

118

foundation

annual report

Friend,

The end of 2025 marks nearly two years since 118 was founded, and in those two years, I have watched this Foundation grow as fast as lightning. God has blessed every penny and every second given to 118, and many of those investments carry a beautiful story that has written the metanarrative of this Foundation.

118 was truly built brick by brick. When I consider its construction, I think about the check I received from an anonymous source that I used to buy the laptop I needed to get started. I also think of my friend, Caroline, who donated the remaining balance of funds I needed to register the Foundation as a 501(c)(3). I think of the outpouring of support from my faith community at Waterfront Church DC. I think of my friends who enthusiastically formed the Board. I think of all the dinners with mentors filled with sage advice, prayers and encouragement. I think of the businesses that sponsored our first fundraisers to fund our grants. I think of how the support for 118 spread like wildfire, and with that, how we have learned to tend to that fire.

There is so much work to be done for young adults overcoming cancer. So much. And the Board and I are eager to do that work - but the one mistake we want to avoid is letting this wildfire we created burn too hot, too fast. As such, we steward our resources wisely and thoughtfully to ensure 118 lives and thrives much past our lifetimes.

Before you flip through these pages filled with a lot (and I mean a lot) of good reports and solid growth, I encourage you to notice the small details and beautiful stories that paint these pages, and value the tender loving care my team and I put into stewarding our resources. Young adults who are overcoming cancer, like me, need 118 to work and work for a long time. With your help, we are building a strong future for 118, and I can't thank you enough for that.

With a ton of gratitude,



Sadie Knight
Founder + Executive Director

BOARD MEMBERS



Sadie Knight
Founder + Executive Director
Virginia



Brandon Knight
Board Member
Virginia



Autumn Lankford Higgins
Board Member
Virginia



Kyle + Elissa Gilliam
Board Members
Texas



Erica Richardson
Board Member
Kentucky



Ashley Smith
Board Member
District of Columbia

YOUNG ADULTS + CANCER

There is never a convenient time to be diagnosed with cancer, but for AYA (adolescent and young adults) cancer patients, individuals aged 15-39, cancer interrupts some of the most formative, pivotal years of their lives. These individuals are building their professional careers, finishing or just beginning college, taking risks, and planning with excitement for the future. But cancer interrupts that important groundwork.

AYAs face a unique set of challenges. Many feel isolated from their friends and family and frustrated that their life has been put on pause. They also face added stress from medical debt and potential fertility challenges, and because of their age, face a much longer road dealing with the aftermath of cancer.

Based on estimates of new cancer cases in 2025, 85,480 of all new cases will occur among individuals ages 15 to 39.

WHY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

According to the American Cancer Society, "...young adult survivors have higher rates of bankruptcy and more frequently forgo needed medical care due to cost compared to older survivors. Financial distress among AYA survivors is often compounded by non-medical costs, such as student loans and raising children."

One of the most difficult consequences of surviving cancer is **debt**. Many young adults do not have the financial security to tackle the crippling financial obligations that come with treatment and related expenses. The freedom they hoped for once in remission is overshadowed by financial burden. **And their lives are once again put on pause.**

[LEARN MORE](#)



Sweet Summer Night

A COMEBACK CELEBRATION

118's inaugural Comeback Celebration themed, "Sweet Summer Night," was an incredible success! Moving forward, this event will be held annually as 118's signature fundraiser and night of celebration.

\$37,000+

RAISED

120

GUESTS

77

**FIRST-TIME
DONORS**

2025 Comeback Celebration Committee

Ashley Smith

Jordan Healey

Autumn Lankford Higgins

Lorene Parker

Ana Marina Ingham

Elissa Gilliam

Thank you to our event sponsors!

Sundae Sponsor



Triple Scoop



TORREY ADVISORY
GROUP

Double Scoop



Single Scoop

Ten Acre Marketing

Dirty Water

Aspen Frederick
Photography

The Smith Family



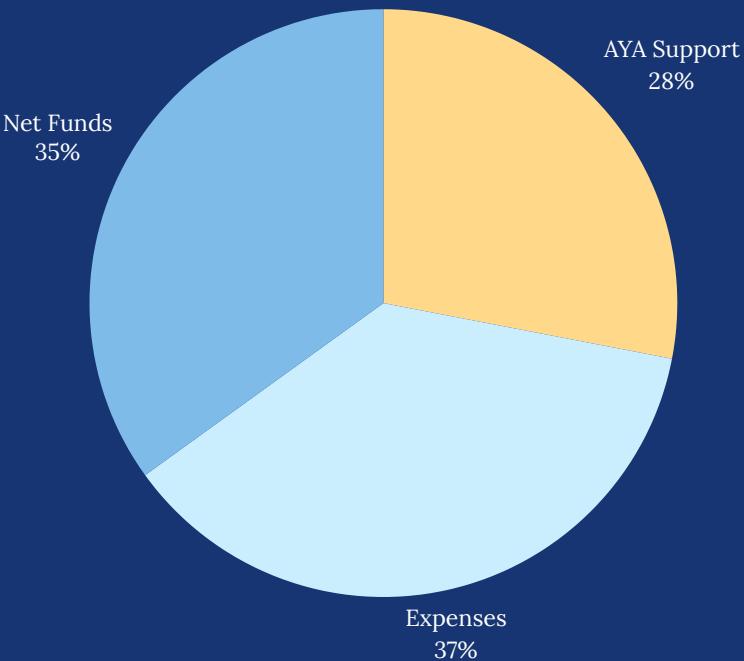
2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenue

Total: \$107,199.94

- Comeback Celebration: \$37,051.02
- Event Sponsorships: \$9,500
- Direct giving: \$17,805.88
- Corporate Donors: \$33,631.48
- Grants: \$9,100
- Social Media Fundraising: \$129.31
- Savings Account Interest: \$1,570.03

NOTE: Transaction fees are accounted for



AYA Support

Total: \$30,050

- (Remaining from 2024 Campaign) Tough Like Thomas Campaign: \$2,000
- Restoration Grants: \$28,050

76% of 118's 2025 spending provided direct support to AYAs

Expenses

Total: \$39,679.01

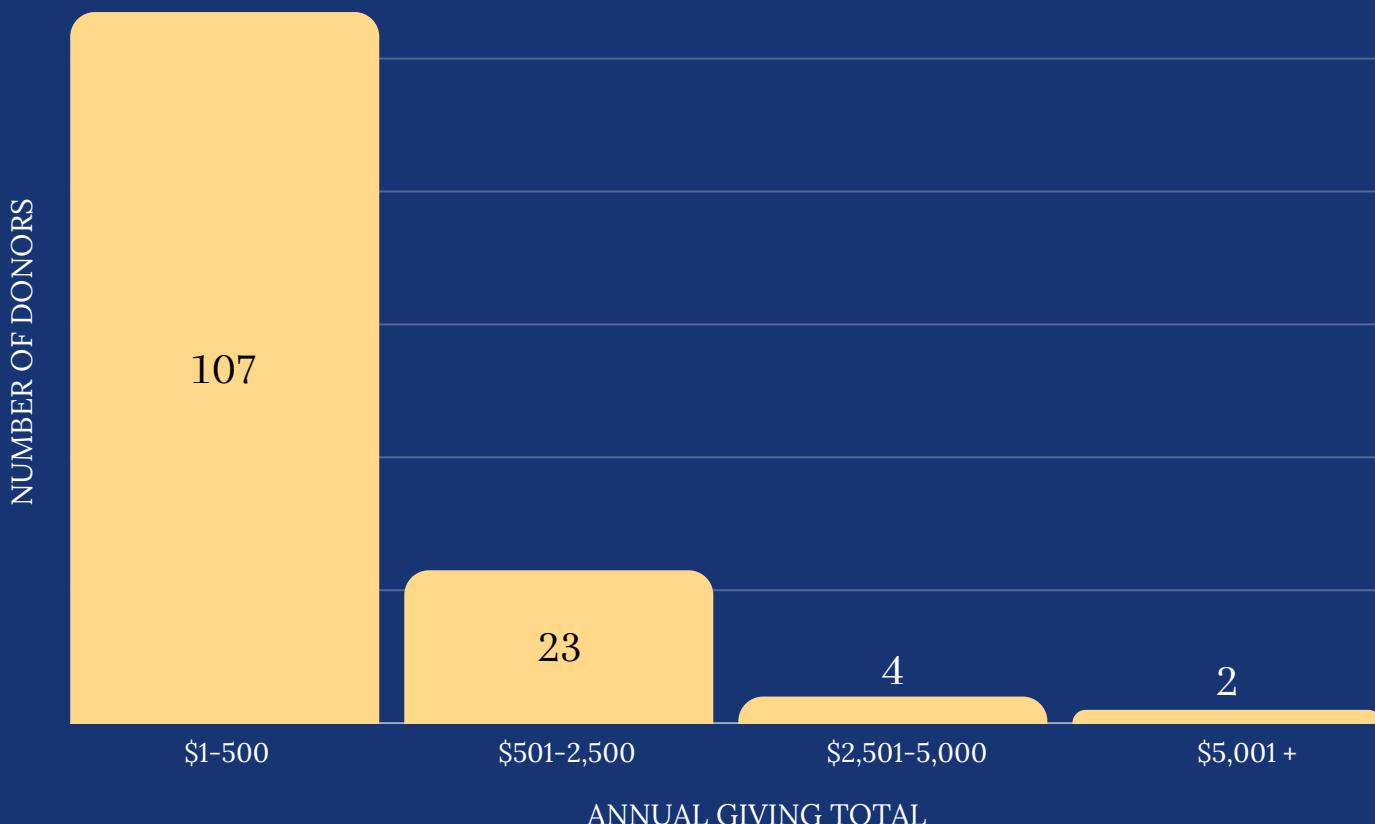
- Events: \$29,512.10
 - NOTE: This includes \$6,500 for the 2026 Comeback Celebration
- Administrative Expenses: \$5,176.06
- Marketing/Communication: \$4,990.85

**2025 Net Funds:
\$37,470.93**

***UP MORE THAN 85% FROM 2024**

DONOR TRENDS

In 2025, **136 individuals** generously gave to the 118 Foundation with an average donation of \$261.34. The data below displays a trend in **grassroots partnership** with most donors giving a total of \$500 or less in the calendar year.



NOTE: This data does not include contributions from anonymous donors or individuals who donated through PayPal social media fundraising.

IN 2025, THE II8 FOUNDATION

“Mentally and physically, I need the space to pause, to rest, and to restore. **This grant would allow me the chance to do something meaningful for myself and to regain some balance after giving so much of my time and energy to fighting cancer and helping others.**”

Grant Application | Illinois

“This grant will help cover food expenses that have become more difficult due to the financial and emotional strain of cancer.

With a household member unable to work and SNAP benefits no longer available, all food costs now come directly from my paycheck. This support would ease that burden and allow me to focus on my health and maintaining stability at home.”

Grant Application | New Mexico

“The last three years were meant to be prime years for building my career and establishing myself as a provider for my family. While I was able to maintain my job, my diagnosis significantly limited my ability to grow financially. Now, following my recent Whipple procedure, **I've taken a major step forward by starting my own construction business—picking up where I had hoped to be before my diagnosis.**”

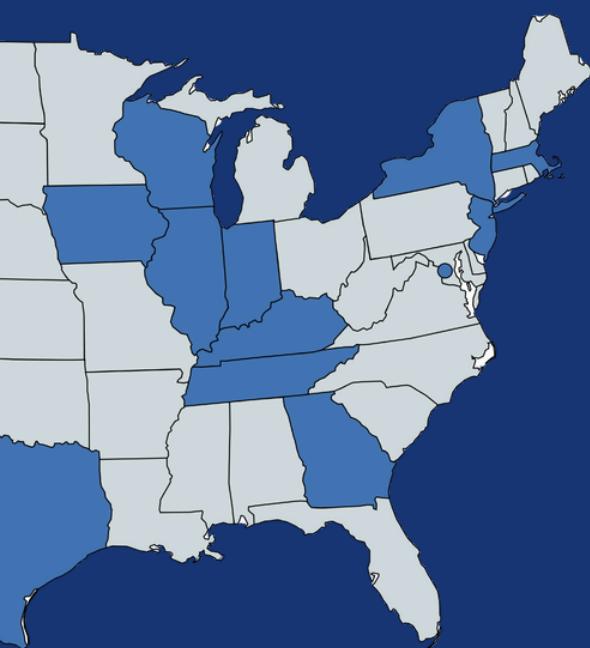
Grant Application | Massachusetts



RESTITORAT

AWARDED \$30,050 IN 9 STATES

118 TOUCHED 4 NEW STATES THIS YEAR



“For me, restoration after cancer isn’t about going back to who I was, but about rebuilding my life brick by brick into something new. It means accepting and embracing all the messy, complicated parts of myself post-diagnosis. **The hardest part of that restoration, though, is financial.** I am open about my diagnosis because I know how much it helps others like me, but that openness often makes finding work nearly impossible.”

Grant Application | Texas

THE WAITLIST IS GROWING.

24 APPLICATIONS WERE LEFT PENDING IN 2025.

I O N G R A N T S

LOVIN' ON JACKIE



Jackie is special. When 118's founder, Sadie, first connected with her, she expected to be a source of wisdom and strength for Jackie, having just overcome the exact same diagnosis a year earlier. Instead, the love and support became mutual: Sadie supporting Jackie as she endured treatment and Jackie cheering on Sadie in survivorship. As much as Sadie tried, she couldn't outlove Jackie: Her heart is just too big.

Jackie was nominated for a Restoration Grant and became the first recipient from Washington, D.C., the Foundation's back yard. But as you can imagine,

Jackie had a whole army of folks walking beside her, and they wanted to do more. So, 118 helped her friends and family pool resources to help Jackie make her comeback. The 118 team was deeply moved by the generosity of her friends and family, and, moreso, touched by how Jackie exploded with positivity, faith, and kindness as she went toe-to-toe with cancer.

Jackie and her story are the embodiment of what 118 is all about: **People lovin' on people.** As Jackie embarks on the next phase of overcoming cancer - survivorship - her friends and family are certain her light will only shine brighter.



Jackie and Sadie representing 118 at CancerCon

GOALS + GROWTH



118's goal is to have church partners and donors in **every region of every state**.

This way, grant recipients can **identify a community nearby that supports them and is invested in their story**.

118's goal is to reach AYAs across the nation because cancer knows no geographic bounds. In order to do so, the 118 team will build connections with churches, cancer centers, and non-profits across the nation to reach AYAs.

The 118 Foundation aims to award **100 grants by the year 2034**, meaning, on average, 118 will award no less than three grants per quarter every year starting in 2024.

2026 AREAS OF FOCUS



Church partnerships are a key segment of the vision for 118 Foundation. In 2026, 118's goal is to build **5 new church partnerships.**



The 118 Foundation Board has been overwhelmed by the generosity of our donors and partners and are confidently pursuing a fundraising goal of **\$150,000** in 2026.



118 has a goal of awarding 100 grants by 2034. To stay on track with that goal, 118 aims to award at least **12 grants** in 2026.



No one is meant to overcome cancer alone, and community is the cornerstone of 118. In 2026, **we will release more resources to connect AYAs and toolkits to help their loved ones walk by their side.**

GROUNDING PRINCIPLES

HOPE

Romans 5:3

When faced with a catastrophe as devastating as cancer, hope seems frivolous, but **it can carry a devastated heart to victory**. Apostle Paul's words in Romans 5:3 guide 118's stake in this principle, reminding us that **hope is strengthened through perseverance**.

HEALING

Luke 5:17-26

The effects of cancer far surpass physical ailments: Cancer attacks the mind and soul as well. Patients and survivors need a full spectrum of healing, and no one exemplifies this type of healing better than Jesus. In Luke 5:17-26, we see Jesus first forgive a man of his sins and then heal him from his sickness, proving the Lord is interested in healing more than just our physical bodies; He wants to mend our souls as well. This idea is central to 118 as this Foundation aims to help cancer patients and survivors find a **full spectrum of healing and recovery**.

HUMILITY

Matthew 22:36-40

One of the toughest parts of having cancer is losing independence. It's not easy asking for help—especially when it comes to small, everyday tasks. But there is strength in admitting you need assistance, and **118 celebrates those who search for support**. In Matthew 22, Jesus reveals the greatest commandment is to love God and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself.

Humanity was created to support and love each other deeply, but it can take great humility to accept the need for love and community.



Jon's Fund

Jon's Fund is named after Mr. Jon Randles, a gifted and revered pastor and evangelist whose impact on the Christian faith can be felt across the nation—especially at his son's church, Waterfront Church DC. His story of perseverance, passion, and strength continues to inspire generations of people, and in his spirit of his dedicated service, the central value of this fund is to provide assistance that impacts generations.

118 provides Restoration Grants through this fund, and it will grow to be largely supported through church partnerships. Because of this, recipients will have a direct link to a community of faith that supports them.

Fiscal Year 2026 budget: \$20,000

NOTE: FY26 runs from August 1, 2025 - July 31, 2026

The Knight Fund

This fund is named after Brandon Knight, who cared for and walked closely beside Sadie as she faced cancer. He consistently provided her support however she needed it, and in the same nature, the money devoted to this fund is used to ensure 118 can remain flexible and nimble to best serve the AYA community.

This fund is supported by traditional fundraising and crowdsource funding and is married to Jon's Fund to provide greater support to AYAs. The Knight Fund will cover operational costs, special projects, content development, and future expansion. As 118 is still in its infancy, this fund is carefully managed and invested in to ensure the Foundation has sufficient resources to continue to expand its reach.

Fiscal Year 2026 budget: \$60,000



NOTE: FY26 runs from August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER

DONATE

Loving on young adults overcoming cancer requires serious financial investment, and each gift is carefully managed and nurtured to make the biggest impact. If you are interested in partnering financially with the Foundation, please know your investment will be taken with the utmost appreciation and dedication to our mission.

PRAY

118 has a strong foundation of faith and was built on a bedrock of prayer. As this Foundation continues to grow, please pray that God sends people, provision, and purpose. Pray AYAs find refuge through this Foundation and that it may point them toward the hope and healing they are searching for.

VOLUNTEER + CONNECT

We are all gifted with unique skills, insight, and community. Growing this Foundation will require a diversity of perspectives and expertise. If you are inspired by the purpose and vision of this Foundation, please consider contributing your gifts to 118.

LEARN MORE: 118FOUNDATION.ORG

Thank you!

Launching a non-profit is not for the faint of heart, and running one takes many hands. The 118 Foundation Board would like to thank each and every person who fueled us and grew us, with extra special thanks to David and Selby Tennent, Waterfront Church DC, Melissa Kessler, Jess Monroe, Tanner Beymer, Rebecca Hollis, the Krauss Baschab Family Foundation, the R. McConnell Foundation, and our corporate sponsors represented below. We couldn't accomplish our mission without you. Thank you for your partnership and for loving on those who are too dang young to have cancer.

The 118 Foundation Board,

Sadie, Brandon, Autumn, Elissa, Kyle, Ashley and Erica



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