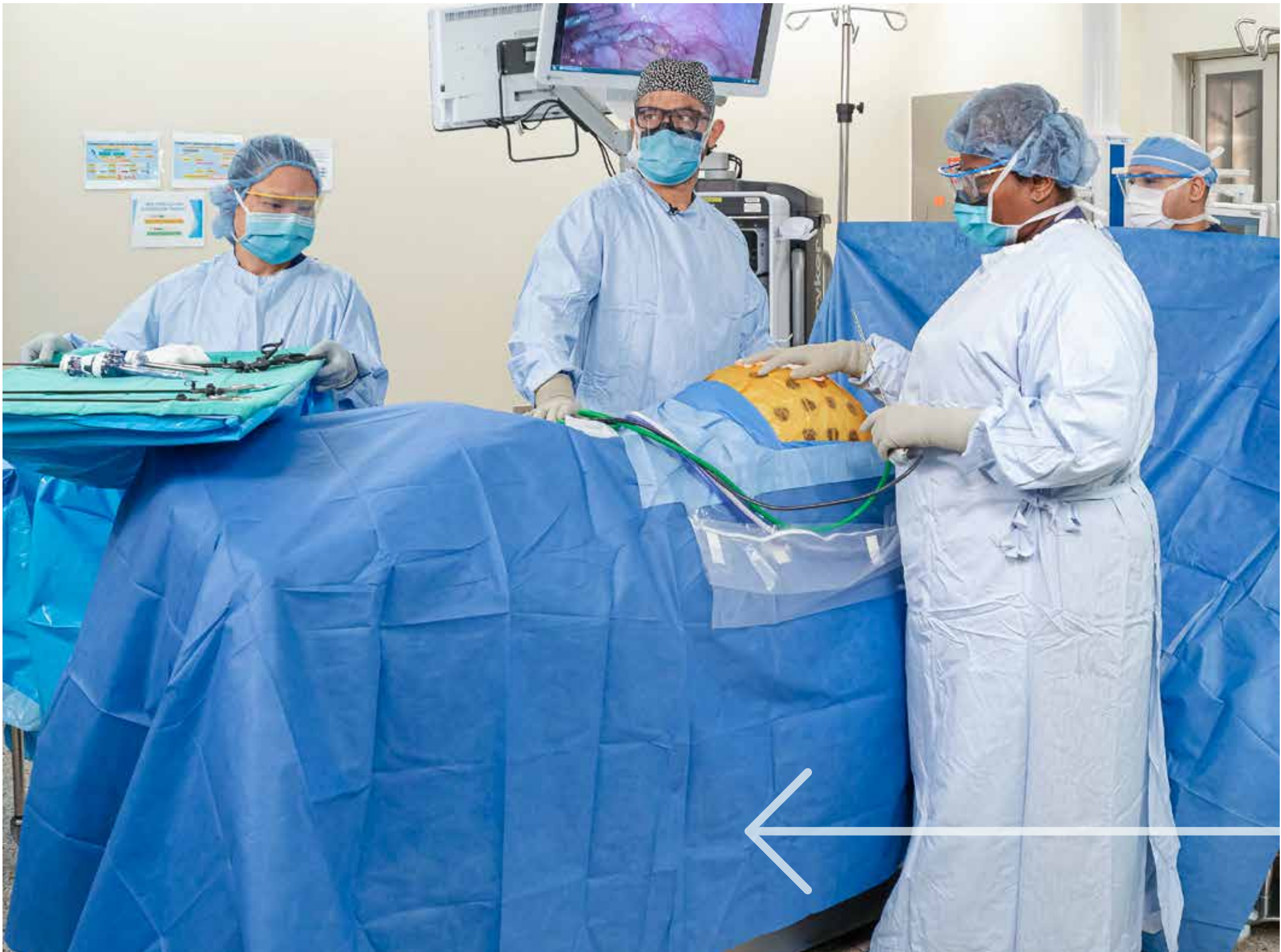




2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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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

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As we reflect on the transformations within our community and the strides we've made together, I am reminded of the remarkable power of collective action.

As the Board President of the AORN Foundation, I have witnessed the incredible impact of your support on the perioperative nursing profession. My tenure as President, which concluded in 2023, was a time of significant advancement and heartfelt engagement. Although I have passed the presidential torch to Martha Stratton, I remain deeply committed to our mission and am thrilled to support her leadership as we forge ahead.

In the last year alone, your generosity has empowered 107 outstanding nurses and nursing students with academic scholarships, 120 nurses received Professional Development Grants for assistance in CNOR, CSSM, and CNAMB certification, 733 membership grants were provided to support professional development, 178 Expo attendees received financial assistance for their attendance. As a part of providing support through these impactful programs, the AORN Foundation also strives to embrace diversity in our missional work. In 2023 one way we delivered on this commitment was by ensuring scholarships and grants awarded to people of color aligned with the diversity rate of AORN's membership.

These achievements are not just numbers – they represent lives touched, careers shaped, and patient outcomes improved. They are a testament to what we can accomplish when we come together with a shared vision for patient and workplace safety.

Your commitment to the AORN Foundation is more than a gift – it is a legacy that fosters excellence in nursing and safeguards countless lives. I extend my most sincere thanks to you for uplifting the perioperative nursing profession. With your continued support, we can build new communities and validate the crucial role nurses play in healthcare.

With warm regards and deep gratitude,



Larry Asplin, MSN, RN, CSSM(E), CNOR(E), FAORN

## AORN, INC. MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

On behalf of the AORN Foundation, I want to express my deepest appreciation to our industry partners, chapters, and individual donors. Your unwavering support throughout 2023 has been instrumental in our success.

Perioperative nurses are essential to patient safety and improved patient outcomes. Their dedication to fostering a safe environment, continuous learning, and patient advocacy is truly remarkable. The AORN Foundation recognizes their vital role and is committed to empowering them through education and research initiatives.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide critical programs and resources for nurses at all career stages. These resources helped them achieve their professional goals while maintaining the highest standards of patient care. For over three decades, our partnership with donors and nurses has been the driving force behind elevating patient and workplace safety in the operating room.

This annual report reflects what we have accomplished together. However, your continued support is essential as we strive to expand our reach and impact. I encourage you to consider making a meaningful difference by **donating to the AORN Foundation** in honor of AORN's 75th Anniversary. Your gift will directly empower perioperative nurses and nurse leaders to continue their pursuit of excellence.

Together, we can ensure a future where skilled and compassionate perioperative nurses continue to deliver exceptional care.

With sincere gratitude,



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 2023, 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.



“Receiving this scholarship means the world to me, as it will greatly alleviate the financial burden of pursuing my nursing degree. I have always been passionate about healthcare and helping others, and this scholarship will enable me to focus on my studies and clinical experiences without the added stress of financial constraints.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the entire scholarship committee for recognizing my potential and investing in my future. Your generosity and support not only provided me with a tremendous opportunity but have also reaffirmed my commitment to making a positive impact in the field of nursing.

I am excited to embark on this educational journey and am eager to learn from experienced professionals in the nursing field. With this scholarship, I will be able to fully immerse myself in my studies, participate in extracurricular activities, and engage in community service initiatives that will further enhance my skills and knowledge.

Once again, I cannot thank you enough for this incredible opportunity. I am truly grateful for your belief in me and for your commitment to supporting aspiring nurses like me. I promise to work diligently and strive for excellence in my academic pursuits, and I hope to one day give back to the nursing community as you have done for me.”

*Taylor-Rose Greasley 2023 – 2024 Academic Scholarship Recipient*

## IN SUMMARY

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# 120

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

---

# 107

outstanding nursing students were awarded academic scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year

---

# 733

membership grants were provided to support professional development

---

# 178

grants were awarded to assist nurses with the expense of traveling to 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 SERIES

Guidelines workshops offer 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. Supported by The AORN Foundation and Pfiedler Education.

### AORN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN SURGICAL SAFETY

**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

*“The AORN Foundation plays a pivotal role in advancing perioperative practice and patient safety by empowering nurses to harness the power of education and research, which will significantly impact patient outcomes. The foundation's partnerships with medical device companies to sponsor the AORN Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety programs validates their genuine commitment to upholding excellence in perioperative practice. Being recognized as one of the recipients of the Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety: RSI Prevention designation, our team is grateful for the amazing opportunity to experience the evidence-based program that the organization funded. It facilitated interprofessional collaboration and bolstered the surgical team's competence in combating RSIs. Truly, the AORN Foundation continues to be a steadfast force that unlocks remarkable opportunities for the perioperative nursing community.”*

—Ray Talatala, MAN, MN, RN, CNOR, DNP candidate  
Nurse Educator Lv. II, Perioperative Services  
Assistant Coordinator, Nurse Residency Program  
NYC Health and Hospitals/Bellevue

### 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 2023 in San Antonio 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 2023 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 2023 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 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

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Financials



## FINANCIALS

### Your Dollars at Work

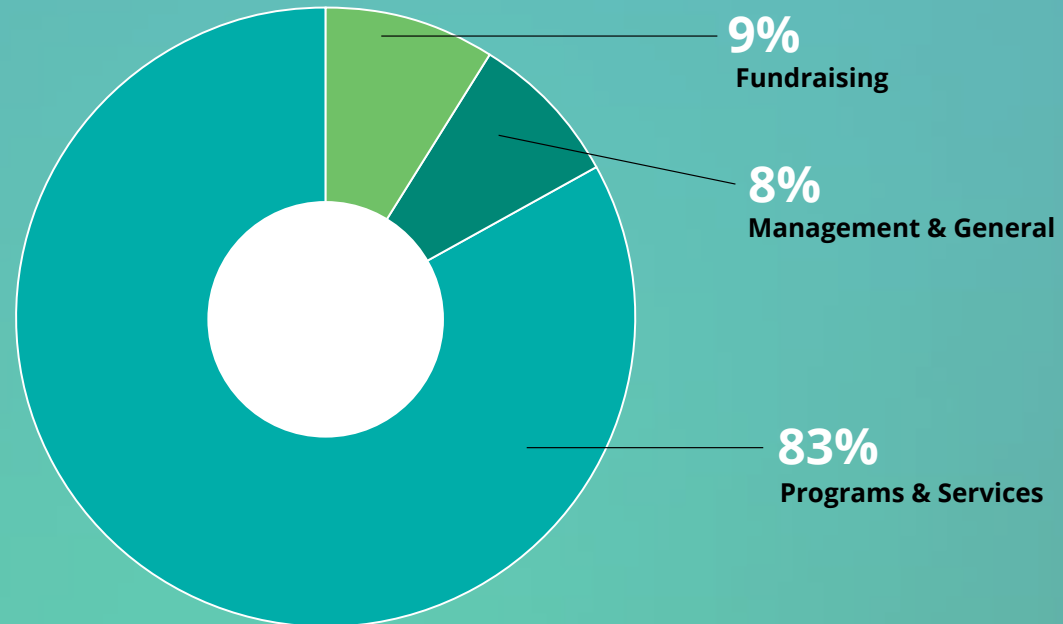
We spend every day working to deliver on our mission, and we are grateful for the participation of individuals, corporations, chapters, and partners who share our commitment to supporting nurses through education, research, and patient safety initiatives. In turn, we are equally committed to the careful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

As this graph depicts, in 2023 \$0.83 of every dollar was directly invested in programs for nurses while fundraising costs and general administrative expenses were held to 17 percent.

2023 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







AORN Foundation  
2170 South Parker Rd, Suite 400  
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