



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION Celebrating 30 Years

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 funding opportunities, including 2,000 academic scholarships totaling more than \$3,500,000. These scholarships were made possible with the help of individuals, chapters, corporations and AORN and have helped nurses in all phases of their professional development—from earning their first degree to completing a DNP.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2021 was quite a year.

Nurses in all specialties continued to experience unparalleled challenges that came from the ongoing pandemic, supply chain failures, and the resulting shortages of safety materials and patient care resources. It was a struggle to fully staff the perioperative suite as nurses retired, were furloughed, or took leave to care for their families.

A crisis has a way of sharpening our focus. For perioperative nurses, this meant lending our expertise to our colleagues in the emergency department and ICU while working inconsistent hours, often in unfamiliar settings. Through it all, the AORN Foundation contributed funds to support their education and their continued ability to provide safe care to the surgical patient.

When work and life test our capacity, turning our backs and walking away are not options. As perioperative nurses, our patients depend on us; our surgical teams, facility and our community are all counting on us to find new ways to cope and deliver on our promise as ambassadors of safe patient care.

Just as periop nurses were called upon this year to remain flexible and resilient, the AORN Foundation identified new ways to further bolster clinical practice and safety in alignment with our mission.

To our many donors, industry partners, and benefactors, thank you for helping the AORN Foundation deliver on its mission to empower perioperative nurses in advancing patient and workplace safety through education and research.



Larry Asplin, RN, MSN, CSSM, CNOR

AORN, INC. MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Since its founding, the AORN Foundation has sought to empower perioperative nurses in advancing patient and workplace safety through education and research. Now, more than 30 years later, the mission maintains its impact as nurses in the United States and around the world continue to benefit from its support.

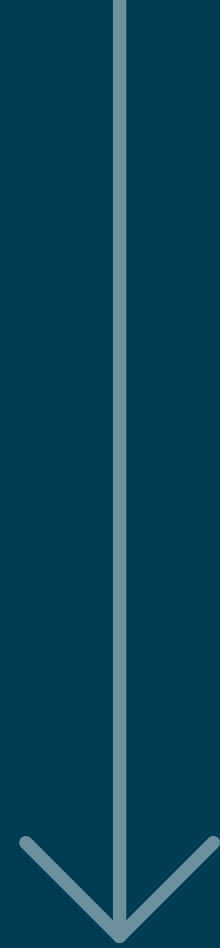
The value of the Foundation to these individuals and their patients cannot be overstated. Through the support of the Foundation, nurses advance their clinical knowledge through scholarships and grants and, because of the exceptional support from industry partners, individuals, and chapters, perioperative practice standards continue to improve in every operating room across the country.

This annual report features the impact the Foundation continues to have on nurses' lives and how your continued support ties directly to the safe care of surgical patients.

Thank you,



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



Impact

IMPACT

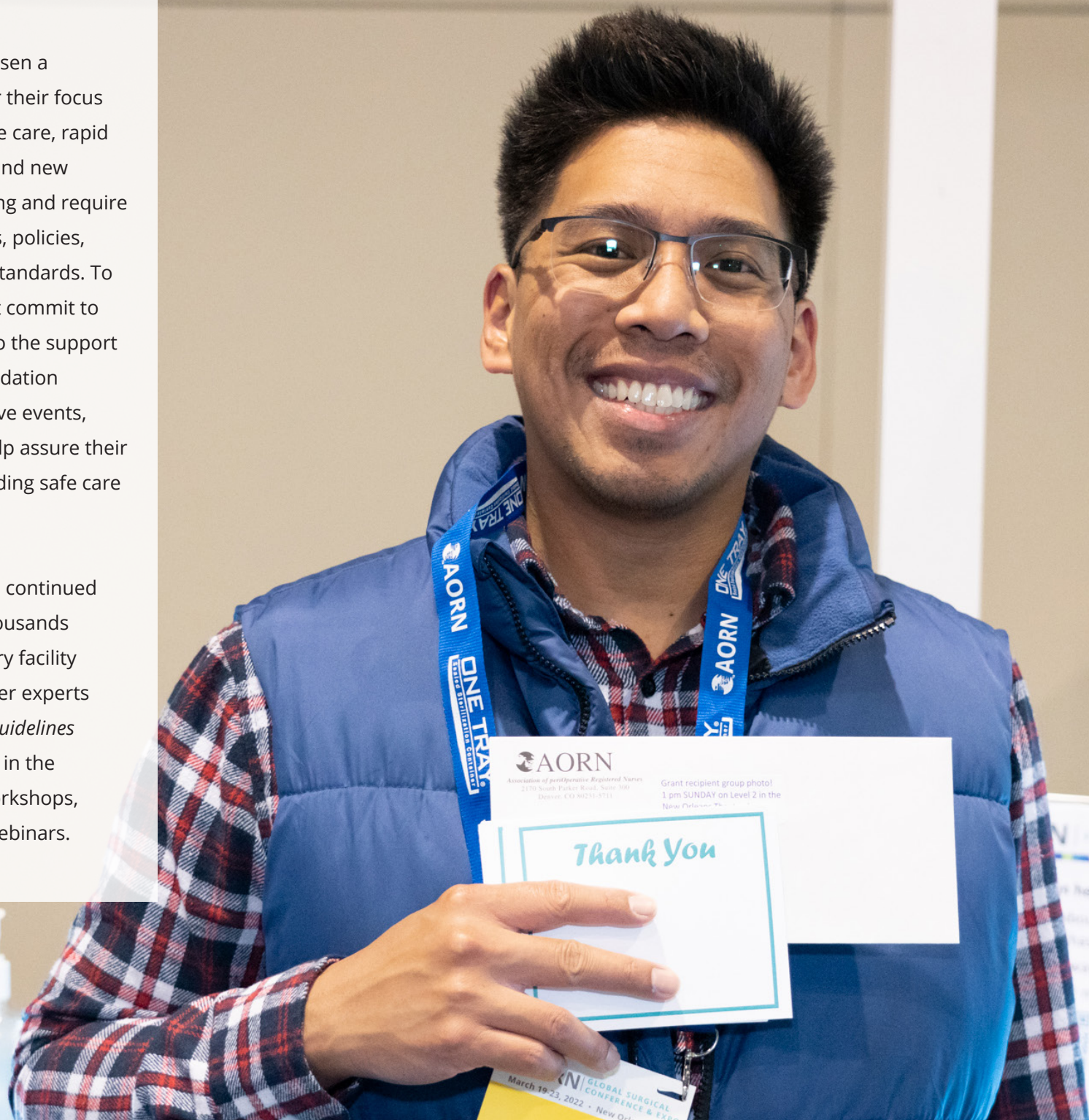
When we support the dreams and goals of nurses, they remain passionate about providing the quality patient care that saves lives.



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 2021, 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

As nurses continued to struggle through the pandemic by adapting to new clinical standards to keep their patients and themselves safe, their traditional access to education was changed. In consideration of increased workloads, furloughs, and their limited ability to travel, the Foundation provided education in a virtual format in addition to grants and scholarships, underwriting member dues, and supporting 29 educational events available to learners across the United States and around the world.

"The money came at a perfect time. Inflation from Covid has started to hit hard, but our compensation has not been adjusted and so I'm finding myself having to decide between wants and needs. I had to let my membership expire and it has bothered me. I'm so grateful that with this grant I can afford to renew my membership!" —Membership grant recipient

"I couldn't be more grateful for your help and donation. This has been a trying year, everything from new shifts working around Covid, to having a new addition to the family as well. Wanting to start again to complete what I started out for in reaching my BSN has not been easy. So, I want to thank you again for placing your donation in my corner." —Academic scholarship recipient



IN SUMMARY

227

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

38%

of all scholarships were awarded to people of color

148

outstanding nursing students were awarded academic scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year

697

membership grants were provided to support the professional development of CNOR nurses

25

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

\$50,000

In alignment with the diversity, equity, and inclusion objectives of AORN, Inc., the AORN Foundation established the [Barba Edwards Scholarship Fund](#) and **raised more than \$50,000 in its first year** to fund students and nurses of color who are in pursuit of a Master's, Bachelor's or Doctoral degree in the field of nursing.



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 Reader 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.

CENTER FOR NURSING LEADERSHIP

Connecting nurses to today's most pressing management issues as they explore new directions to help transform the workplace and reignite their passion for perioperative practice. The Center for Nursing Leadership includes the Executive Roundtable, an annual meeting of perioperative executives who gather to share their experiences on relevant, trending topics and executive level peer-to-peer exchange. – Sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices Companies, 3M, and BD.

SAFETY AWARD PROGRAM SPONSORS

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

“Medtronic is honored to continue our longstanding partnership with AORN supporting the mission of making the OR safer for nurses, surgeons, and patients. Since 2016, our collaboration with the Go Clear® program has positively impacted thousands of lives, and together we have made significant progress toward the elimination of surgical smoke from the OR. We are looking forward to continuing our alliance to take OR safety to the next level.”

—Medtronic Leadership.

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

“AORN sets the bar for nurse safety – Stryker Surgical Technologies subscribes to the mantra of Journey to Zero. A calling that drives us to develop and pursue products and adjunct technology that, in the hands of nurses, not only protects, but enables them to focus on the calling that they have received as well. This partnership has allowed us a front row seat to the hurdles and complexities that HCPs face when they're implementing adjunct technology, as well as open the door to inform and align with facilities that are as adamant about addressing the #1 sentinel event that nurses are facing today. AORN is shedding light on the program – Stryker is offering a solution.”

—Stryker Surgical Technologies Leadership

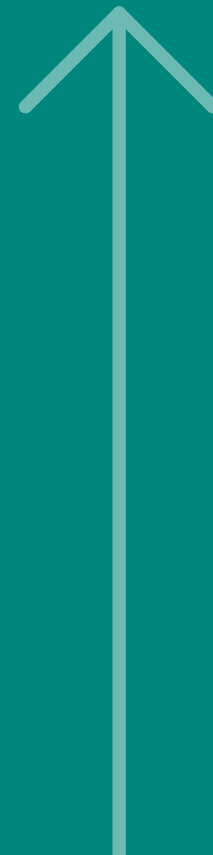
YEAR-END CAMPAIGN

For more than 10 years Owens & Minor has donated to the Foundation's annual year-end campaign by matching up to \$20,000 of donations. In 2021 they upped their year-end match to \$30,000, in timing with the AORN Foundation's 30th anniversary.

“It's critically important that industry leaders like Owens & Minor honor and support the educational needs of perioperative nurses who are on the frontlines to keep patients and staff safe through these unprecedented times. We decided to increase our year-end match donation in celebration of nurses' absolute dedication to their practice. We know every donation makes a difference for a nurse seeking education to keep up with ever-changing challenges and advancements in providing safe surgery.”

—Owens & Minor Leadership

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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AORN Staff Scholarship
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Barba Edwards Educational Scholarship
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**Complete list of 2021 donors
can be found [here](#).**



Trustees

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 past 12 months, with competence and foresight, you have confronted a never-ending series of obstacles, many never seen in nursing care. In a landscape that shifted by the day, and under unrelenting pressure, you advanced nursing education and patient safety through an unprecedented storm. 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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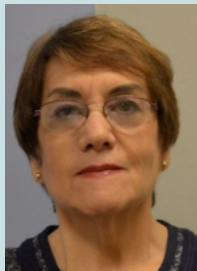
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FINANCIALS

Your Dollars at Work

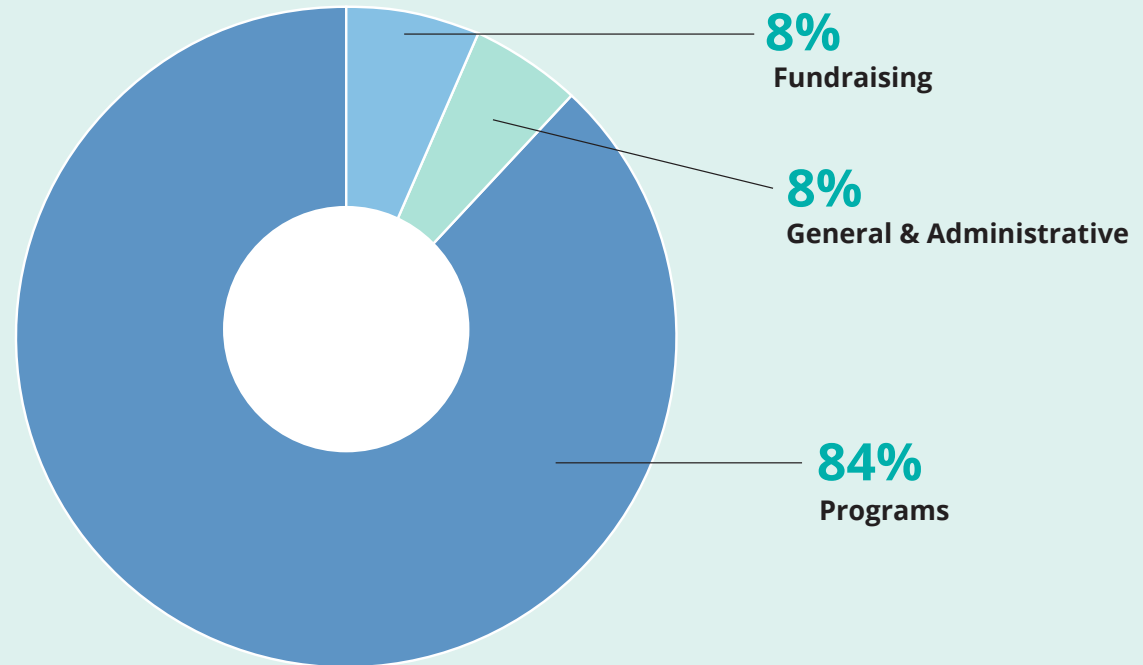
We spend every day working to deliver on our mission, and we are grateful for the participation of individuals, corporations chapters, and partners who share our commitment to supporting nurses through education, research, and patient safety initiatives. In turn, we are equally committed to the careful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

As this graph depicts, in 2021 \$0.84 of every dollar was directly invested in programs for nurses while fundraising costs and general and administrative expenses were held to 16-percent.

2021 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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