

SEARCH FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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## Supporting Our Industry, Together

We provide financial help for event, meetings, and catering professionals in crisis. 2023 brought a **record** number of crisis relief cases, and we are proud to report that SEARCH has funded 100% of qualified cases since its inception.



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

Special  
Event  
Assistance  
Relief &  
Crisis  
Help



The SEARCH Foundation is proud to celebrate over 25 years of assisting industry individuals in crisis. We're pleased to report that since inception 100% of qualified cases have been funded, and industry professionals in crisis were profoundly affected by the efforts of the board, committees and supporters. *In fact, we not only reached, but well surpassed our goal of over \$1,000,000 distributed to industry individuals in crisis in 2023!*

Putting a new board structure in place to help engage individuals, companies, and industry associations in continued giving programs will help SEARCH to continue its mission and create new revenue streams so no case ever gets turned away. Our flagship program, the SEARCH IOO, has reached record numbers. That said, the Foundation will continue to establish significant, sustainable new sources of funding to support the ever-rising need for help, including a new website that will better highlight supporters and sponsors - ask any board member how you can help contribute, whether individually or as a company.

Please explore the attached Annual Report to see how your contributions helped to make a difference in the lives of industry professionals and colleagues. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming Signature Events and we thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Patay".

Kate Patay, CPCE

Chairwoman, SEARCH Foundation

VP of Engagement, Terramar, a DMC Network Company

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# FOUNDATION PROFILE

SEARCH FOUNDATION



## WHO WE ARE

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The SEARCH Foundation was formed in 1997 to assist event, meetings, and catering professionals faced with a life threatening illness. Since that time it has expanded to include not only illness, but also catastrophic occurrences. The SEARCH Foundation is for event pros, by event pros.

## MISSION & VISION

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**Distribute Donations** - Our priority is to make sure event, meetings, catering, and incentive industry professionals know our industry community has their backs when they need help the most. When disaster strikes SEARCH is here to help. Please visit our Apply for Help page if you require assistance.

**Raise Funds** - It's in our very nature to give everything we have to our clients and their guests at each and every event...but who will be there when we need help? By donating to SEARCH, you can serve those who serve every day - just like you.

**Elevate Awareness** - As a volunteer organization, our reach is limited without your help. We're always looking for platforms to tell our stories to others in our industry so they can let their industry friends know that we're here when they need us.

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# FINANCIAL IMPACT

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**Over \$276,000 Raised in 2023**

## Sources of Funding

Fundraising Events = **\$92K+**

SEARCH 100 = **\$110K+**

Other Programs & Donations = **\$74K**

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### EVENTS INCLUDED:

- Annual Signature Event at TSE/Catersource
- Local Industry Chapter Programs
- Smart Meetings Smart Woman Summit

### DONATIONS:

- Corporate Giving
- Media Partnerships
- Speaker Fees
- Individual Donations
- Company Match Programs

### ADDITIONAL OUTREACH:

- General Investments
- Social Media Fundraisers
- Network for Good

# THE POWER OF SEARCH

SEARCH FOUNDATION

49 families and individuals helped in 2023...  
\$223,000+ distributed to industry individuals in need

## Words from our 2023 grant recipients...

*"I am writing this with tears in my eyes and just an immense feeling of relief and gratitude. This disaster has been an emotional roller coaster and I am just longing for a sense of normalcy. Using this generous grant will allow me to rebuild some of my destroyed inventory that I need to do my job. I cannot wait to get back to taking photos and creating heirloom memories for people again. This is such a huge step for me being able to get back on my feet here on Maui. I appreciate this outpouring of love and support as we navigate through these rough waters. Big Mahalos & hugs.*



***"This is a big help for me and my family. We are glad that we found the SEARCH Foundation. This will help us get new equipment and hope to be back doing events. Lahaina lost lives, homes and businesses. But we are so grateful there are people and a foundation that helps the event community directly. We can't thank you enough. We are beyond grateful!"***

***"Receiving these funds means hope. It gives us a place to start moving forward. Instead of standing in here feeling completely overwhelmed, heartbroken, and lost, we're able to move forward in the right direction. Words will never come close to describing the gratitude we have for these funds but if we had to give it one word it would be HOPE.***



*"It is incredibly humbling to ask for help. Reaching out to SEARCH was really a last resort for me, but in needing to provide for my family and keep a roof over our heads, I decided to apply for help. **These funds will be life changing for my family.** Believe me when I say that SEARCH has blessed my family beyond measure. I've always loved our event community's generosity, but being on the receiving end like this is a feeling I've never experienced. Thank you doesn't scratch the surface of my gratitude, but thank you. THANK YOU."*



JULY 19-22, 2021 | MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER









# THE SEARCH 100



100%

of proceeds raised through  
this flagship program  
go directly into the  
crisis relief fund

SEARCH  
100  
ONE HUNDRED

16

new individuals and  
companies joined  
the SEARCH 100 in  
2023

The SEARCH 100 is a true testament to the commitment and support that our industry has for one another.

By donating \$100 per month or more, this group of professionals, chapters, and organizations have delivered over \$110K to the foundation in 2023 alone.

## OUR GOALS FOR 2023

To expand the global reach and partnerships throughout the industry to increase annual giving

### CHAPTER & ORGANIZATION FUNDRAISING

Whether part of an association, an organization, a corporation or a solopreneur YOU can help support SEARCH Foundation in a variety of ways. The online **Fundraising Toolkit** is designed to give you ideas on ways to incorporate SEARCH into your next event. If you have questions, additional ideas or would like more information please **contact us!**

Our organization is governed by a **Board of Directors**, which uses policy governance to envision the future and to ensure operations are aligned with our mission statement and meet the evolving needs of the event industry.



# OUR 2023 LEADERSHIP

## 2023 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **Chairperson**

#### **Kate Patay, CPCE**

Terramar, a DMC Network Company  
Phone: 775.343.6551  
kate@katepatay.com

### **1st Vice Chairperson**

#### **David Lombardo**

Lombardo's Hospitality  
Phone: 781-815-1254  
david@lombardos.com

### **Crisis Committee Chair**

#### **Patrick McMichael, CSEP**

Denon & Doyle Entertainment  
Phone: 800.944.9585  
patrick@djay.com

### **Treasurer**

#### **Frank Puleo**

Framboise Catering  
Phone: 718.448.4252  
frankpuleo7@aol.com

### **Secretary**

#### **Michele Polci, CMP, CPCE**

Caesars Entertainment  
Phone: 702.777.7871  
mpolci@caesars.com

### **Immediate Past Chairperson**

#### **Rick Turner**

Forward Hospitality Group  
Phone: 216.577.4158  
rick@forwardhg.com

### **Executive Advisor**

#### **Joann Roth-Oseary**

Someone's in the Kitchen  
Phone: 818.343.5151 x102  
joann@sitk.com

## 2023 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Thuy Diep** - Director of Engagement

CWT Meetings & Events  
Phone: 413.230.8099  
TDiep@cwt-me.com

### **Bobby Dutton** - Director of Marketing

GBM6  
Phone: 781.820.6176  
bdutton@gbm6.com

### **Stephanie Jayko, CSEP** - Director of Finance

Knock Out Productions  
Phone: 214.856.6909  
stephanie@koproevents.com

### **Jolie Oree-Bailey** - Director of Outreach

Low Country Quisine  
Phone: 972.386.4555  
jolie@lowcountryquisine.com

### **India Rhodes, CSEP** - Director of Outreach & Events

Wilkinson Rhodes  
Phone: 210.387.5687  
india@wilkinsonrhodes.com

### **Thomas Whelan** - Director of Social Media

Levy Cultural Attractions  
Phone: 857.234.2738  
whelanjr.thomas@gmail.com

### **JC York** - Director of Crisis Relief

Classic Entertainment/Wise Guys  
InterACTIVE  
Phone: 407.854.2184 ext. 228  
jc@classicentertainment.com

## EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

### **Corinne Z. Dudine**

SEARCH Foundation  
Office: 480.538.7912  
corinne@searchfoundation.org

## 2023 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### **Advisory Committee**

Tony Conway,  
Legendary Events  
Mara Routh,  
MKB Productions  
Lenny Talarico,  
Lenny Talarico Events  
Sally Webb,  
The Special Event Company  
Steve Kemble,  
Steve Kemble Event Design  
Debbie Meyers,  
Bravo! Entertainment  
Larry Green,  
International Event Products  
Danny Bergold,  
About Entertainment

### **Events Committee**

Danny Trujillo,  
Imagine Events  
Jeniffer Bello,  
JB Experiences  
Evan Carbotti,  
Carbotti Experiences  
Mark Catuogno,  
MC Event Consulting  
Amy McDonough,  
Port of Seattle-SeaTac Airport  
Blair Mitcham,  
Boston Convention Center  
Barbara West,  
Informa Markets

### **Marketing Committee**

Scott Frankel,  
Animatic Media  
Jaclyn Zendrian,  
Cure PSP  
Haily Fadden,  
Degy Entertainment  
Jodi Gold,  
Siagel Productions

### **Outreach Committee**

Gary Bordman,  
AE & ES  
Lindsay Schattenstein,  
NFL Players Association  
Jennifer Veselko,  
Maritz Global Events

