

INCREASING SURVIVORS

ANNUAL
REPORT

2023

SARCOMA
SURVIVOR

DEAR FRIENDS

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Reflecting on this year, I am filled with gratitude for your continued generosity and commitment to bringing us closer to our vision of a world where no one dies from sarcoma. 23 years ago, Mark, Patricia, and Jack founded SFA on the idea that the sarcoma landscape needed to change. Because of your support, since that time SFA has grown to be the first line resource for all things sarcoma. SFA is now the principal organization representing sarcoma patients' voice on Capitol Hill, the most comprehensive patient advocacy organization representing all sarcoma patients, and the leading private funder of research in the sarcoma community. You have played a critical role in SFA's growth.

Since 2000, SFA has invested more than \$20 million in sarcoma research and provided funding to over 50 institutions in 12 countries. In 2023, through our renowned grant program, we received 42 proposals from 38 organizations in nine countries. The generous support we received has allowed us to commit funding to two Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) grants with partner institutions this year. Because of you, we were able to fund our inaugural Last Mile Sarcoma Research Award in the amount of \$150,000. This grant program not only enables researchers to obtain the additional data needed to obtain larger government funding, but it also aligns with the mission of our Race to Cure Sarcoma (RTCS) event series.

This year, our RTCS events brought together thousands of passionate supporters across the country, all standing with those affected by a sarcoma diagnosis. These races have become a powerful platform for the sarcoma community, creating connections and reminding everyone that they are not alone in their journey. Together, we raised over \$1 million—an incredible testament to our collective strength and determination! A portion of these funds support sarcoma centers nationwide and globally, ensuring that patients receive the care and hope they deserve. We are grateful and proud that these events continue to grow year after year and shine a light on those impacted by sarcoma.

Because of SFA's work these past 3 years, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution designating July Sarcoma Awareness Month. This year, SFA launched the Sarcoma Awareness Month (SAM) Toolkit, which included SAM-specific social media graphics, messaging, and profile frames to amplify awareness and spotlight sarcoma patients' unique challenges and the urgency for new therapies. From Wear Yellow Day to the National Race to Cure Sarcoma event, SFA ensured collective voice and involvement to move our cause forward.

We often hear stories about delayed diagnoses, limited or no treatment options, lack of advancements, and lack of awareness in the sarcoma community. But we also hear stories of perseverance, courage, and putting greater advancements for sarcoma patients above all else. Because of your generosity and support, we continue to build a strong and connected sarcoma community. You helped make it possible, and we are profoundly grateful! Together, we are building on 23 years of progress to further support patients, survivors, and families.

We hope you will continue supporting and educating sarcoma patients, funding innovative research, and advocating for an improved sarcoma landscape. Now, more than ever, our collective voice is needed to advance more and better treatment options that lead to a cure for sarcoma.

Thank you for investing in the people diagnosed and living with sarcoma.

Sincerely,



BRANDI FELSER
Chief Executive Officer

MISSION STATEMENT

SFA’s mission is to improve outcomes for people diagnosed with sarcoma to increase the number of survivors. We do this by funding and advancing research, educating and providing resources for people diagnosed with sarcoma, advocating on behalf of the sarcoma community, bringing together the collective sarcoma voice, and growing awareness about the disease.

As the largest and most visible sarcoma organization, SFA leads the sarcoma community and is the first line resource for all things sarcoma.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Thornton, MD, MPH, PhD
President

John Brooks, MD
Vice President of Scientific and Government Affairs

Patricia Thornton
Treasurer

Jennifer Goodwin, MBA
Secretary

Chris Connery

Justin Green

Michael Lewis

Bruce I. March

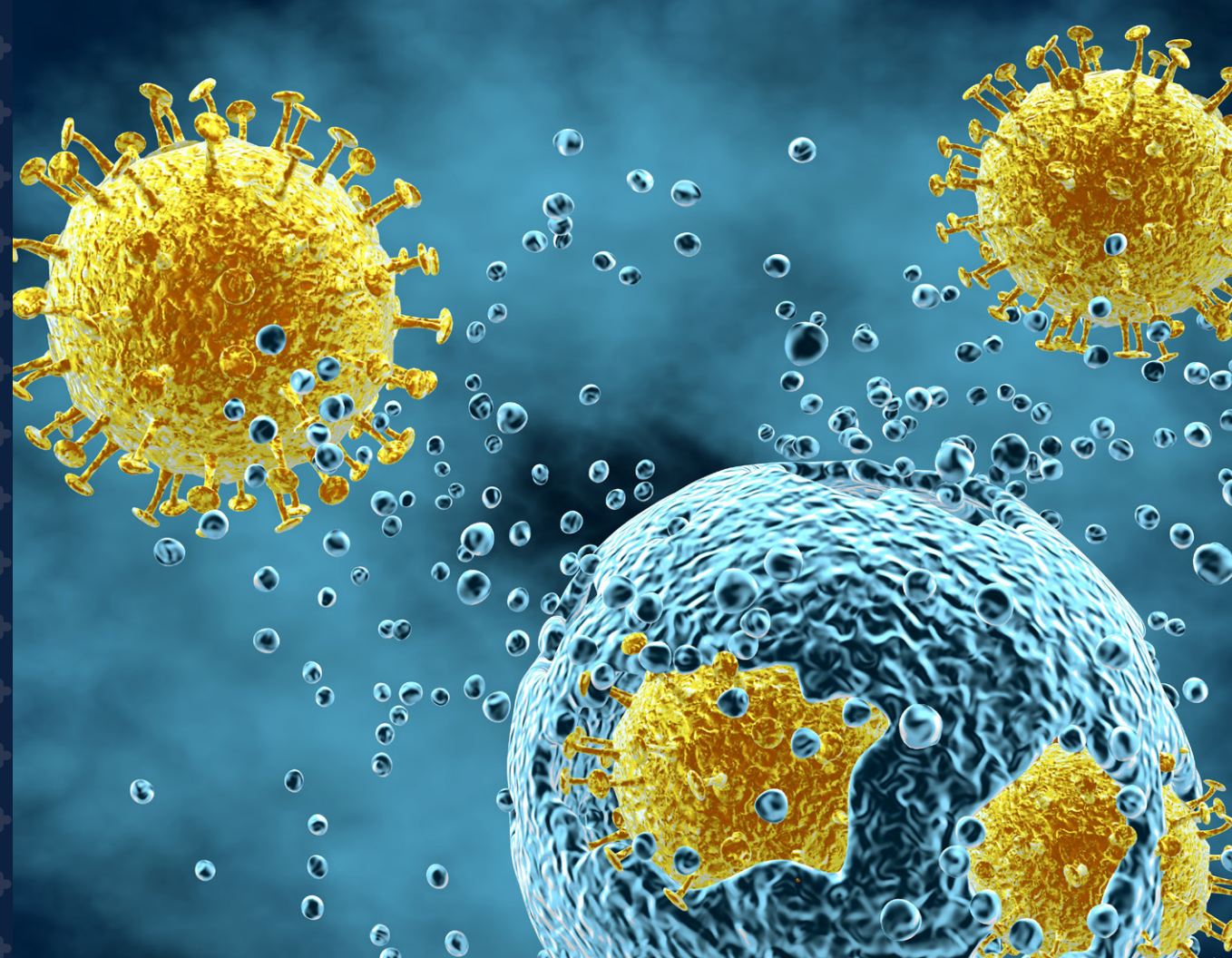
Jennifer Nellany

RESEARCH

The path to a cure is research, and research is the heart of SFA. SFA funds pre-clinical, translational, and clinical research. SFA's research program has contributed to understanding and progress in every category of the process involved with developing a new sarcoma treatment. Our research grants have not only helped to fund specific scientific projects but have also helped to encourage the next generation of sarcoma researchers.

SFA launched our Last Mile Grant as part of our strategic plan to increase research funding. This grant award provides \$150,000 to help strengthen the future proposal for a National Cancer Institute (NCI) R01 grant, ultimately, bringing the research over the "last mile" to qualify for future funding. Our first Last Mile Grant went to Inga-Marie Schaefer, MD, for her project titled "Identification of Therapeutic Strategies to Restore Cell Cycle Control in GIST."

This year, SFA's annual Research Grant Award Program awarded twelve \$50,000 grants to researchers across the country to discover and improve therapies for sarcoma. SFA also hosted meetings at international conferences at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the Connective Tissue Oncology Society (CTOS), and the European Society for Medical Oncology.



ENGAGEMENT, ADVOCACY, AND EDUCATION

ENGAGEMENT

SFA's Sarcoma Awareness Month campaign drove engagement and awareness in July. On our first "Light Up for Sarcoma" day, monuments, buildings, and other locations from across the country lit up yellow, the signature color of sarcoma awareness. Also in July, SFA hosted our annual "Wear Yellow Wednesday," shared yard signs for the month, and held our first National RTCS in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Senate passed a resolution declaring July Sarcoma Awareness Month. RTCS events appeared on local media in Washington D.C., Louisville, and other locations, and a feature story about our Sarcoma Awareness Month activities appeared in Healthy Kansas City magazine.

ADVOCACY

SFA began planning for a 2024 Sarcoma Advocacy Day to bring together sarcoma advocates to educate members of Congress about the challenges facing the sarcoma community. SFA organized a committee, selected a date and began planning, and purchased appointment software to coordinate meetings with sarcoma advocates and offices in Congress.



EDUCATION

This year, SFA hosted two hour-long education sessions, the first discussing clinical trials in sarcoma, and the second featuring sarcoma survivors and care partner stories.

SFA funded an education session at the Strategic Advances in Sarcoma Science (SASS) meeting hosted at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to encourage interest in sarcoma among early clinician scientists. SFA also funded a conference at the Fred Hutch Cancer Center to provide education and outreach to the sarcoma community.

As a leader in the sarcoma space, SFA spearheaded the U.S. Sarcoma Patient Advocate Partnership, a strategic partnership to bring together sarcoma organizations to collaborate on projects with common goals. Initial meetings with sarcoma subtype groups were held in 2023, and the partnership launched in 2024.

SFA hosted a dinner at the annual Connective Tissue Oncology Society (CTOS) meeting in Dublin to bring all the groups together.

SFA initiated a partnership with the Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC) to create a web portal providing community oncologists with better treatment options for patients. This portal, launching in 2024, includes education, information about sarcoma specialists and centers, and patient resources. SFA developed the framework for a partnership and began discussing with ACCC how we can proceed and leverage their network to reach providers.

SFA began work on a sarcoma community survey, piloting a survey with Boehringer Ingelheim focusing on liposarcoma. SFA plans to expand that survey to include all subtypes. The result will be an IRB-approved study and eventual publication to inform the sarcoma community about challenges patients face and barriers to participation in clinical trials.

SFA also started a discussion guide to help patients, caregivers, and providers navigate a sarcoma diagnosis. Drafted with input from both patients and physicians, this Sarcoma Diagnosis Question Guide will center the patient voice and encourage shared decision making.



EVENTS

RACE TO CURE SARCOMA

Race to Cure Sarcoma (RTCS) is the premier run/walk series in the United States focused on raising awareness, providing education, and research funds for sarcoma. RTCS provides a unique space in the sarcoma community where patients, survivors, their friends, and loved ones can come together to celebrate and honor those impacted by sarcoma. In 2023, SFA held 20 RTCS events across the country, raising nearly \$1,560,000 to fund sarcoma research. New locations this year included Seattle, Washington D.C., Los Angeles (in-person), and New York City. Our 2023 RTCS events saw large increases in participation and donations, with 7,655 people in attendance.

MARATHONS

In addition to hosting the Race to Cure Sarcoma series, SFA fielded a team for the Marine Corps Marathon in 2023 as a charity partner. Comprised of 19 individuals from across the country, our Marine Corps Marathon team raised nearly \$38,000.

STAND UP TO SARCOMA GALA

SFA's Stand Up to Sarcoma Gala packed the ballroom of Capitale in New York City in September. The 21st annual gala featured entertainment, an auction, and recognition program. More importantly, the event raised over \$538,000 benefiting our 2024 research and patient education programs.



The Amira Yunis Courage Award was presented to sarcoma survivor Katie Wintergerst of Louisville, KY. Jackie Hunt-Broersma of Gilbert, Arizona was presented the Courage Award. David Loeb, MD, PhD, of Children's Hospital of Montefiore received the Nobility in Science Award. The Compassionate Care Award was given to Fox Chase Cancer Centers Anjali Albanese, MSW, LSW, OSW. Jordan's Dream Fund accepted the Vision of Hope Award. SFA Founders Mark Thornton, MD, MPH, PhD, Patricia Thornton and John Brooks, MD accepted the Sarcoma Legacy Award.

Patients and Families Supporting Sarcoma Research SFA is deeply grateful for the many individuals, families, and survivors in the sarcoma community across the country who raise funds through golf tournaments, birthday celebrations, online gaming, music festivals and other initiatives. These individuals generously contribute their time and talent to help us advance our mission. Their efforts enable us to fund innovative research, educate patients, survivors, and their families, and raise awareness about the critical needs of the sarcoma community.



FINANCIALS

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	2,265,812
Contributions Receivable		190,921
Investments		8,331,569
Prepaid Expenses		143,442
Fixed Assets, Net		53,446
Operating Right-of-Use Asset		155,504
Other Assets		13,116
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 11,153,810

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$	253,251
Operating Lease Liability		190,798
Grants payable		204,248
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ 648,297

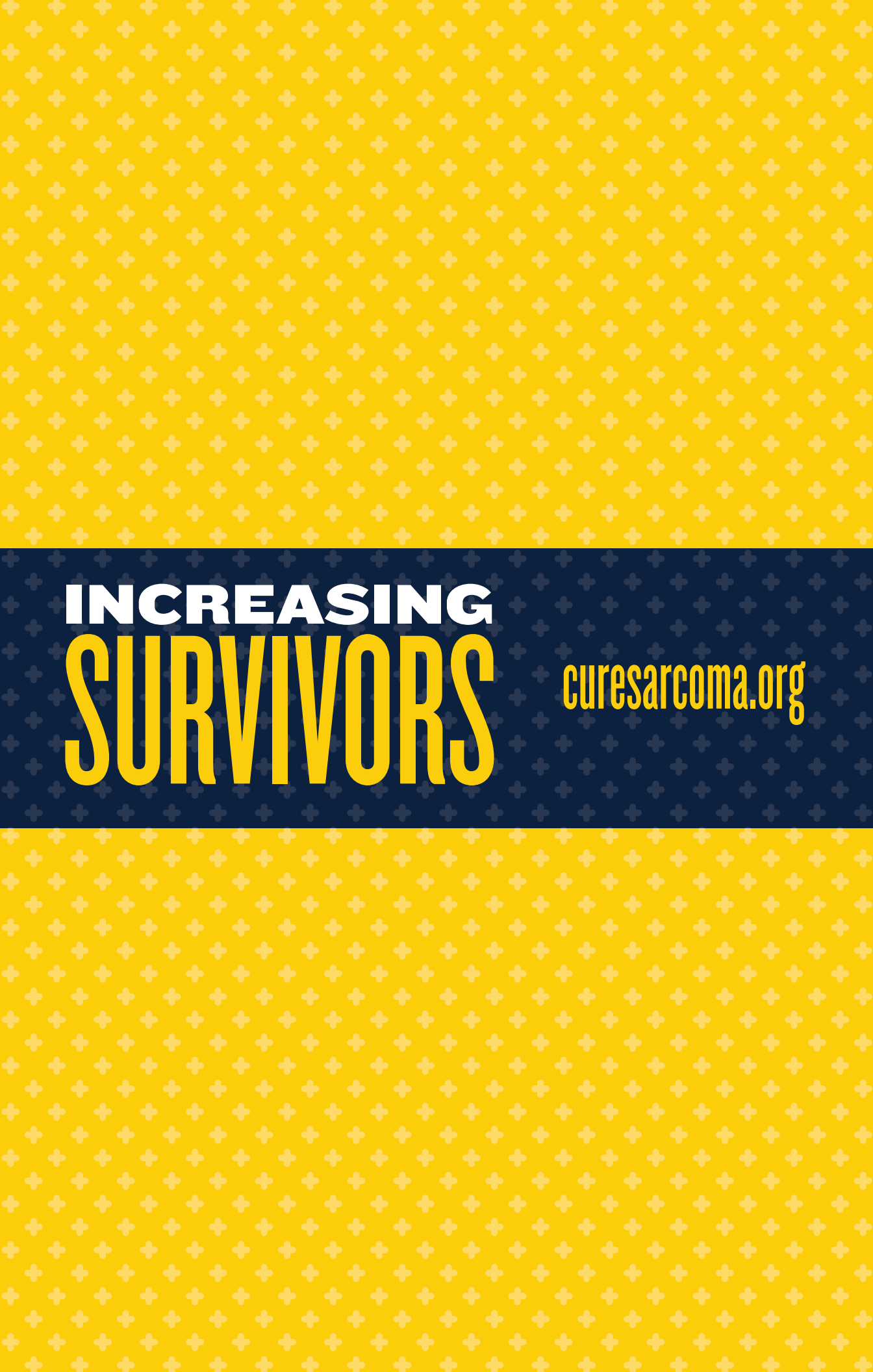
NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions		8,554,729
With Donor Restrictions		
Purpose Restricted		1,673,906
Endowment		276,878
TOTAL NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS		1,950,784
TOTAL NET ASSETS		10,505,513
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		\$ 11,153,810

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

PROGRAM	\$	2,415,446	(70.2%)
MGMT AND GENERAL		506,590	(14.7%)
FUNDRAISING		519,933	(15.1%)
TOTAL		\$ 3,441,969	

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
REVENUES			
Contributions	\$ 1,805,909	\$ 140,000	\$ 1,945,909
Donated Services	61,060		61,060
Special Events	2,047,835	75,000	2,122,835
Less Costs of Direct Benefits to Donors	(378,834)		(378,834)
Other Income	20,184		20,184
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	183,500	(183,500)	
TOTAL REVENUE		3,739,654	3,771,154
EXPENSES			
Program Services	2,415,446		2,415,446
Management and General	506,590		506,590
Fundraising	519,933		519,933
TOTAL EXPENSES		3,441,969	3,441,969
Change in Net Assets from Operations	297,685	31,500	329,185
Nonoperating Activities			
Net Investment Income	887,233	22,669	909,902
Change in Net Assets	1,184,918	54,169	1,239,087
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	7,369,811	1,896,615	9,266,426
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR		\$ 8,554,729	\$ 10,505,513



INCREASING **SURVIVORS**

curesarcoma.org