

SEARCH FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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Supporting Our Industry, Together

We provide financial help for event, meetings, and catering professionals in crisis. 2025 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 is proud to celebrate nearly 30 years of supporting members of our industry during times of crisis. Since our inception, 100% of qualified cases have been funded—a testament to the strength, compassion, and generosity of our board, committees, and supporters. To date, we have distributed more than \$1,500,000 to industry professionals in need, providing critical relief when it matters most.

As we look ahead, building new partnerships and strengthening the structure around ongoing giving will be essential to sustaining and growing our impact. These efforts will ensure SEARCH can continue its mission while expanding revenue streams so that no qualified case is ever turned away. Our flagship program, the SEARCH 100, has reached record participation, and with the launch of our new website, we are better positioned than ever to recognize and celebrate our supporters.

We invite you to explore this Annual Report and see firsthand the difference your contributions have made. Thank you for being part of this community—we look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Signature or Affiliate Event and appreciate your continued support.

Warmly,

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 **\$289,000** Raised in 2025

Sources of Funding

Fundraising Events = **\$116K+**

SEARCH 100 = **\$95K+**

Other Programs & Donations = **\$78K**

EVENTS INCLUDED:

- Annual Signature Event at Cater+Event
- Local Industry Chapter Programs
- Connect Marketplace
- 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

36 families and individuals helped in 2025...
\$165,000+ distributed to industry individuals in need

Words from our 2025 grant recipients...

"Receiving this funding has been an incredible gift during the hardest season of our lives. It has provided ease and hope in an overwhelming financial burden, allowing me to focus on caring for my husband and continuing my own recovery. I am deeply grateful for this support and the way it has brought both relief and hope at a time when I desperately needed both.



Living through an unexpected weather event is traumatic; it has taken a while for me to process the vast amount of loss and change my business and my community have faced. I was feeling overwhelmed by the amount of money it was going to take to get my business back up and running to full capacity, not to mention the cost of being temporarily displaced, replacing damaged personal items, and the mental load of figuring out life again. Receiving funding from the SEARCH Foundation brought tears of relief to my eyes. I feel hopeful and excited for my business!



SEARCH assistance funds provided during my late-stage cancer fight are invaluable in more ways than you can imagine. This incredibly meaningful support will empower me to move forward in the next steps of life-saving treatment, while ensuring my home continues to be a secure place for healing.



The funds will help me tremendously get ahead, even with a dent of medical debt I have had lingering for a few years. Plus what it means to be able to have a portion towards my surgery costs, means a lot to me. Thank you!



I am still in shock after receiving the email over the weekend that I had been approved for this grant. I truly don't think this foundation understands how much this is going to help me with my doctor bills moving forward. Any little bit helps and I am forever grateful for this opportunity. I want to please thank all those involved who made this incredible dream come true!!



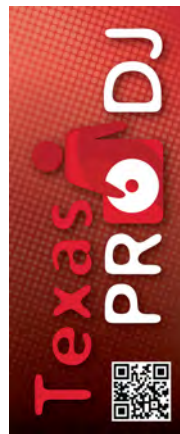


BOSTON SOAP CO





Big Head Cartoon
Caricature Art Entertainment & Design





FEBRUARY 12-15, 2024



THE SEARCH 100



100%

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

12

new individuals and
companies joined
the SEARCH 100 in
2025

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 \$95K to the foundation in 2025 alone.

OUR GOALS FOR 2026

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 2025 LEADERSHIP

2025 - 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

2025 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bobby Dutton - Director

GBM6
Phone: 781.820.6176
bdutton@gbm6.com

Jodi Guglielmo - Director

Siagel Productions
Phone: 717.614.5427
jodi@siagel.com

Stephanie Jayko, CSEP - Director

Knock Out Productions
Phone: 214.856.6909
stephanie@koproevents.com

India Rhodes, CSEP - Director

Wilkinson Rhodes
Phone: 210.387.5687
india@wilkinsonrhodes.com

Kelly Treadway - Director

EventCurious
Phone: 404.884.0144
kelly@eventcurious.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

2025 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

