



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Alone we are rare. Together we are strong.®



NORD Mission Statement

The National Organization for Rare Disorders is a unique federation of individuals, voluntary health agencies and other health related organizations dedicated to helping people with rare “orphan diseases.” NORD is committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of rare disorders through programs of education, advocacy, research, and services.

Alone we are rare. Together we are strong.[®]

Advocacy • Education • Patient Services • Research

Dear NORD Members and Friends:

At the National Organization for Rare Disorders, our primary focus is to help people and families affected by rare diseases. We are doing everything we can to speed up progress to find cures, empower rare disease patient organizations, and develop resources that educate patients, families, and doctors.

We are intensely aware of the struggles – emotional, financial, and more – that families face throughout their battles with rare diseases. Because of support from our donors, NORD helped more than 4,000 people access life-improving medical care and treatment in 2015 that they could not otherwise afford. Our annual events, Rare Disease Day® and NORD's Rare Diseases & Orphan Products Breakthrough Summit, brought all stakeholders together to raise awareness, make connections, and identify new areas for progress.

As I reflect on this past year and look ahead to 2016, I am struck by how NORD is driving progress for all 7,000 rare diseases and the 30 million people they affect. Our Policy team was vital in advocating for legislation that has the potential to help millions of children and families. We funded research grants and developed more than 20 new natural history studies. We launched an award-winning redesign of our website, which has made it easier for people to find and share our online resources. Because we know that no single organization can tackle these issues alone, we grew our Membership program to more than 250 patient member organizations. In September, we were pleased when *"The Week"* magazine named NORD as its *"Charity of the Week,"* recognizing our value and trustworthiness.

NORD's work would not be possible without the generosity of our funders and donors, Membership Organizations, Corporate Council partners, and public contributions. Working together, our supporters have donated critical funds and shared their stories to help us toward cures for all types of rare diseases.

At NORD, we set out to do great things. I am pleased to share some of our recent accomplishments in this report.

Your partner in rare diseases,



Peter L. Saltonstall
President and CEO



PATIENT ASSISTANCE

Parents Thank NORD for Saving Daughter's Life

Laurie and Chuck Eallonardo were thrilled at the birth of their twins, Jenna and Caden. Laurie felt happy and relieved that she had been able to carry them for 38 weeks, almost to full term, which can be harder with twins.

One afternoon, during a normal feeding time with 5-month-old Jenna, their baby girl suddenly shrugged her shoulders and rolled her eyes. "It wasn't a big jolt, and could have easily been overlooked, but my gut told me something wasn't right," said Laurie.

Over time, Jenna's erratic movements occurred more often. She began having episodes of bending forward and clenching her body repeatedly. "We were desperate to figure out what was wrong. Finally, an EEG confirmed she was having seizures. We had no idea at that time that using typical seizure medicines would have no effect on Jenna. We also did not realize how neurologically devastating her type of seizures could be," said Laurie and Chuck.

After months wasted on an ineffective treatment, doctors at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles diagnosed her with Infantile Spasms, a catastrophic age-specific epilepsy syndrome that has its onset within the first 12 months of life, with most cases appearing between 3 and 7 months of age. Jenna was experiencing more than 100 seizures per day. This number is common with the condition, according to NORD's Physician Guide to Infantile Spasms, written with Cristina Y. Go, MD, and O. Carter Snead III, MD, FAAN, and Jenna's parents remember being horrified when they learned this number because it meant that some of Jenna's leg twitches, which had seemed like normal behavior for a baby, were actually part of her seizures.

After receiving the diagnosis, Jenna was prescribed the only approved treatment available at the time, adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH). The cost was partly covered by

NORD through its Patient Assistance Programs. **“NORD got the ACTH medication to us immediately while our medical group needed more time to authorize and figure it out. We didn’t have an extra minute to waste,”** Laurie said.

“We knew within five days it worked,” Laurie recalls. The seizures stopped and Jenna had her first smile since they had begun.

“The ACTH treatments were ultimately a miracle cure for Jenna. After four long months of severe and frequent seizures, Jenna became seizure free [and] to this day our family celebrates the anniversary of Jenna's 'Happy Day,'" said Laurie.

Jenna’s neurologist, Dr. Pantea Sharifi Hannauer of UCLA & Pediatric Minds Early Childhood Treatment Center, told the family that she has never seen an infantile spasms patient turn out so well.

Laurie and Chuck recently made a donation to NORD, a 501(c)(3) charity, as a thank you. Laurie and her family are very grateful to NORD for providing medication to them, total strangers.

“Jenna’s story [is] really is beyond belief. I want the staff, volunteers, and supporters of NORD to know how critical and life-altering your organization is,” Laurie said.

“Your organization helped save our daughter’s life when she was a baby. Jenna had severe Infantile Spasms (catastrophic seizures) for four months. NORD paid for the ACTH medication – the injections stopped her seizures.”

Making an Impact



74 programs are available
to assist patients and
their families



4,039 people receive
NORD's financial and
medication assistance through
those programs



180 calls per day
into NORD's call center



“Every one of us preparing for medical careers will see patients with rare diseases, and the extent to which we prepare ourselves for this reality will determine the impact we can have on these patients' lives.”

– Sophia Walker,
Medical Student and NORD Volunteer

“Hearing from NORD's patient speakers has enabled us, at Northeastern University, to learn about the patient experience from Day 1. Learning about rare diseases from patients and caregivers has provided our future health care professionals with new knowledge that will help them become more compassionate and dedicated providers.”

– Nicole Curtis
Student, School of Pharmacy, Northeastern University

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Better Care.

Understanding that it still takes too many years and too many doctor visits for people with rare disease to receive an accurate diagnosis, NORD intensified its educational efforts this year. More than 40,000 healthcare professionals viewed print or digital editions of our Neurological Rare Disease Special Report, co-published with Frontline Medical Communications. In a follow-up survey, 90% of 142 respondents said it would help them screen patients more proactively and treat them more effectively.

A Brighter Future.

In February, we traveled to the nation's largest gathering of medical students, the annual meeting of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), where we established the first-ever rare disease booth. We hosted patients and caregivers from NORD's Member Organizations for a "Meet the Patients" session and created a scavenger hunt for medical students to bring rare diseases to life beyond the traditional blurb in a textbook. NORD also established its first-ever free student membership and launched a special newsletter for students preparing for healthcare careers.

Creating Connections.

We hosted 44 patient meetings across the U.S. where we connected more than 1,000 patients with 50 medical experts knowledgeable about specific rare diseases. Through these meetings, patients and caregivers who might never have met another person with their same disease are able to share experiences and hope.

More Awareness.

We redesigned our website in 2015 to provide additional information and resources to patients, families and rare disease stakeholders. Since launching the new site, our traffic has grown to 1 million sessions per month! The website offers a variety of resources, including our unique databases for finding specific rare disease information and patient organizations. Learn more by visiting rarediseases.org.

Making an Impact



Over 1,300 Rare Disease Reports are available on NORD's website



We reach over 1.2 million medical professionals and students through partnerships with medical communications channels



Visitors from **230+ countries** come to NORD's website for information and resources

“The fellow patients and/or caregivers you meet will be family to you.”

– Jill Ziegler, patient meeting attendee

“One of the only places that ever knows of my disease (CIDP). Thank you NORD.”

– Jade Diquattro, on Facebook

“Thank you NORD for all the good you do.”

– Jade Diquattro, on Facebook





ADVOCACY

National Progress.

Since 1983's passing of the Orphan Drug Act, NORD has ensured that the rare disease perspective is at the table when important policy and regulatory decisions are made and 2015 was a banner year for progress

21st Century Cures.

In May, the House Energy & Commerce Committee approved proposed legislation called the 21st Century Cures Initiative, one of our nation's largest efforts to spur the development of new medicines. NORD worked closely with committee staff to assure that the bill included provisions to support the rare disease community, and we will work closely with Senate as it develops its own version of the legislation.

Helping Kids.

More than half of the 30 million Americans with rare diseases are children. We are proud to have led the charge to renew the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher (PRV) Program with one of NORD's most successful advocacy sign-on campaigns to-date, with 115 supporting organizations.



Making an Impact



1/3 of all new drugs approved are to help rare diseases



Conducted 10 webinars for NORD members and the general rare disease community



Submitted written testimony on Legislation in 30 states

ADVOCACY

Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials.

In October, the Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2015 was signed into law by the President of the United States. We are honored to have worked with our Members Organizations, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Muscular Dystrophy Association, to advocate for its passage. Now, people who receive Social Security Income and Medicaid will not lose government medical benefits because of the compensation they receive from participating in much-needed clinical trial research to find new treatments.

A Roadmap for State Improvement.

In October, NORD released the first-ever State Policy Progress Report to track health care policies that affect the rare disease community on a state-by-state basis. The report is now being used by multiple state coalitions to highlight policies in need of improvement.

Making an Impact



Hosted over 100 meetings with state legislators on key policy initiatives



5,000 Sign-Ups to join the RareAction NetworkSM



Traveled over 5,000 Miles to meet with advocates and elected officials during our RareAction Road Tour.





ACCESS ASSISTANCE

Serving the Community

Since 1987, NORD's patient assistance programs (PAP's) have supported patients and families impacted by rare disease across the country to obtain life-saving or life-sustaining treatment that they would not otherwise be able to afford. Our dedicated team fields on average 180 calls per day. Representatives from NORD are available over the phone for enrolled patients, serving as the patients point of contact for accessing their medication.

"Thanks for helping me reach my dream to meet my doctor. This visit cleared so many doubts that I had about my condition with Gaucher. I will always be thankful." –Frances, Gaucher Disease

Improving Access to Life-Improving Treatment and Care

During 2015, NORD hosted a Patient Access and Reimbursement Seminar for industry representatives to lead conversations on the legal, operational and financial issues affecting patients' access to needed therapies. This special event was open for companies developing treatments for patients with rare diseases, and NORD lead the conversation on PAP's in relation to the current legal, operational, and reimbursement issues affecting patients' access to needed therapies.

“How to handle the copayments for my cancer treatment was extremely stressful, but because of the assistance you provided, I can forget that stress. Thank you for providing some peace.”

Jerry, Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma

Making an Impact



74 programs are available
to assist patients and
their families



4,039 people receive
NORD's financial and
medication assistance through
those programs



180 calls per day
into NORD's call center

RESEARCH

Research Support

NORD's long-running research grant program, funded mostly by patients, patient organizations, and donations provides seed money to researchers. In many cases, our grants are the only sources of funding for the study of specific diseases and we are proud to say that NORD's research grants have resulted in FDA-approved treatments for rare diseases.

In 2015, NORD awarded a total of \$230,000 in research grants for studies on Alveolar Capillary Dysplasia (ACD), Cat Eye Syndrome, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), Cysathionine Beta-Synthase Deficiency, Lysosomal Storage Diseases, and Pseudomyxoma Peritonei (PMP).

Advancing Rare Disease Research

In December, the FDA awarded NORD, a grant as part of a cooperative agreement, to develop 20 natural history studies for specific rare diseases as part of a lottery system. A natural history study examines data on a disease over the course of its lifetime. NORD's registry systematically collects the data online, securely stores it, and enables study sponsors to analyze and share the outcomes with its patient communities and researchers.

Training the Community

In July of 2015, the University of Maryland and NORD were awarded the Eugene Washington Engagement Award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). With this, we were able to empower patient organization representatives with the knowledge and skills to become more more engaged in patient-centered outcomes research for the treatment and cure of their disease. The training program was offered at NORD's 2015 Rare Diseases and Orphan Products Breakthrough Summit in October where 40 member organizations of NORD gathered for the exclusive training.

Making an Impact



\$230,000 in research grants awarded



1,100+ Patients and Caregivers are actively using our new registry platform



Received \$250k from FDA to support the development of 20 new natural history studies for rare diseases





NORD'S RARE SUMMIT:

In October, NORD gathered the entire rare disease community under one roof to discuss critical issue and identify new areas for collaboration and progress. The 2015 Summit was our most successful to date, with more than 500 attendees and speakers from leadership at the FDA and NIH, patients and patient groups, industry, researchers, investment, and academia.



RARE DISEASE DAY:

NORD was thrilled to once again serve as the U.S. host and sponsor of this international campaign, joining more than 85 countries in an international effort to raise the collective voice for rare diseases. 2015 was the biggest and most impactful year yet in the U.S. as we hosted 35 State House Events, trended on social media, and garnered billions of impressions in media coverage.



PORTRAITS OF COURAGE GALA:

In May of 2015, NORD hosted the Portraits of Courage gala, giving us the opportunity to honor the patients, caregivers, industry leaders, and those making an impact for the rare disease community at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. The black-tie optional event is NORD's largest annual fundraiser and a special evening to pause and celebrate our remarkable accomplishments as a community.



RUNNING FOR RARE:

Our inspiring charity running team, Running for Rare, participated in two marathons, Boston and Providence, and ran to Boston and Providence, raising \$196,812 for NORD and its undiagnosed diseases program to help patients seeking to apply into the NIH program.

Together, Stronger. Our Membership:

(The) LAM Foundation
 (The) Mastocytosis Society, Inc.
 A Cure in Sight
 A Twist of Fate-ATS
 Acid Maltase Deficiency Association (AMDA)
 Acromegaly Community, Inc
 AKU Society of North America
 Alagille Syndrome Alliance
 Alpha-1 Foundation
 Alport Syndrome Foundation
 Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood Foundation
 American Autoimmune & Related Diseases
 American Behcet's Disease Association
 American Brain Tumor Association
 American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association
 American Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Support
 American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED)
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 Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation, Inc
 APS Type 1 Foundation
 Association for Creatine Deficiencies
 Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD)
 Association for Glycogen Storage Disease
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 Ataxia Telangiectasia Children's Project, Inc (A-T)
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 Autoinflammatory Alliance (3/25 formerly NOMID Alliance)
 Basal Cell Carcinoma Nevus Syndrome Life Support Network
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 Breath of Hope, Inc
 Bridge the Gap-SYNGAP Education & Research Foundation - 50
 Cardio Facio Cutaneous International (CFC)
 Castleman's Awareness & Research Effort (CARE) DBA Castleman Disease Collaborative Network
 CCHS Network
 Charcot-Marie Tooth Association
 Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation
 Children's Craniofacial Association
 Children's PKU Network
 Children's Tumor Foundation, Inc
 Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation
 Chordoma Foundation - New 2016
 Chromosome 18 Registry & Research Society
 Chromosome Disorder Outreach, Inc
 Chronic Granulomatous Disease Association, Inc
 Cicatricial Alopecia Research Foundation (CARF)
 Cloves Syndrome Community
 Cluster Headache Support Group, Inc
 CMTC-OVM -US
 Congenital Hyperinsulinism International
 Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers
 Cornelila de Lange Syndrome Foundation, Inc
 Council for Bile Acid Deficiency Diseases
 CureCADASIL/CADASIL Association, Inc
 CURE HHT Foundation
 Cure SMA
 CurePSP
 Curing Retinal Blindness Foundation
 Cushing Support & Research Foundation, Inc.
 Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation
 Cystinosis Foundation, Inc
 Cystinosis Research Network, Inc
 Daybreak Children's Rare Disease Fund
 Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation
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 ECD Global Alliance
 Ehlers Danlos National Foundation
 Erythromelalgia Association
 Family Caregiver Alliance
 Family Support Network of North Carolina
 Fat Disorders Research Society, Inc.
 Fibrolamellar Cancer Fdn
 Fibromuscular Dysplasia Society of America
 Fibrous Dysplasia Foundation
 Foundation Fighting Blindness
 Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc
 Foundation for Prader-Willi Syndrome
 Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
 Galactosemia Foundation
 GBS/CIDP Foundation International
 Genetic Alliance
 Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders
 Glut1 Deficiency Foundation
 Gut Check Foundation
 Guthy Jackson Charitable Foundation

- Hemophilia Federation of America
 Hereditary Disease Foundation, Inc
 Hereditary Leiomyomatosis & Renal Cell Cancer Family Alliance (HLRCCFA) (part of VHL)
 Hereditary Neuropathy Foundation
 Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network, Inc
 Histiocytosis Association, Inc
 Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas
 Huntington's Disease Society of America
 Hydrocephalus Association
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 Immune Deficiency Foundation
 Incontinentia Pigmenti International Foundation
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 International FOP Association, Inc.(Fibrodysplasia Ossification Progressive)
 International Foundation for CDKL5 Research
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 International Myeloma Foundation
 International Pemphigus & Pemphigoid Foundation (IPPF)
 International Rett Syndrome Foundation(Cure Rett)
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 National PKU Alliance
 National PKU News
 National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association
 National Spasmodic Torticollis Association
 National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association
 National Urea Cycle Disorders Foundation
 NBIA Disorders Association
 NephCure Kidney International
 Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation (formerly Caring for Carcinoid Foundation)
 Neurofibromatosis Network
 NICER Foundation
 NTM Info & Research, Inc
 Ocular Melanoma Foundation
 Oley Foundation (The)
 Organic Acidemia Association
 OMSLife Foundation
 Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
 Oxalosis & Hyperoxaluria Foundation
 Pachyonychia Congentia Project
 Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
 Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
 Parkinson's Disease Foundation, Inc.
 Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation
 Pitt Hopkins Research Foundation
 PKD Foundation

Platelet Disorder Support Association
PMP Research Foundation
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association, USA
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PSC Partners Seeking A Cure (Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis)
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Rare & Undiagnosed Network
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RASopathies Network USA
Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis Foundation
Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association
Rett Syndrome Research Trust (see note)
Rothmund-Thomson Syndrome Foundation
Sarcoid Networking Association
Sarcoma Foundation of America
SBS Cure Project
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Scleroderma Research Foundation
Short Bowel Syndrome Foundation
Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome Foundation
Snyder-Robinson Foundation, Inc.
Soft Bones, Inc.
Sotos Syndrome Support Association
Spastic Paraplegia Foundation

SSADH Association(Succinic Semialdehyde Dehydrogenase Deficiency)
Stevens Johnson Syndrome Foundation
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Target Cancer Foundation
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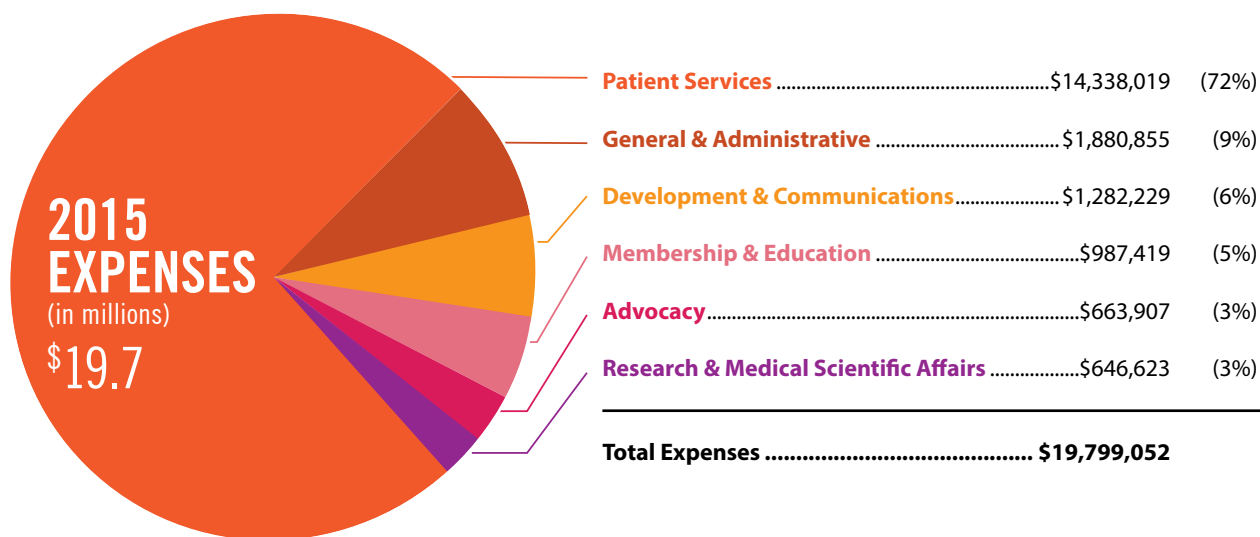
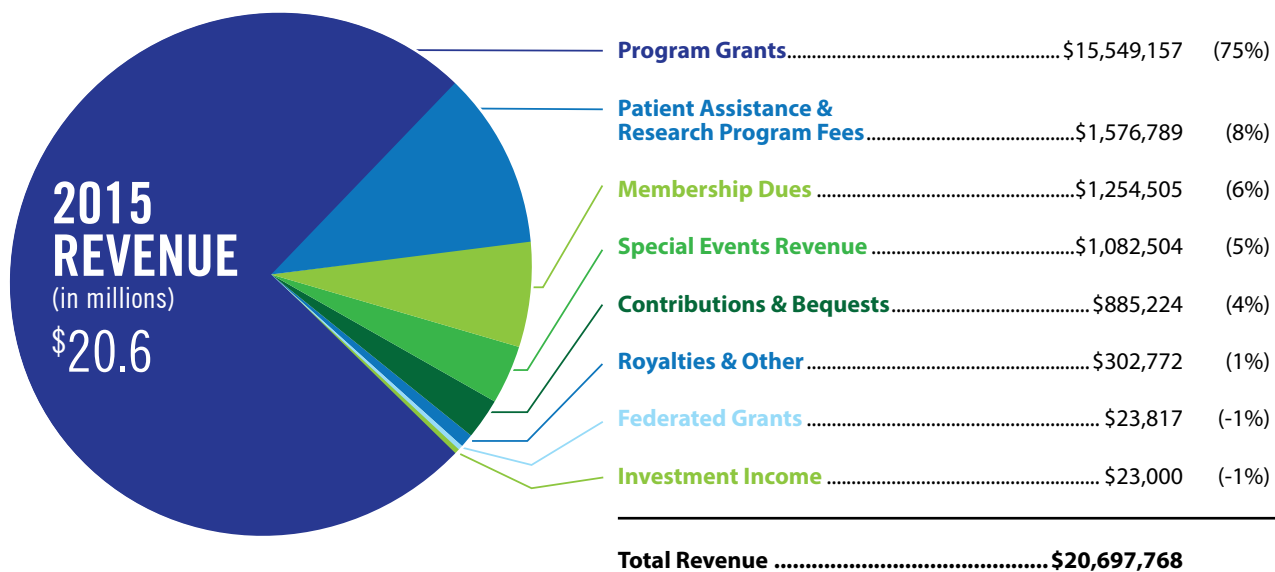
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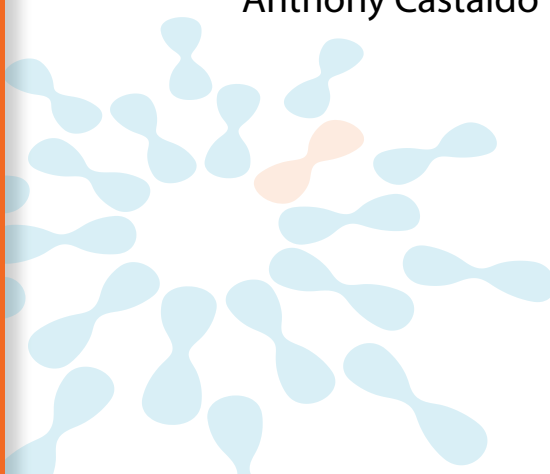
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