

SEARCH FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Letter from the Chairwoman	8	Partners & Conferences
4	Foundation Profile	9	SEARCH 100
5	Financial Impact	10	The Future of SEARCH
6	The Power of SEARCH	11	SEARCH Leadership
7	Partners		

Supporting Our Industry, Together

We provide financial help for event, meetings, and catering professionals in crisis. 2024 brought in unprecedented 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 proudly celebrates nearly 30 years of assisting industry individuals in crisis. We're pleased to report that since its inception, 100% of qualified cases have been funded, and industry professionals in crisis have been profoundly affected by the efforts of the board, committees, and supporters. *To date, we've distributed over \$1,400,000 to industry individuals in crisis.*

Creating new partnerships and putting structure in place to help engage individuals, companies, and industry associations in continued giving programs will help SEARCH continue its mission and create new revenue streams so no case gets turned away. Our flagship program, the SEARCH IOO, has reached record numbers. The Foundation will continue to establish significant, sustainable new sources of funding to support the ever-rising need for help, including our newly launched website that will better highlight supporters and sponsors. Please 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 have made a difference in the lives of industry professionals and colleagues. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming Signature Events and thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Patay". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kate Patay, CPCE

Chairwoman, SEARCH Foundation

VP of Global Engagement, Terramar, a DMC Network Company

FOUNDATION PROFILE

SEARCH FOUNDATION



WHO WE ARE

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

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.



FINANCIAL IMPACT

Over \$329,000 Raised in 2024

Sources of Funding

Fundraising Events = **\$106K+**

SEARCH 100 = **\$140K+**

Other Programs & Donations = **\$83K**

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
- Named Grants

THE POWER OF SEARCH

SEARCH FOUNDATION

31 families and individuals helped in 2024...
\$143,050+ distributed to industry individuals in need

Words from our 2024 grant recipients...

"Receiving SEARCH Foundation funding has been a lifeline during a challenging time, providing me with the financial support I needed to get through this. It has given me the stability to focus on my personal growth, without the constant worry of financial strain. I'm deeply grateful for the foundation's generosity, which has truly made a meaningful impact on my life."



"Thank you so much for your kindness. These funds will allow us to replace many of the items that were lost during the fire including food, clothing, toys, and furniture. It will also help with the costs associated with finding a new home. It's been really hard adjusting 4 children to what happened, but we've been trying to instill some normalcy into their lives to help with the transition, and the generosity of our community has made this a little easier."



"I cannot express how grateful we are. This will allow us the space to try to figure everything out. At the most heavy time of my family's life, this gift has lifted a bit of that weight. I can't wait until the day I can give back to this foundation to help other professionals in tough times."



"I am so grateful for the SEARCH Foundation and their proactive work in taking care of professionals in the industry. When life delivers a gut-punch, it is refreshing to know that there is a safety net there to provide support."



"Receiving these funds has been incredibly meaningful to me. It has provided much-needed financial support and stability during a time of uncertainty. Appearing outwardly cheerful, internally, I was grappling with a profound sense of despair. The relief and gratitude by receiving these funds are overwhelming, bringing tears of joy to my eyes."



CAESARS
ENTERTAINMENT.



Smart meetings



indeed flex



EMERGE
EVENT COLLECTIVE

EPOCH
DESIGN CO.

BIG COUNTRY
ORGANIC BREWING CO.



FEBRUARY 12-15, 2024



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
2024

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 has delivered over \$140K to the foundation in 2024 alone.

OUR GOALS FOR 2024

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 2024 LEADERSHIP

2024 - 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

Independent Entertainment
Phone: 800.944.9585
mcmichael2@gmail.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

2024 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thuy Diep - Director

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

Bobby Dutton - Director

GBM6
Phone: 781.820.6176
bdutton@gbm6.com

Stephanie Jayko, CSEP - Director

Knock Out Productions
Phone: 214.856.6909
stephanie@koproevents.com

Jolie Oree-Bailey - Director

Low Country Quisine
Phone: 972.386.4555
jolie@lowcountryquisine.com

India Rhodes, CSEP - Director

Wilkinson Rhodes
Phone: 210.387.5687
india@wilkinsonrhodes.com

Thomas Whelan - Director

Access DMC
Phone: 857.234.2738
whelanjr.thomas@gmail.com

JC York - Director

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

2024 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
Larry Green,
International Event Products
Danny Bergold,
About Entertainment

Event Committee

Danny Trujillo,
Imagine Events

Marketing Committee

Scott Frankel,
Animatic Media
Jodi Gold,
Siagel Productions

Outreach Committee

Gary Bordman,
AE & ES
Jennifer Veselko,
Maritz Global Events

