



ANNUAL REPORT

WORKING STRATEGICALLY FOR FUNCTIONAL
RECOVERY AFTER SPINAL CORD INJURY.

Voice of the Cure

20
25



MISSION, VISION, VALUES

These are the principles
we keep **at the center**
of all the work we do.



Mission

We will unite and empower the international spinal cord injury community to cure paralysis through advocacy, education, and support for research.

Vision

Every person has equal access to treatments that will restore health and independence after spinal cord injury.

Values

Integrity. We hold ourselves to the highest standard of honesty and transparency in all of our actions.

Creativity. We are open-minded and imaginative in the pursuit of our mission.

Education. We believe shared knowledge is the key to accelerating progress toward cures.

Community. We serve everyone who shares our mission.

Persistence. We are focused and energetic in the face of obstacles and disappointments.

Empowerment. We lead our community on a path toward responsible self-determination.

All Hands On Deck.

SAVING SCIRP

At the beginning of 2025, U2FP's Cure Advocacy Network launched our national legislative campaign to restore and expand SCI research funding. Then in March, the federal government defunded the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP) by eliminating its \$40M annual budget. But U2FP spearheaded a unified response with other SCI organizations to fight back and demand SCIRP be restored - and we ultimately succeeded!

Actions

- U2FP set up bi-weekly calls and organized a unified consortium of prominent SCI orgs within days of SCIRP's elimination
- Made three trips to Washington, D.C. in 2025 to meet with legislators and strategize with collaborators
- U2FP staff contacted nearly 40 legislative offices (often repeatedly) asking them to restore SCIRP
- Hundreds of calls and emails logged by U2FP & Consortium advocates on behalf of SCIRP
- Hosted two special events to fund this work: 1st Annual Gala & Silent Auction and the Rock to Restore Research Concert
- Incorporated SCIRP talking points into our Roll on the Capital in February 2026



Results

- SCIRP was restored to \$33,000,000 on February 3, 2026!
- And (for the first time) spinal cord injury as a condition was newly added for consideration to the Peer Review Medical Research Program (PRMRP)

Download our SCIRP Legislative One-Sheet and ask your congressional representative to EXPAND SCIRP.



CURE **ADVOCACY** NETWORK

Cuts by the federal government at the beginning of 2025 quickly trickled down to impact state budgets, which brought a series of attacks on CAN's existing legislative funding programs.

Our advocates in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Minnesota responded immediately, while our Wisconsin advocates continued to press for a new \$5M SCI Research grant bill there.

Scan here to read Matthew Rodreck's piece, "A Save in Minnesota," on how our Minnesota advocates successfully preserved their SCI Research Grant program.



200 Advocates participated in direct state advocacy in Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania



475 hours spent on direct state advocacy



82 meetings with state legislators



Hundreds of you called and emailed legislators on our behalf - thank you!



\$45M+ Research funding allocated through end of 2025

Highlights

- Successfully preserved \$5M against proposed cuts to our Minnesota program
- Fought back against cuts made to our Ohio program
- Preserved our Pennsylvania program against an ill-conceived re-structuring
- Continued gaining traction and support for our \$5M SCI bill in Wisconsin
- Five opponents of our Wisconsin bill announced their retirements (!)
- November elections in Wisconsin appear to be in our favor, increasing our chances of passing there!



The podcast feeding the movement **to cure paralysis.**

CURECAST PODCAST



U2FP's CureCast continues to grow its subscriber base and is required listening among several of the top SCI graduate research programs in the country.

Our unique podcast has empowered over a hundred thousand individuals across the SCI community while featuring many of the leading scientists, researchers and advocates as we highlight cutting-edge developments in SCI research.



Over 22,000 plays logged in 2025



Over 130,000 plays to date since CureCast first launched in 2016!

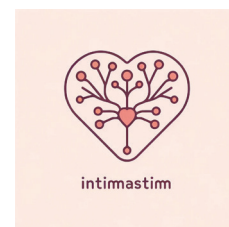


We were proud to have the following sponsors in 2025:

- **The Integra Foundation**
- **IntimaStim**



Consider becoming a sponsor of **U2FP's award-winning podcast**



Scan here to listen to one of our most popular episodes in 2025, **Wisdom from the Old Guard (Episode 128)**, where we interviewed research scientist, PLEX advocate and U2FP board member Sasha Rabchevsky about what living with and studying SCI has taught him.

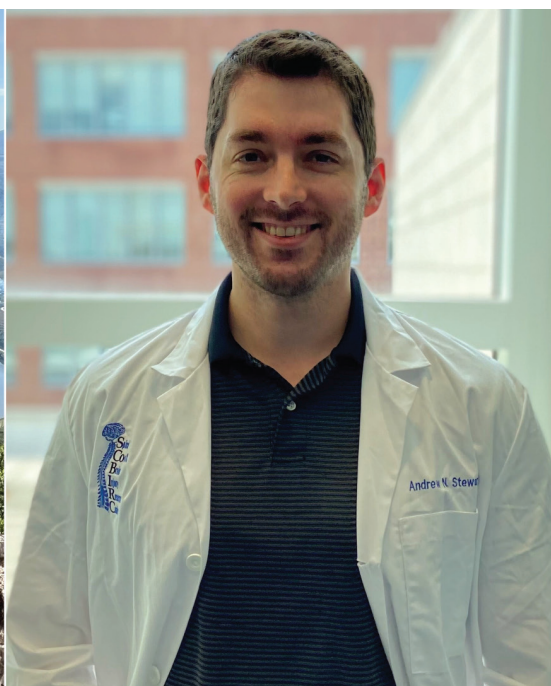
SCI CONSULTANTS: “LAB RATS”

For the past five years, U2FP has been placing individuals with a spinal cord injury into research labs as lived-experience consultants. A recent example is Bethany Sullivan (SCI/D) and Andrew Stewart (Researcher), who met at our Symposium this past February. Bethany had previously experienced a reduction in pain from a spinal

stimulator, which allowed her to return to work full time. Andrew told her about an upcoming study in his lab that hopes to address pain with a new stim strategy. Bethany offered to become an SCI Consultant for Andrew’s lab, which could mean faster, more efficient progress for both of them!



Bethany Sullivan (SCI/D)



Andrew Stewart (Researcher)



38 individuals with SCI have been placed as consultants



21 participating labs and/or research projects across the United States



Added 3 more labs and 6 new SCI Consultants so far in 2026!

Highlight

We have been able to expand our SCI Consultants program, thanks to a generous grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation!



Scan here to fill out our interest form and join our SCI Consultants program, either as a participating lab, or as an SCI consultant.

Race for recovery and help U2FP accelerate therapies for the SCI Community!

TEAM U2FP



Team U2FP participants bring funds and awareness to the SCI movement for cures in a very specific way: the money they raise primarily supports our Cure Advocacy Network (CAN), where we train and mobilize SCI advocates to pass state legislation that funds curative research. We do this because it is extremely difficult to get grant funding for legislative advocacy, since it's technically considered political lobbying. Team U2FP racers help fill this funding gap while running or wheeling in one of our premiere race events!

Scan here to email Lucia Webb
and request registration info to join
Team U2FP in our Twin Cities
Marathon or 10-Mile Races!



\$108,586 was raised by Team U2FP participants in 2025!



52 participants (42 runners & 12 wheelers) signed up for our races, challenging themselves physically while fundraising to advance the movement for curative therapies.



Race Events

- **Bank of America Chicago Marathon (30 participants, including 2 wheelers)**
- **Twin Cities Marathon & 10 Mile (21 participants, including 10 wheelers)**
- **Freestyle Challenge (1 participant: DIY event where participants create their own course and pace; our own Lucia Webb completed a winter swim event (brrr!))**

2025 IN PICTURES

Snapshots from some of U2FP's best moments last year.

Rock to Restore Research Concert



1st Annual Fundraising Gala & Silent Auction



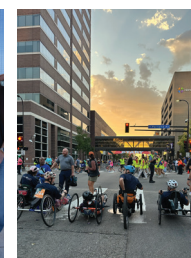
Logo Redesign by Matt Edwards



Cure Advocacy Network Wisconsin



Team U2FP



20 YEARS ANNUAL SCIENCE & ADVOCACY SYMPOSIUM



242 attendees from 4 countries, representing 41 unique companies or organizations.



60% of attendees from the SCI community (injured or family members)



43% were First Time Attendees!



\$32,141 in cumulative savings for event attendees via discounted registrations



Scan here to watch any presentation or panel discussion from U2FP's Annual Symposium in Washington, D.C., 2026.

Highlights

- Our Capital Roll day mobilized 113 advocates who participated in over 60 meetings with key legislators and attended our congressional briefing.
- Ben LeClair (C3 quad) was onsite making a documentary on SCI research, produced in partnership with Matt Edwards (C6 quad).
- Original program artwork by New York based artist Natalie de Segonzac (C5 quad).



**"My first Symposium was awesome!
If you're a person living with an SCI you must
get connected to U2FP and their Annual Symposium!"**

- Karen Brunn, Vice President of Research,
United Way (retired)/T3 Complete

ROLL ON THE CAPITOL



Highlights

- 113 advocates took part in our Capital Roll on Tuesday, February 17, 2026
- These individuals were able to take part in over 60 meetings with key legislators
- Held a congressional briefing that demonstrated the urgent need for better research funding

We planned our Roll on the Capital as a way to kick-off our Cure Advocacy Network's national campaign to restore and expand SCI research funding at the federal level.

It was also a call-back to our organization's roots 20 years earlier when the first U2FP symposium was held in Washington, D.C. The Roll was a huge success, creating lots of traction with legislators and a great sense of community among the over 100 individuals who participated.



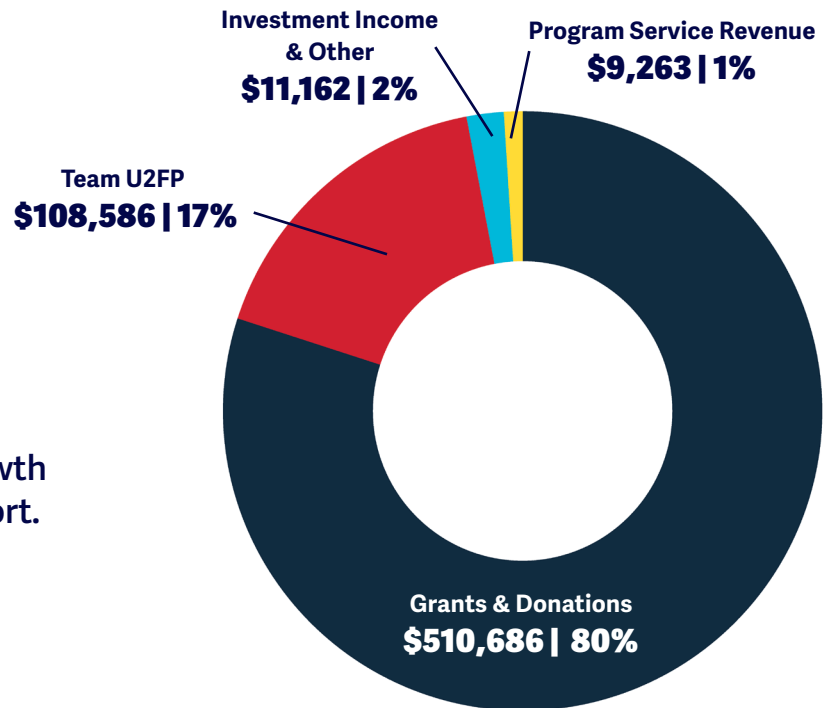
Keep pressing your congressional representatives to increase SCI research funding. Scan here to download our Keep On Rolling legislative packet!

2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

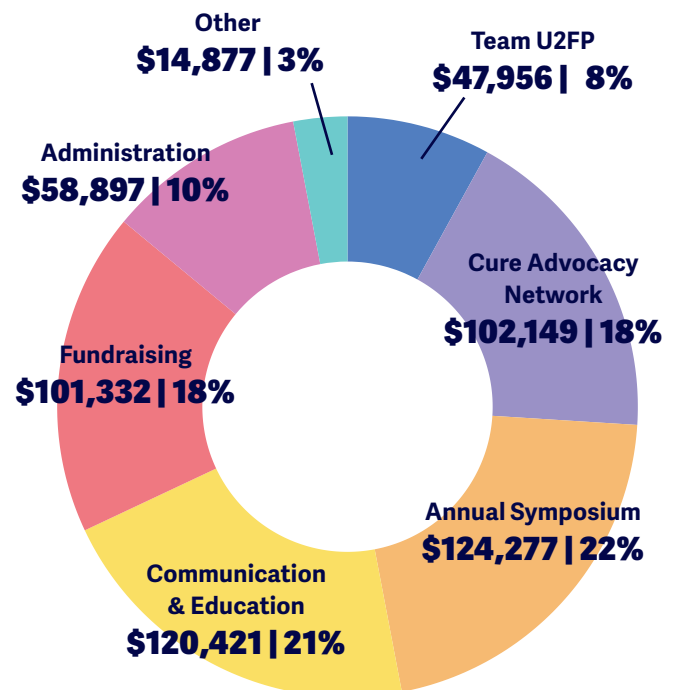
Another year of measured growth thanks to your generous support.

U2FP's Finance Manager, Kathy Christopherson, retired this past fall. Kathy has been pivotal in ushering us through a period of significant growth, despite the unprecedented challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and a volatile economy. We will miss her but wish her the best.

Our new Director of Finance is Dan Olthoff, a CPA with over 30 years of experience. Like Kathy, Dan brings both for-profit and non-profit experience to U2FP's financial department.



Revenue: \$639,697



Expenses: \$569,909

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Sustaining Supporters (\$2000+)

Jake Anderson
Kathryn Burns
Francis Clark
Mark Gormley
Todd Govig
James Hoeschler
Colin Ingersoll
David Mouritsen
Carol Suchy
Thomas Walker
Bob Yant

Monthly Donors

Crista Adamson
Cristian Arvinte
Chris Barr
Jeni Belt
Adam Bergman
Dillon Borowicz
Holly Bosse
Quinn Brett
Karen Brunn
Mike Burris
Blair Carter
Joyce Chalfin
Jennifer Cho
Kathy Christopherson
John Corcoran
Yvonne Deir
Xavier Descarrega
AJ Dewey
Elizabeth Dierdorf
David Dvorak
Brian J. Evans
Traci Fernandez
Noreen Fertig
Jennifer Fletty
Charles Foss
Lynn Gannon
John Gensel
Mark Gormley
Laura Grabowski
Peter Grahn
Susan Harkema
Scott Herting
Brian Higdon
John Houle
Ignacio A. Leal
Allie Leatherman
Jesse Liebman
Alexandra Link
Chris Lupo
Samuel Maddox
Kathryn Mahoney
Carol Marshall
Dan Marshall
Andrew McPherson
Christel Mitrovich
Paul Moore
Tori Moore
Robert Mulcahy
Kent New
Anthony Nguyen
Faith Noe

Vincent O Driscoll
Suzanne O'Neill
Tim O'Neill
Michele Perachi
Jared Potter
Randy Price
Ronald Reeves
Devin Riley
Ryan Romine
John Schaefer
Barb Schober
Yasir Shah
Alana Shaw
Luke Short
Benjamin Stear
Josh Stillahn
Edward Stitts
Maranda Summers
John & Cynthia Templeton
Julie Tickle
Ty Vuong
Brian Waldersen
Anthony Waters
Jill Wecht
Mildred Whiteside
Jane Wierbicky
Mark Willits

Individual Donors (\$250+)

Crista Adamson
Nicole Alverio
Emilio Amendola
Suzanne Anderson
Cristian Arvinte
Peter Baillon
Patricia Baker
Marco Baptista
Chris Barr
Linda Barry
Jeni Belt
Adam Bergman
Gurpartap Bhatti
Jason Biundo
Murray Blackmore
Mark Bogosian
John Bowman
Kittie Brandel
Robin Brandt
Stacy & Donn Branstrator
Thomas Braun
Chris Leeuw
Karen Bresnahan
Jan and Craig Brett
Karen Brunn
Mike Burris
Abby Carbonneau
Jason Carmel
Blair Carter
Joyce A. Chalfin
Kathy Christopherson
Geoffrey Clark
Patrick Connolly
Bill D'Amico
Daniel DeBlasio
Yvonne Deir

Elizabeth Dierdorf
Connor Dooley
Matthew Edwards
Dan Edwards
Cara Eickholt-Fixler
Paul Ekstrom
Chelsea Enea
Rafael Plata Escobar
Stella Evans
Alice Fangman
Noreen Fertig
Erica Fertig
Kevin Filter
Jennifer Fletty
Henry Forman
Joseph Foster
Lynn Gannon
Aurora Gardner
Jacob Gayle
John Gensel
Gustavo Gilchrist
Everett Glenn
Craig Goettig
Ron Gold
Andreas Gomoll
Marcia Gordon
Cody Greenhaw
Paul Gschwendner
Elнора Hagans
Noam Harel
Susan Harkema
Kelly Harris
Paul Harstad
Susan Hartzell
Phil Heine
Tracy Heine
Scott Herting
Jake Hirschberg
Karen Hirschberg
Tori Hoeschler
Jake Hoeschler
Amy Horrocks
John Houle
Alethea Hsu
Janet Johnson
Wade Johnston
Sean Juergens
Laurel Kayne
Geoff Kent
Ted Kim
Samantha Kish
Jon Krakauer
Jack Kubitz
Michael Lane
Todd Larsen
Jason Lazarus
Ignacio A. Leal
Sarah Leff
Jesse Liebman
Alexandra Link
Barb Longacre
Chris Lupo
Michele MacCollum
Kelly Matera
Ross McAvoy
Jessica Mele

Grant Miskin
Jessica Moffett
David Moon
Tori Moore
Janet Moran
Dr. Patricia Morton
Robert Mulcahy
Christopher Mustovic
Kent New
Nancy Nicholas
Dan Nicholson
Allan Nishita
Tim O'Neill
Chuck Olson
Betsy Otten
Nirav Parikh
Jodi Paterson
David Pepper
Michele Perachi
Justin Pines
Naomi Plasterer
Patricia Pomerleau
Cathy Porter
Jared Potter
Randy Price
Alexander "Sasha" Rabchevsky
Andy Rapacz
Shawna Rector
Ronald Reeves
Scott Richter
Devin Riley
Jeff Rogers
Miriam Rokeach
Sharla Rountree
John Schaefer
Janet Schindwein
Alana Shaw
Lani Shelton
Hank Shipman
Luke Short
Muriel Siadak
Trent Sinclair
Michelle Smeby
Kimberly Smiejek
Linda Spingler
Linda & Allan Stikeleather
Josh Stillahn
Melissa Strong
Mark Suino
Bethany Sullivan
Maranda Summers
Sam Summers
Sarah Swanson
Michael Sweet
Jennifer Sylvor
John & Cynthia Templeton
Matt Thomas
Ripley Thomas
Jana Tobin
Samantha Troyer
Penny Tuton
Fred Uytengsu
Ann Van de Winckel
Jeff VanDixhorn
Charlene Vine

David Washburn
Anthony Waters
Erik Weißenmayer
Mildred Whiteside
Scott Willard
Henry Woods
Avery Woods
Mark Zahniser
Kathy Zappa

Symposium Sponsors

Kennedy Krieger Institute
Craig H. Neilsen Foundation
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Global Technology Services
Rabchevsky Foundation
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Coloplast
ONWARD Medical
Cleveland FES
Wings for Life Foundation
ANEUVO
Lifeward
SCoBIRC
Linneage Cell Therapeutics
Craig Hospital
Kessler Foundation
Help Hope Live
Push to Walk
ASIA
NeuroHope

Organizations & Companies

Abbott Laboratories
Bird & Jim Restaurant and Bar
The Barr Foundation
Craig H. Neilsen Foundation
Drendel Family Foundation
Estee Lauder
Estes Park Local Marketing
Google
Integra Foundation
IntimaStim
Medtronic
MindIgnite Studios, LLC
No Barriers USA
Nike
Paypal Giving Fund
Rabchevsky Foundation
Reneu Health
Ridgeline AP DEP
Trip Advisor
United Paralysis Foundation
Zoë Says Go Band

U2FP sincerely appreciates the generosity of all our donors. The donors listed above made cash or in-kind gifts or grants totaling \$250 or more over the past 12 months and/or contribute regularly as Monthly Donors. We apologize for any oversight in listing donors. Please contact our office to update our records: 528 Hennepin Ave, Suite 606, Minneapolis, MN 55403