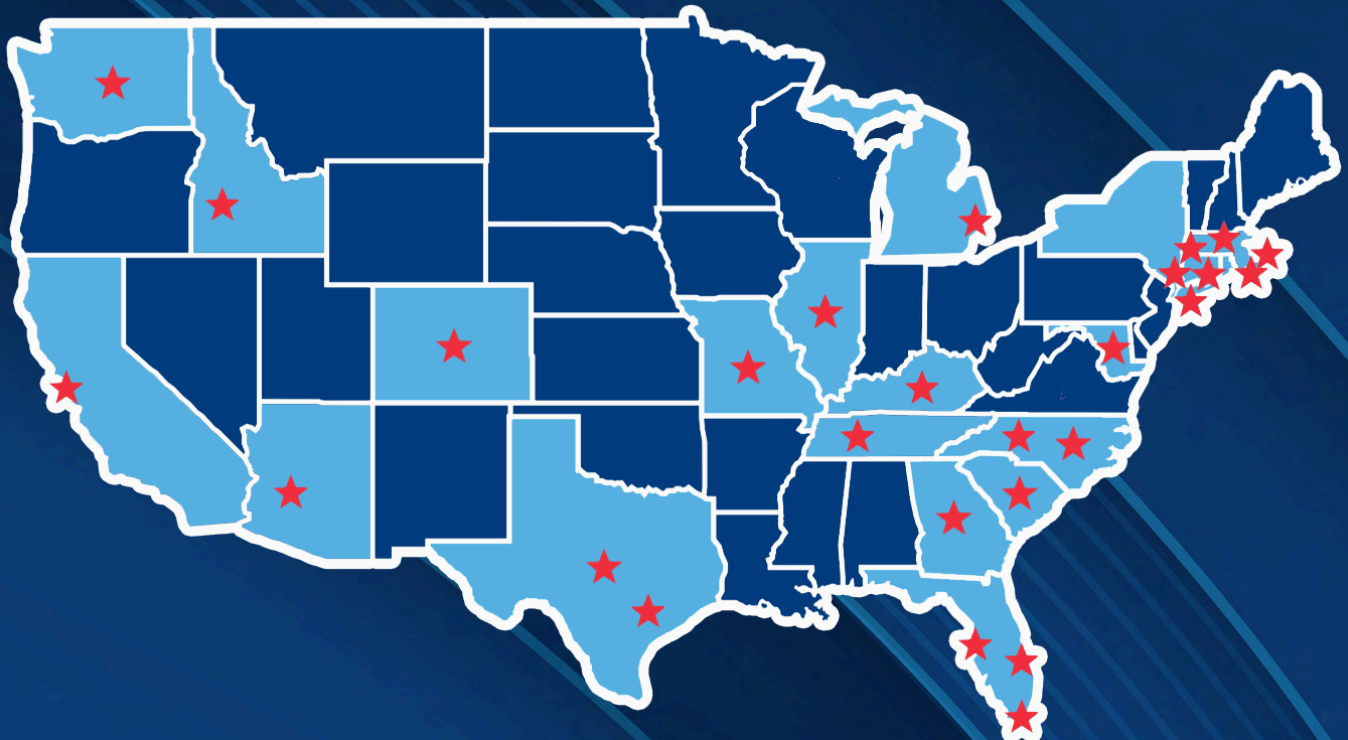
Battling tough conditions and choppy waters, they pushed through exhaustion and doubt. The swim wasn't easy, and neither is fighting cancer.

What began as a bold challenge has evolved into something far greater. Four decades later, Swim Across America has become a credible leader funding breakthrough cancer research and life-saving patient programs coast to coast.



# COAST TO COAST

From the beaches of Florida to the coastlines of San Francisco and Seattle, we unite communities. Our national footprint spans 27 chapters and more than 70,000 supporters Making Waves to Fight Cancer.



# OUR IMPACT

2025

**\$10M+**  
GRANTED

**60+**  
GRANTS

**70,000**  
DONORS &  
PARTICIPANTS

**94**  
OPEN WATER &  
POOL SWIMS

**45**

COLLEGES  
REPRESENTED  
IN THE SAA  
COLLEGE CUP

**860**

TEAMS AT  
COMMUNITY  
EVENTS

**1840**

WAVEMAKERS  
WHO RAISED  
\$1,000+

SINCE 1987

**\$150M**  
RAISED

**100%**

OF GRANTS AWARDED BY SWIM ACROSS  
AMERICA ARE APPLIED TO RESEARCH  
OR PATIENT PROGRAMS

**3x**

OUR BENEFICIARIES HAVE REPORTED  
THAT THEY TURN \$1 IN GRANT MONEY  
INTO \$3 OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING

**9**

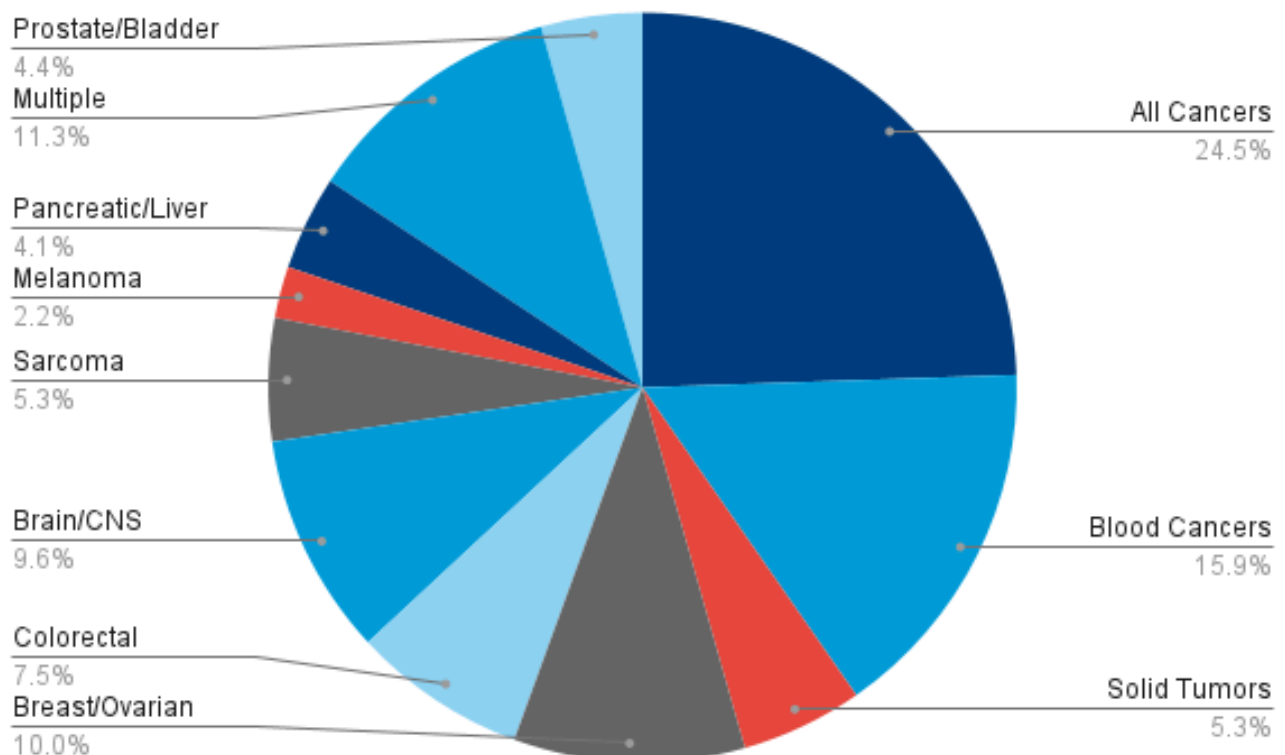
SAA-NAMED  
LABS

# OUR GRANT MODEL

“Money raised local, stays local” is a grant model that promotes community pride. Each of our chapters has a beneficiary(ies) within the community where donations are granted.

We lean on the experience and knowledge of our beneficiaries to vet, recommend, and award projects for Swim Across America grant funding. Our grants support doctors, researchers, and projects that have the potential for a breakthrough and potential for follow on funding.

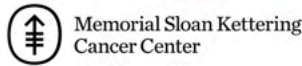
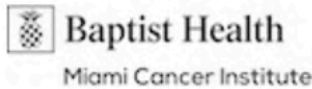
## RESEARCH WE FUND



# GRANT AWARDEES



Affac.  
Cancer & Blood  
Disorders Center



# SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our Scientific Advisory Council identifies and recommends awarding of grants to research that can innovate treatment, advance detection, and improve survivorship and overall quality of life.



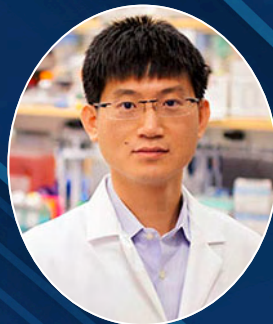
EVAN VOSBURGH, MD  
Yale School of Medicine  
Board Beneficiary Chair



MANMEET  
AHLUWALIA, MD  
Baptist Health  
Miami Cancer Institute



AMINA AHMED, MD  
RUSH MD Anderson  
Cancer Center



SIDI CHEN, PhD  
Yale University,  
ACGT-SAA Fellow



JOHN DE GROOT, MD  
UCSF Helen Diller Family  
Comprehensive  
Cancer Center



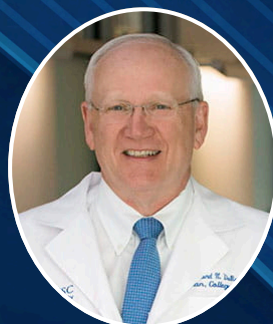
PAYTON  
DE LA CRUZ, PhD  
Women and Infants  
Hospital of Rhode Island



LUIS DIAZ JR., MD  
Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center



PAUL DiSILVESTRO, MD  
Women and Infants  
Hospital of Rhode Island



RAYMOND  
DuBOIS, MD, PhD  
MUSC Hollings  
Cancer Center



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EBERLEIN, MD  
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Cancer Center



ERIC FEARON, MD, PhD  
University of Michigan  
Rogel Cancer Center

*All Scientific Advisory Council members contribute their time and expertise on a pro bono basis with no conflict of interest between their professional work and the volunteer work they do for Swim Across America.*



ROBERT  
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UNC Lineberger  
Comprehensive  
Cancer Center



LUCIO GORDAN, MD  
Florida Cancer  
Specialists & Research  
Institute



LIA GORE, MD  
Children's Hospital  
Colorado



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MD Anderson  
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DOUGLAS  
GRAHAM, MD, PhD  
Children's Healthcare  
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MICHAEL  
GRUNWALD, MD  
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Levine Cancer



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Center



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MD Anderson  
Cancer Center



ALEJANDRO SWEET-  
CORDERO, MD  
CSF Helen Diller Family  
Comprehensive  
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Cold Spring Harbor  
Laboratory



HOWARD  
WEINSTEIN, MD  
Massachusetts  
General Hospital



JEDD  
WOLCHOK, MD, PhD  
The Sandra and Edward  
Meyer Cancer Center at  
Weill Cornell Medicine

# MESSAGES OF HOPE



## **DR. LUIS DIAZ, JR**

Head of the Division of Solid Tumor Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

“We are doing research that people can feel. There are babies being born into families who were told they would not be able to carry children. Immunotherapy treatments have allowed us to change the way patients are treated and avoid life-altering effects.”

## **NANCY CARR**

Cancer survivor,  
Swim Across America - Fairfield County Event Director

“You are funding the science that turns ideas into therapies. You are supporting families that are walking through the hardest moments of their lives. And sometimes, we are living proof of the progress we’ve been working to create.”



## **GARRETT RYMER**

Cancer survivor,  
Swim Across America - Denver Patient Ambassador



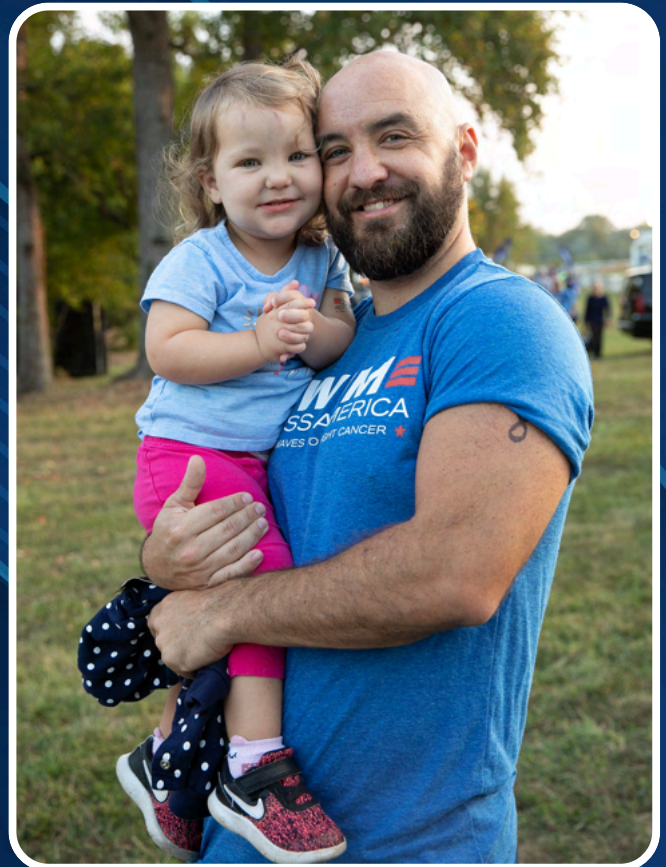
“I am acutely aware that the care and treatment I received at Children’s Colorado is a direct result of the thousands of Swim Across America supporters. I am blessed and grateful to live my life relatively unhindered by my treatment.”

# MAJOR GIFTS

Swim Across America's major gifts program is directed through the Cancer Innovation Fund (CIF). A major gift enables qualified donors to direct grants to the cancer research areas that matter most to them.

Qualified donors who contribute may make a major gift either as a lump sum or through a pledge agreement. Donations can be made via cash, appreciated stock, donor-advised funds, annuities, or a combination of these. CIF donations to Swim Across America are fully tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.

Swim Across America has grant agreements with our partners ensuring grants are accountable with reporting.



# HOPE IN ACTION



# HOPE IN ACTION





# OUR TEAM

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Pathobiologist, Brown University

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Goldman Sachs

**ASHLEY GANGLOFF**  
Co-Founder of Bloom Collective

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