

13THIRTY CANCER CONNECT

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Our mission is to help teens and young adults diagnosed with cancer meet their unique challenges through a coordinated, continuum of essential resources and public advocacy efforts.

Why 13thirty?

Each year, nearly **90,000** AYAs are diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. At 13thirty Cancer Connect, confidence is renewed, old strengths reframed, and hope restored with others who understand in a way no one else can.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR KEY RESULT AREAS

<b>ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT</b> <i>How well our services meet the needs of AYAs locally and globally</i>	Staying ahead ever since we established the first teen cancer website in 2002!	The <b>AYA NEEDS Study</b> , a collaboration between 13thirty and the Wilmot Cancer Institute, is underway. Funded in part by 13thirty's <i>Louis D'Amanda III Early-Stage Investigator Award</i> , this study will help identify the unmet needs of AYAs in Rochester.	We hosted our 2nd annual Young Adult Cancer Retreat with Camp Good Days and Roswell Park's YA Program. 44 Upstate NY AYAs created new connections from this restorative, age-appropriate experience.
<b>OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS</b> <i>How well our internal operations &amp; human resources support our mission</i>	Building team capacity through professional development and collaborations!	Our Executive Director completed the Leadership Rochester Program, a nine-month program designed to broaden professional networks, share collective knowledge, and facilitate positive change within the Rochester region.	In conjunction with a researcher at Upstate Medical Center, we have begun a rigorous program evaluation process to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our members and implementing best practices.
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY</b> <i>Our ability to continue operating with sound business practice</i>	Remaining good stewards of your trust and gifts!	We are grateful to NYS Senator Jeremy Cooney for appropriating a \$10,000 grant to jumpstart our upcoming three-year initiative to develop a centralized supportive care network that is easily accessible for AYAs.	This multi-year project will include an accredited, educational curriculum for healthcare providers and multi-disciplinary practitioners from whom young people with cancer require specialized supportive care.

► PEER PROGRAMS

149

PROGRAM HOURS

78

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

118

UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS

We offer **free peer support programs** to our members and caregivers with focus on expressive arts, physical/emotional wellness, and social interaction.

STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michaela Deeg, Community Engagement Manager  
Steve Esposito, Associate Director  
Katelyn MacDougall, MSW, LCSW, Program Director  
Clare McKenna, Program Manager  
Caroline Miller, Events & Marketing Manager  
Lauren Spiker, Founder & Executive Director

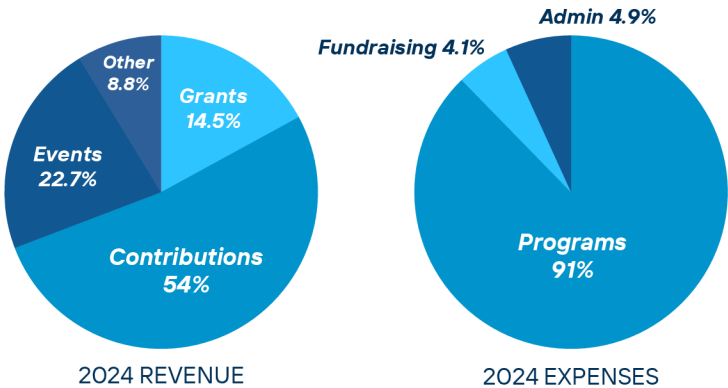


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Lauren Spiker

► FINANCIAL SUMMARY



SOCIAL MEDIA AT A GLANCE



"I'm so thankful I've had 13thirty throughout my whole cancer experience. I'm not sure what I would have done without this community, the support, programs, and other people my age who understand. The friendships I've made are so important to me. Things would have been very different if I didn't have this place to process my experience." -Kelly, 31 (breast cancer)

# PIONEERING AYA RESOURCES & INITIATIVES IN 2024

## OUR IMPACT



### DIRECT SUPPORT

*To provide essential resources that enhance health-related quality of life for AYAs*

- Peer Programs
- Community Awareness
- Resources
- 1:1 Support



### SERVICE DELIVERY

*To improve medical and educational services for AYAs*

- Multi-Sector AYA Cancer-Trained Provider Network
- Clinician/Educator Workshops



### ADVOCACY

*To influence appropriation of resources to meet the diverse needs of AYAs*

- Legislative Policy/Funding
- Health Care Equity



### AYA RESEARCH

*To support and participate in research relevant to AYAs with cancer*

- Louis D'Amanda III Young Investigator Award
- Collaboration with Hospital and Research Partners



## Reaching New Heights, Together!

September 28, 2024 • Syracuse University



In collaboration with the Syracuse University Outdoor Education Center, 13thirty Rochester and Syracuse members conquered the obstacles of the Challenge Course - together!

Members were divided into teams of five. With nervous excitement, they geared up in harnesses and helmets. Each team was tasked with a different challenge that started with a steep 15-foot net climb.

The only way to progress through the obstacles successfully was with teamwork - along with encouraging words, helping hands, and trust.

For most, this was their first ropes course experience, and because they had each other to lean on, fear didn't hold them back. The day ended with a dual zip-line and time to reflect on their newfound confidence and pride in themselves and their friends.

## Celebrating 5 Years in Central New York!

October 19, 2024 • Redhouse Arts Center



From day one in 2019 all the way to our five-year celebration, our mission has been to create a safe and supportive space for adolescents and young adults with cancer in Syracuse, New York.

Since opening our doors, we have provided support to over 50 AYAs and their families, formed the CNY Cancer Alliance (a hub for local cancer resources), and hosted a variety of community events.

To celebrate this milestone, we brought our successful stand-up comedy show, "Sometimes, You Just Gotta Laugh!"™ to the Redhouse Arts Center. Nine Syracuse and Rochester AYAs had over 100 people laughing in the face of cancer. We raised more than \$5,000 to sustain our expanded reach in Central New York.

Helping teens and young adults with cancer live their very best lives - TODAY!

