



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

In 1991, the AORN Foundation was established as the non-profit philanthropic arm of AORN to support nurses through education, research, and patient safety initiatives. Over the past thirty years, generous donations have enabled the Foundation to help tens of thousands of nurses achieve professional goals through several types of funding opportunities, including nearly 3,000 academic scholarships totaling more than \$3,500,000. In addition, the AORN Foundation supports nurses through professional development grants, educational events and resources. Each of these impactful programs are made possible with the help of individuals, chapters, and corporations coming together to assist nurses in all phases of their professional development, supporting safe surgery for every patient, every time.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2022 was filled with great successes and a greater understanding that there's so much more work to be done. Our members, chapters and industry partners engaged with the Foundation in a way that is helping us recover from the pandemic. However, we also are experiencing unprecedented demand for scholarships, education and additional resources from our nursing community.

We are steadfast in our mission to empower perioperative nurses who are advancing patient and workplace safety through education and research. In the last year the Foundation supported 85 nurses with academic scholarships, awarded more than 2,500 professional development grants for certification and membership, funded more than 300 Expo grants, provided educational support to 22 chapters across the nation and hosted more than 40 educational events

In regard to our focus on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, 41 percent of scholarship recipients identified as nurses of color surpassing AORN's membership diversity rate of 30 percent. Representation matters, and the Foundation can provide the validation and support that helps nurses advance key initiatives such as healthcare equity and racial justice in their practice settings and communities.

All of this was accomplished with the understanding that the post-pandemic struggle is very real and something we are striving to overcome. Still, perioperative nurses will persevere—through staff shortages, equipment shortages, product delays, burnout and fatigue.

My most sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you who have lifted up the perioperative nursing profession. It is an honor to work alongside you as we advance patient and workplace safety—every patient, every time.

Thank you,



Larry Asplin, RN, MSN, CSSM, CNOR

AORN, INC. MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As we reflect on the AORN Foundation's accomplishments in 2022, we want to thank you, our industry partners, chapters, and individual donors, for making these achievements possible. In addition, it's important for me to recognize the contributions of our nurses and nurse leaders—certainly in the previous year, but well beyond that too. Perioperative nurses and nurse leaders not only set the tone for the workplace, create a culture of safety, and promote professional development, but they also advocate for their fellow nurses and patients at all levels of the healthcare system.

That's why the Foundation is constantly evolving to empower our nurses and nurse leaders with education and research to continue this important work. Whether new to nursing or in a leadership role for many years, the AORN Foundation offers a variety of programs and resources to help every nurse reach their professional goals and ensure safe care for every patient, every time.

For more than 30 years, the AORN Foundation has partnered with our donors and the nurses we serve to continue advancing patient and workplace safety. This report reflects the work we have all accomplished together - thank you for making this possible.

Thank you,



Linda Groah, MSN, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC, FAAN



Impact

IMPACT

When we support the dreams and goals of nurses, they remain passionate about providing the quality patient care that saves lives.



IMPACT

Perioperative nurses have chosen a challenging specialty. Whether their focus is pre-, intra-, or post-operative care, rapid advancements in technology and new findings in research are ongoing and require frequent changes in processes, policies, and evidence-based practice standards. To be successful, OR nurses must commit to lifelong learning and, thanks to the support of our donors, the AORN Foundation funds educational webinars, live events, scholarships, and grants to help assure their continued proficiency in providing safe care to their surgical patients.

In 2022, the AORN Foundation continued to influence the practice of thousands of perioperative nurses in every facility type when AORN subject matter experts brought the evidence-based *Guidelines for Perioperative Practice* to life in the presentation of Guidelines Workshops, Live and Virtual Events, and Webinars.

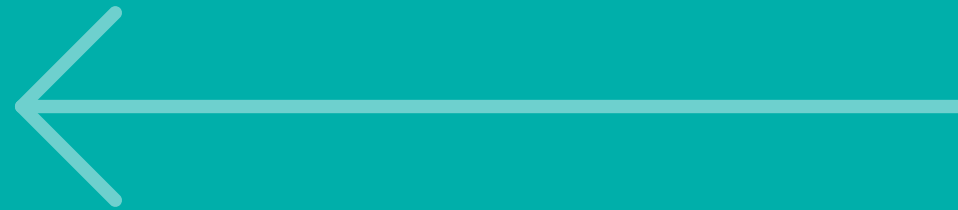




Education

EDUCATION

When we fund education for nurses, we make it possible for them to practice at their highest degree of competence and confidence on behalf of their patients and as valuable members of the surgical team.



EDUCATION

Creating lifelong learning opportunities for perioperative nurses is crucial to the future of the profession and the patients they care for every day. The AORN Foundation provides these opportunities through funding the development of educational events, tool kits and safety programs for the perioperative community as well as through supporting individual nurses with academic scholarships and professional certification grants. Each program funded is focused on helping nurses maintain evidence-based knowledge and competencies for providing safe and quality care.

Good morning. It's a rainy Sunday in Willow Spring, NC. I am in "the office" (my favorite coffee house with plenty of power outlets and excellent lattes) preparing myself and my computer for tomorrow, the start of my next semester. It's the good one where we get into teaching: Educational Theories and Program Development, two important and exciting areas. I know a little bit about teaching adults because I've been training people for years. But developing programs is critical since my goal is to create an easy to implement "Road to the OR" program for the community college I attended. Truly little is said about the OR in a 4-year nursing program; NOTHING is said in the ADN programs in my area. My goal, my passion, my reason for graduate school is to change that. Your generosity this year is making it possible. I cannot in good conscience take on more debt at my age, so I'm forced to pay cash for my MSN. That is a strain anytime but especially now, since I'm currently taking a break from work due to severe COVID burnout from my previous employment. I'm itching to get back into the OR, my true home, and continue to make connections for my grand plan of a school-hospital partnership that will hopefully endure for years to come. The nursing shortage is real, especially here in the Triangle of NC, where Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and WakeMed struggle to recruit and retain all nurses in general and OR nurses in particular. I would like to make nursing students aware that there is so much more to nursing than bedside, the focus of almost every nursing curriculum I've examined. With your kind help, I will be the change agent here in my part of NC to expand awareness and engage fresh minds. So, from the bottom of my heart and my empty wallet - THANK YOU!



Warm Regards,

Sara Baker, BSN, RN, CNOR

2022 - 2023 Academic Scholarship Recipient

IN SUMMARY

130

nurses received Professional Development Grants for assistance in CNOR, CSSM, and CNAMB certification

41%

of all scholarships were awarded to people of color

85

outstanding nursing students were awarded academic scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year

2448

membership grants were provided

22

chapters were issued grants to help ease the cost of member growth and education

318

grants were awarded to assist nurses with the expense of attending Expo.



Partners

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

*When the AORN
Foundation supports
perioperative nurses
in their education
and professional
development, we are
enabling safe surgical
care for you, your
family and friends,
and your community.*



INDUSTRY PARTNERS

In 1991, Industry representatives asked AORN Executive Director Lola Fehr if there was any way they might support the mission of AORN. In response, then President Jean Reeder worked with the board of directors to identify how to build a collaboration with Industry that would support the education and professional growth of nurses and better ensure safe patient care. Little did they know, by forming the AORN Foundation in response to Industry's request, they would have a lasting impact on the professional development of thousands of nurses.

Today, thanks to the incredible community of Industry partners who value the Foundation's work to empower perioperative nurses in clinical practice, professional development, and their emotional well-being, we can assure the advancement of the perioperative profession and patient safety. Together, we can change lives.

EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

At this annual event, perioperative nurse executives gather to discuss critical issues with the goal of advancing best practices and improving surgical policies that are common to all surgical settings. This is accomplished through presentations from thought-leaders and work group discussions on solutions to barriers facing patient care and efficient processes and systems. Generously sponsored by 3M, Johnson & Johnson and Stryker.

GUIDELINES WORKSHOPS

Returning for the first time in-person since 2019, Guidelines Workshops returned in 2022 offering educational events in 6 cities around the country. Through a combination of didactic and hands-on learning experiences, nurses were able to connect evidence-based recommendations into practice on topics important to patient and workplace safety. Generously sponsored by BD, Cardinal Health, Dabir and Stryker.

The AORN Go Clear Award Program – a comprehensive surgical smoke-free recognition program – Sponsored by Medtronic through the AORN Foundation.

The AORN Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety: Prevention of RSI – a complimentary education and recognition program for perioperative teams – Sponsored by Stryker through the AORN Foundation

“As we all know, AORN sets the bar for nurse and patient safety. Stryker’s Surgical Technologies business has rallied in support, embracing the mantra “The Journey to Zero”. This is a calling that drives us to develop products and adjunct technology that, in the hands of nurses, helps protect them and enables them to focus on protecting their patients. We are innovating with you on our journey to zero Retained Surgical Sponges, because any number greater than zero is simply not acceptable.*

The RSI Center of Excellence partnership has opened the door for us to align with facilities that are passionately committed to reducing the #1 retained item in the OR! It has also granted us a front row seat to the hurdles and complexities that OR teams face when they’re implementing adjunct technology. And overall, it has been a huge step towards redefining the standard of care. AORN is shedding light on the problem—Stryker is responding.”

—Stryker Surgical Technologies Leadership

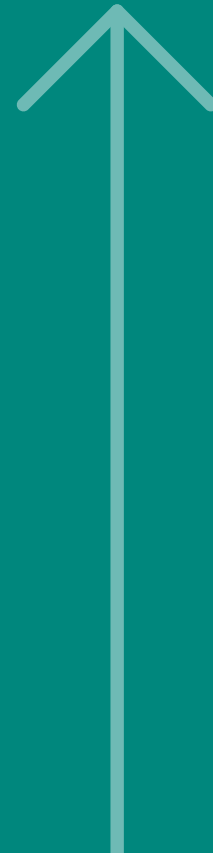
MATCHED GIVING

For more than 10 years Owens & Minor has donated to the Foundation's annual matched giving campaigns by matching up to \$30,000 of donations. Mölnlycke provided funding to support a matched giving campaign during the AORN Global Surgical Conference and Expo in New Orleans to help encourage donations at the event.

Thank you to every industry partner who supports the work of the AORN Foundation. Your collaboration is an opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to perioperative nurses and their critical role in patient and workplace safety - you are appreciated. A complete list of 2022 Corporate Partners can be found [here](#).



Giving
Circles



GIVING CIRCLES

*When we understand
and respond to
the challenges
and opportunities
nurses face, we build
community vitality
that enriches the
nursing profession.*



Year after year our mission and impact are fueled by the generosity of our donors. Many of you are perioperative nurses, were perioperative nurses, or were cared for by a perioperative nurse. It is thanks to you that the AORN Foundation continues to deliver on its mission. Your donations are and will always be so greatly appreciated.

SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

DONATE NOW

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**Complete list of 2022 donors
can be found [here](#).**



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TRUSTEES

*Together we changed
the lives of nurses
and, empowered,
those nurses changed
the lives of
their patients.*



Dear Members of the AORN Foundation Community,

As members of the Board of Trustees, we are grateful to the many individuals and corporations that enable the Foundation to influence the quality of nursing care for surgical patients.

To the Foundation Team and AORN Board of Directors: For the last year, with competence and energy, you have gracefully met with new obstacles and challenges of the times, in nursing care. In a landscape that continues to shift by the day, and under persistent responsibilities and pressures, you maintained our prioritization of advancing nursing education and patient safety. Thank you for your exemplary stewardship, hard work, and vision.

To our Giving Circles and Individual Donors: In all our lives, there are many fine causes and organizations representing people in need that are deserving of your support. We greatly appreciate that you value the Foundation as worthy of your attention and contributions. We are proud of our influence and recognize we owe our success to you. Thank you.

To our Industry Partners and Corporate Sponsors: Your support means the world to us and to the thousands of nurses who strive every day to keep their surgical patients safe. We know you are there for us and for them. Thank you.

To our AORN Membership Chapters and State Councils: We admire and appreciate your perseverance in perioperative nursing and, above and beyond those responsibilities, we value you for the personal time you put in as association volunteers and the many ways you find to support your fellow nurses through your fundraising efforts. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The AORN Foundation Board of Trustees

THE AORN FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES



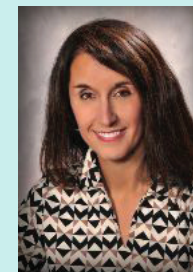
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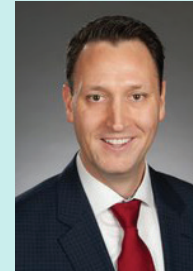
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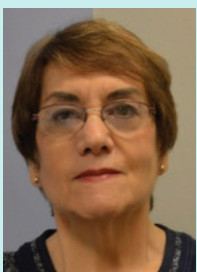
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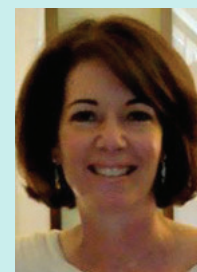
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FINANCIALS

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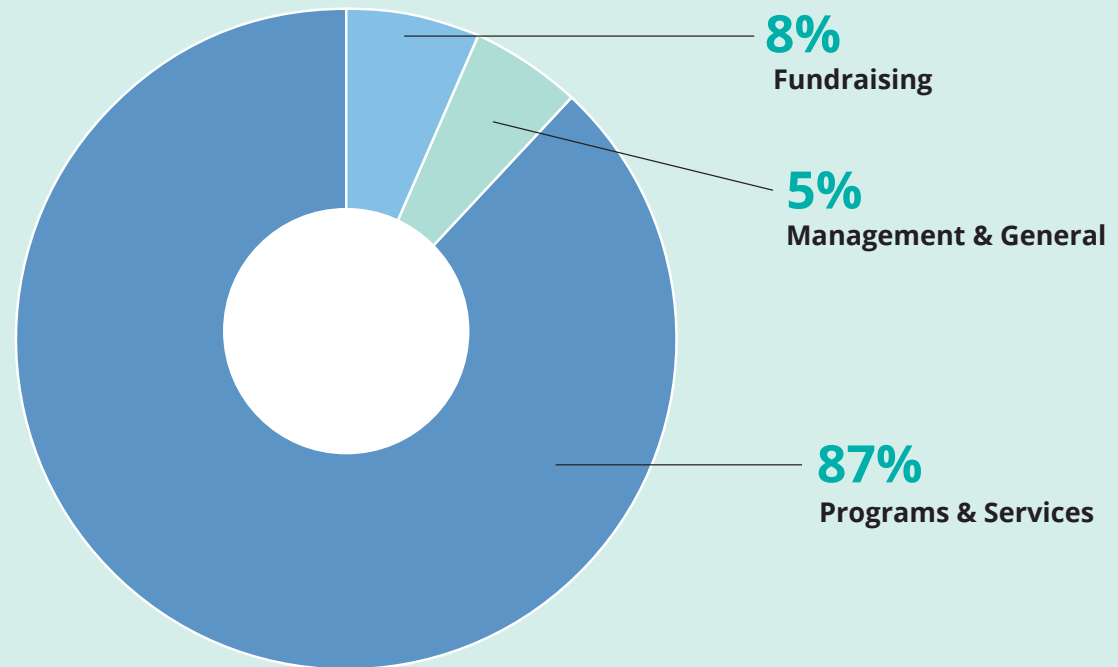
We spend every day working to deliver on our mission, and we are grateful for the participation of individuals, corporations, chapters, and partners who share our commitment to supporting nurses through education, research, and patient safety initiatives. In turn, we are equally committed to the careful and responsible management of all contributions by keeping our expenses down.

As this graph depicts, in 2022 \$0.87 of every dollar was directly invested in programs for nurses while fundraising costs and general administrative expenses were held to 13 percent.

2022 audited financials can be found [here](#).

AORN Foundation
2170 South Parker Rd, Suite 400
Denver CO 80231
Colette Palmer, Director
Foundation@AORN.org

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY





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