The mission of the American Humanist Association (AHA) is to advance humanism.

Advocating for equality for nontheists and a society guided by reason, empathy, and our growing knowledge of the world, the AHA promotes a worldview that encourages individuals to live informed and meaningful lives that aspire to the greater good.

**Humanism by the Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,000+</td>
<td>Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>Action Alerts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>236</td>
<td>AHA Chapters &amp; Affiliates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>290</td>
<td>Incarcerated humanists in twelve prison chapters</td>
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<tr>
<td>90+</td>
<td>Elected officials at local, state, and federal levels</td>
</tr>
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<td>654,540</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
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<tr>
<td>70,300</td>
<td>Twitter</td>
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<tr>
<td>31,300</td>
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Humanists have the potential to realize our shared vision of a truly progressive democracy, but our fundamental democracy is under threat. In 2022 we saw an onslaught of rulings against abortion, keeping religion out of schools, gun safety, healthcare, and more. It is not merely a coincidence. Time and time again, it has become increasingly clear that the Supreme Court and courts across the states are fueling and empowering Christian fascism and rejecting the values of a liberal democracy. The Supreme Court and lower courts throughout the nation empower authoritarian movements hiding inside Christianity by allowing their “religious beliefs” to exempt them from upholding human rights.

We do not stand idle when others are suffering. In 2022 we rolled up our sleeves, fought against religious authoritarian influence, created welcoming spaces for humanists to thrive, and worked to bring the change our country greatly needs. The AHA is well equipped to support—and even lead—the fight for our democracy, our rights, and our communities. Read on to find out how.
Message from Our Leadership

We humanists know that any protections of equal rights, whether those we enjoy in practice or those to which we aspire, have meaning only in the context of a legal and constitutional environment that supports them. Last year, for the first time in the history of our republic, a major right, recognized for half a century, was taken away by the Supreme Court’s reversal of Roe in the Dobbs case.

The radically activist judicial movement that brought about Dobbs—characterized by interpretations of ‘originalism’ that morph as necessary to achieve the ends in a given case—represents an antidemocratic threat that could transform our democratic institutions into authoritarian ones within a few years. Erosion of the rights of nontheists is especially likely, given the Christian supremacist underpinnings of that judicial movement. In fact, we have already seen Supreme Court decisions in 2022 that further erode the separation of religion and government.

This extremist judicial movement works in tandem with political actors driven by a White Christian Nationalist ideology refusing to accept election results, denying the racist history of the republic, and demonizing the LGBTQ+ community. American humanists need to brace ourselves for an extended period of struggle to preserve both our broad democratic rights as well as our rights as nonbelievers, a period that may well last decades. The AHA has been fighting for humanists for over eighty years and remains committed to that struggle for however long it takes.

During 2022 the AHA continued to have an impact well beyond its resources because of the hard work of our staff and volunteers. Being a grassroots organization, many of our efforts are geared towards supporting the nearly 250 AHA chapters and affiliates promoting humanism and encouraging community engagement. With the assistance of our staff, the local groups adapted well to the pandemic and moved most of their programming online, enabling them to host more than 3,000 events across the country in 2022. The AHA Center for Education continued to offer a wide variety of programming including scientific topics such as the minds of animals, contemporary ones such as pandemic misinformation and ethical matters such as antiracism and inclusion.

Our robust and focused legal efforts continued as we pursued several cases such as one on behalf of a five-year-old and her parents against an Oklahoma school system that hosted a “missionaries” assembly every month for decades, during which students were given copies of the New Testament and coerced into participating in talks about Jesus. As part of our sustained efforts with Congress and the White House to ensure humanist voices are heard on policy issues, last summer we organized our most successful Lobby Day ever, mobilizing humanists from across the country to hold more than fifty meetings with Congressional offices to advocate for the Every Child Deserves a Family Act.

The AHA is different from many non-profits in not being driven from the top down but by its grassroots membership. Our members elect the Board that oversees the organization. Our local groups live their humanism on the ground. We survive and thrive because of the support and dedication of our membership.

The success of the AHA is crucially dependent on fully realizing talent from the ground up. We depend on the hard work of individual staff members and the many hundreds of volunteers across the country who generously give their time, talent, and treasure. While the names of those in AHA leadership positions may be most familiar to you because you see them in publications or emails, our organization owes a great deal more to the staff and volunteers whose names you may not recognize or even ever see. We will depend on their efforts—and your continuing support—even more as the AHA faces very challenging times in the years ahead, fighting for human dignity and combating the antidemocratic and radically extremist religious forces arrayed against humanism and the fundamental democratic traditions of our republic.

Sunil Panikkath

Sunil Panikkath, President of the American Humanist Association
“My humanist philosophy is very much connected to the kind of world I want to see—one where no matter what zip code you’re born in, who your parents are, or how much money you make, you can still live a life that’s good and full of dignity, with every opportunity to use all of your talents.”

— Kelda Roys, State Senator, Senate District 26, Madison, Wisconsin
Defending the First Amendment

The separation of church and state is the foundation of a healthy, fair, and multiracial democracy. It’s one of the basic necessities every one of us needs to live our lives on our terms—so long as we aren’t causing harm to anyone else. When the government is barred from establishing a state religion, and cannot support one religion over another, it helps ensure that the government acts for the whole of the American people. 2022 saw the impact of Trump-appointed judges ruling conservatively and an increase in efforts nationwide to misinterpret the First Amendment, including our right to live free from religious intrusion by government. Our legal system is supposed to protect all of us, but instead it’s being co-opted by religious extremists and White Christian Nationalists to take away rights and force the American people to adhere to the beliefs of one religion. The AHA’s legal center, through litigation, amicus activity, and talks, lectures, and presentations provides the zealous advocacy that humanists and others need to defend constitutional rights and strengthen the wall of separation between church and state.

Litigation

**Protecting Public School Students:** The AHA filed a lawsuit on behalf of a five-year-old and her parents against an Oklahoma school system that hosted a “missionaries” assembly for students, in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, every month for decades. During these assemblies, captive students were coerced into participating in talks about Jesus and were given copies of the New Testament and Christian coloring sheets, in clear violation of the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause.

**Ensuring Inclusivity on State Grounds:** In May 2018, the AHA filed suit in federal court to remove a controversial Ten Commandments display from the state capitol grounds in Little Rock, Arkansas. The lawsuit alleges that the Ten Commandments monument is an unconstitutional endorsement of religion, in violation of the Establishment Clause. This contentious battle has all parties filing numerous discovery and pretrial motions.

**Holding Police Departments Accountable for Coercive Prayer Vigil:** In May 2018, the AHA prevailed in District Court against the City of Ocala and its police department for sponsoring, promoting, and leading a prayer vigil. After losing, the City enlisted Jay and Jordan Sekulow, former Trump attorneys, to appeal the decision to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and, if necessary, all the way to the Supreme Court. The AHA worked tirelessly throughout 2021 strategizing, researching, and drafting our brief on the merits. Oral arguments were held on April 28, 2022. The City filed a Petition for a Writ of Certiorari with the Supreme Court in September 2022. The AHA submitted our brief in opposition in November 2022. The Supreme Court rebuffed the city’s appeal in early 2023. With this decision, the Supreme Court has endorsed the rights of our plaintiffs to sue the city over the police vigil.

In 2014, the city of Ocala, FL planned, promoted, and conducted a Christian revival-style prayer vigil in the heart of downtown. Recently, the AHA prevailed in District Court on behalf of plaintiffs contesting the vigil.
Billboard campaign by Central Florida Freethought Community, an AHA affiliate, January 2022
“These fights to secure our rights? They take time. They don’t happen overnight. And if this recent Roe decision reminded us of anything... it’s that none of our rights are guaranteed. Even constitutional rights. And we have to put in the work and be in the long haul together.”

— Carlos Guillermo Smith, Member of the Florida House of Representatives

81st American Humanist Association Conference Speaker
**Amicus brief (friend-of-the-court) activity:**

The AHA’s legal team submitted or co-signed four amicus briefs in 2022:

**Fighting for the End of Trump’s Title 42 Program**

*Arizona v. CDC:* The AHA co-signed an *amicus curiae* brief in Opposition to Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Injunction. The brief asked the high court to uphold the CDC’s decision to stop summarily expelling migrants on purported public health grounds relating to COVID-19. In May 2022, the District Court issued a decision granting the Plaintiff’s Motion to allow Title 42 to continue.

**Challenging a Business Owner Refusing to Serve Same-Sex Couples**

The AHA joined Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Atheists, and Center For Inquiry on an amicus brief for *303 Creative v. Elenis,* arguing that the business owner asking to be exempt from providing wedding services to same-sex couples lacked standing as this case was brought as a preemptive request. Oral Arguments were held before the Supreme Court on December 5, 2022.

**Objecting to Kentucky’s Trigger Abortion Laws**

We co-signed an *amicus curiae* brief alongside sixteen civil-rights, religious, and advocacy organizations supporting the EMW Women’s Center in *Cameron v. EMW Women’s Surgical Center.* The brief objected to the trigger ban and six-week ban on abortion that were enacted after the Dobbs decision overturned *Roe v. Wade.* We expect oral arguments to be held in 2023.

**Objecting to Transgender Discrimination in School Sports**

The AHA joined the National Women’s Law Center and fifty-eight other organizations committed to gender justice in *A.M. v. Indianapolis Public Schools, et al.* The brief argued that if state governments are allowed to ban trans youth from playing sports—based on sex stereotypes—this will lead to greater policing of bodies, which will be particularly harmful for Black and brown women and girls. The brief urged the Seventh Circuit to follow precedent to protect A.M. and other students like her from discrimination.

**Violation Reports and “Behind-the-scenes” Legal Action**

The AHA receives numerous Establishment Clause violation reports each month. We also advise organizations, state agencies, and individuals on how to navigate potential Establishment Clause issues. The details of these matters are confidential but generally involve advising public officials on Establishment Clause concerns, supporting inmates against religiously motivated parole boards, and providing legal strategy to nonprofit organizations.

**Demand-letter Activism**

In 2022, the AHA’s legal team sent numerous demand letters to various government entities objecting to church-state violations. Several noteworthy victories include:

- Demanding that Humanist Celebrants’ applications be approved to perform marriages in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Ending an Ohio public school’s practice of promoting an after-school bible study.
- Joining Demand Justice, NARAL, CREW, and Freedom From Religion Foundation in a letter to the House Judiciary Committee asking to consider the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act (SCERT).
- Joining American Atheists in a letter to the Department of Education regarding rescission of the Trump Administration’s broad interpretation of Title IX religious exemptions and the 2020 “Free Inquiry Rule.”
- Requesting information from a Missouri School District promoting a religious assembly without disclosing the intent of the assembly to students.
In times—and in a country—so divided, more and more people seek a connection with others who have similar values to provide a starting point from which deep, meaningful connections can grow and thrive. The AHA acts as a hub for humanists and allies to grow their understanding of critical issues and mobilize within their communities, making sure that humanists have the tools and resources they need to find themselves, and each other. We extend our educational reach by: offering workshops and webinars to heighten our community’s awareness on critical issues; delivering continuing education courses for community organizers, movement leaders, and social justice advocates; creating online curricula for all ages; organizing our HERE for Climate project to work to mitigate the climate crisis that is a threat multiplier for marginalized communities and society as a whole; and supporting over 290 incarcerated humanist members.

**Lectures, Webinars, Town Halls**

Our programs and webinars offer a wide range of topics of interest to our humanist community. The *Speaking of Humanism* series highlights humanist leaders and authors. *Critical Minds* and *Further Reflection* are both enrichment series providing an opportunity to learn about and discuss issues of critical concern to humanists.

**Humanism for All**

The AHA supports over 290 incarcerated humanists and twelve prison chapters, providing them with educational materials, discounted memberships, and connections to the humanist movement.

**Master Class**

The *Master Class* is an opportunity for humanist leaders to delve into contemporary topics within a collaborative environment promoting problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication. Leaders work together to analyze and evaluate current issues relevant to the humanist life stance to better inform and enhance their roles as heads of like-minded organizations.

**Chapters & Affiliates**

The AHA boasts a large network of local humanist groups, with 146 chapters and 91 affiliates across the country dedicated to promoting humanism and encouraging community engagement. With AHA’s assistance, local groups have worked hard adapting to the pandemic and moved most of their programming online. These groups hosted over 3,000 events for humanists across the country in 2022. We hosted a webinar on “Creating a Welcoming Environment for All Ages” with Camp Quest Executive Director Sarah Miller, Northern Virginia Ethical Society Director of Ethical Education Kimberly Nyilasi, and Central Florida Freethought Community co-founder Jocelyn Williamson.

**Humanist Studies Program**

The *Humanist Studies Program (HSP)* is dedicated to fostering humanist leadership that is ethically-grounded, informed, skillful, globally-responsible, personally-sustainable, and committed to meeting the genuine needs of real people. The AHA kicked off our partnership with United Theological Seminary running two graduate-level courses: Humanist Worldviews: Then & Now, and Humanist Philosophies & Understandings.
Ten Commitments

The Ten Commitments represent humanistic values that promote a democratic world in which every individual’s worth and dignity is respected, nurtured, and supported, and where human freedom and ethical responsibility are natural aspirations for everyone. We presented them in talks to various local groups and continued to offer Ten Commitments posters and badges.

Humanist Society

The Humanist Society endorses and prepares humanist professionals to lead life celebrations and support people during difficult times. Celebrants, chaplains, lay leaders, and invocators provide millions of people with a meaningful alternative to traditional religious services and ceremonies across the nation. The Humanist Society assists professionals with training, resources, and networking with a wider humanist support network. The endorsement program saw growth of seven percent, over the course of 2022.

81st Annual Conference

As the nation’s largest humanist organization, it is our goal to help our members and supporters connect and to provide new opportunities for our movement to grow, succeed, and make a positive impact. The virtual 81st Annual Conference was designed to uplift a wide variety of voices and viewpoints, some new to the humanist movement, some established. AHACON22 brought together humanists from across the country to explore the most pressing questions facing our community, share effective practices to create change, explore humanist thought and action, and think about the road ahead. Notable topics included, political participation and empowerment, Black women and Queer Femmes building humanist communities, fighting White Christian nationalism, musical performances, creating spaces for students in humanist chaplaincies, and more.

— Elyse Ambrose, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Black Study at the University of California, Riverside

81st American Humanist Association Conference Speaker
What happens on Capitol Hill has a profound effect on our lives for years to come. That’s why it’s so important that humanists have a seat at the table. We work alongside our partners to secure federal and state policy solutions that will build strong foundations for a better future. We collaborate with members of Congress, our membership, and our grassroots groups to establish comprehensive and coordinated federal and state support for LGBTQ+ rights, abortion and reproductive healthcare access, ending gun violence, church-state separation, economic development programs, transparency in democracy, and voter rights. Our team meets one-on-one with elected officials and their staff to advocate on a variety of legislative and policy issues, organizes Congressional briefings, and hosts lobby days that bring AHA members to Capitol Hill offices to ensure politicians hear directly from their constituents.

**Lobby Day**

In June we hosted our most successful Lobby Day ever. Humanists, atheists, and freethinkers nationwide were able to meet with offices of their Representatives and Senators to communicate the importance of passing the John Lewis Every Child Deserves a Family Act (S.1848/H.R. 3488), which would bar discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion (including nontheism), and marital status against families or children in taxpayer-funded child welfare services. In total, the event convened 86 congressional meetings, hosted 74 attendees, and represented 24 states with D.C. included.

**Direct Lobbying**

The American Humanist Association has worked to further humanist priorities in Congress, including in regards to the separation of church and state, federal appropriations language, and the transparency of our democratic institutions, and worked to build relationships with the Biden Administration.

**National Day of Reason Resolution**

The American Humanist Association successfully worked to reintroduce the National Day of Reason resolution (H.Res. 1080), sponsored by Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD), which proclaims the central importance of reason in the betterment of humanity.
Grassroots Advocacy

The AHA has helped provide a voice to humanists across the country by crafting Action Alerts. The 14 action alerts helped ensure federal elected officials knew the significance of the humanist perspective on legislative topics, and addressed the separation of church and state, gun violence, abortion, transparency in our democracy, marriage equality, and more. Advocates showed up, taking almost 7,000 actions just this last year alone.

In 2022, the AHA:
- convened 86 congressional meetings with 74 attendees that represented 24 states (including D.C.)
- promoted 14 Action Alerts
- enabled 7,000 member actions

Coalition Work/Organizing

The AHA continues to coordinate with a breadth of coalitions, such as the Secular Coalition for America and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, to ensure action is taken at the federal level on several key initiatives, which has included signing onto letters addressed to elected and nonelected officials, participating in and encouraging members to join organizing efforts such as rallies, and amplifying resources, information, and issue-based campaigns to our networks on social media.

Voter Registration and Early Voting

The American Humanist Association took special care leading up to the midterm elections to advance multiple nonpartisan efforts that encouraged our local chapters and the general public to register, and help others register, to vote. These included High School Voter Registration Week, which taught students how to organize voter registration drives in their schools, and Vote Early Day, which emboldened voters to submit ballots early and make their voices heard on the issues that matter most.

“I would encourage, challenge, equip each of us to be more conscious, aware, mindful of the extent to which we are actually living out the values we claim to hold—actually living out our humanism....Are we humanists in words only, or in action, in collaboration, and community?”

— Drew Bekius, Author of The Rise and Fall of Faith

81st American Humanist Association Conference Speaker
Our community is growing very rapidly. And this increase in numbers is going to be meaningless unless we are engaged in the political and electoral arena. We will have the power to build the society we want to live in. We can create a pluralist strong democracy that enacts public policy based on compassion and reason.”

— Ron Millar, Political and PAC Manager, Center for Freethought Equality

81st American Humanist Association Conference Speaker
Humanists and Allies in Office
For the 2022 mid-term election, CFE sent out 905 questionnaires and information packets to Senate and U.S. House candidates in addition to reaching out to 3,126 state legislative candidates in 41 states and the District of Columbia. The PAC endorsed 196 candidates (32 U.S. House, 1 U.S. Senate, 160 state legislative, and 3 local). Of the 196 endorsed candidates, 93 won their contests, 58 of whom are members of the humanist and atheist community (2 U.S. House and 56 state legislative). For the 2021-2022 cycle the PAC made $62,000 in campaign donations to federal and some state endorsed candidates.

Increasing Visibility of the Humanist Community
CFE made numerous presentations to state and national atheist and humanist groups on how to increase the engagement of the atheist and humanist community in the political and electoral arena as well as coordinated a monthly profile series on TheHumanist.com featuring our elected officials. FEF Coordinator Ron Millar had two in-person presentations in 2022: at the Secular Humanist Society of New York’s “Day of Reason Brunch” and at the Humanists and Freethinkers of Fairfield County (CT). He also made online presentations to the Orange County (CA) Chapter of Americans United and the Atheists of Florida.

Congressional Freethought Caucus
CFE continues to be active with the Congressional Freethought Caucus (CFC). In early 2022 staff from members of the Caucus met with CFE staff to discuss legislative goals. CFC membership now stands at 15, and we hope to recruit more members in the 118th Congress. CFE was happy to assist in the creation of two state legislative caucuses modeled on the CFC in New Hampshire and Minnesota. The Association of Secular Elected Officials, which we helped form in 2020, continues to hold informative model policy presentations and outreach events.

To keep up-to-date with the activities of the Freethought Equality Fund PAC, become a member of the Center for Freethought Equality at www.cfequality.org/membership. Membership is free, but must be renewed annually per FEC (Federal Election Commission) regulations.
The AHA’s flagship *Humanist* magazine and our weekly digital newsletter *theHumanist.com* bolster the AHA’s ability to promote humanist values and community.

Committed to providing readers with intellectual and ethical adventure, in 2022 the quarterly *Humanist magazine* explored reparations, building lifestyles of embodied values, the need for more Black humanists in academia, journeys to humanism, and more.

*TheHumanist.com* is the weekly digital newsletter of the American Humanist Association and the online hub for news, politics, science, technology, art, and culture from a humanist perspective. It boasts over 37,000 page views per month, with 4,027 original pieces since launch, and an 8% increase in the average time spent reading articles. Popular articles in 2022 included

- “The Morality of Atheism” by Phil Zuckerman
- “Conquering Secular and Skeptical White Supremacy in America” by Kavin Senapathy
- “Vonnegut and Jefferson and Jesus” by Wayne Laufert
- “First Humanist Chaplain in North Carolina Prison” by Emily Newman
- “Is It All Worth It? A Humanist Question” by David I. Orenstein

**Publication stats:**

- the *Humanist* has printed continuously since 1941
- *thehumanist.com* receives over 37,000 page views per month and has published 4,027 original pieces since launch in 2014
2022 Balance Sheet

Assets
- Current Assets: $2,179,636
- Fixed Assets: $47,787
- Total Assets: $2,227,423

Liabilities & Equity
- Liabilities: $553,473
- Equity: $1,673,950
- Total Liabilities & Equity: $2,227,423

Total Expenses: $2,910,425
- Public awareness about Humanism: $857,180 (30.55%)
- Humanist Legal Center: $486,912 (17.35%)
- Education Center: $196,484 (7.00%)
- Other: $51,430 (1.83%)

Total Income: $2,910,425
- Contributions: $845,416 (29%)
- Grants & Contracts: $346,613 (11.9%)
- Membership dues revenue: $328,460 (11.28%)
- Bequest: $1,239,865 (46.6%)

Publication Sales: $8,201 (<1%)
Conferences & Seminars Revenue: $24,488 (<1%)
Humanist magazine revenues: $21,358 (<1%)
Management Fees: $72,200 (<1%)
Other Income: $2,861 (<1%)
Interest and Dividends: $20,964 (<1%)
A special thanks to our donors in 2022. The list below features the names of donors who contributed $200 or more in 2022. The support of all our donors—large and small—enables the work we do, and we regret that we could not publish the names of all of our members and supporters. Thank you for helping humanism move forward!

Katharine Hepburn Circle ($50,000–$99,999)
Daniel Thomas and Karen Moran
David O’Brien
Bill Parks
Fred and Iris Pollack
Bryce and Margaret Purdy
Rob Schreck
Carsten Smidt
Thomson Von Stein
Stuart J. Wamsley
FitzWilliams Fund
The Humanist Fund
Just Jim Fund
Anonymous

Margaret Sanger Circle ($25,000–$49,999)
Adam and Rachel Albright
Anderson-Rogers Foundation
Isaac Asimov Circle ($10,000–$24,999)
Gordon and Grace Gamm
Joseph and Barbara Gerstein
Richard and Beverly Hermansen
John Hooper and Gail Pesyna
Everett Jones
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President’s Circle ($1,000–$4,999)
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Bapu and Vijay Arekapudi
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Peter Bell
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Wilson and Ashwini Jacob
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Meryl Krouss
Patricia Lange
Wynne Legrow
Dave and Carla Low
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Don McKenzie
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Christine K. Oda
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Towle Family Fund
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Director’s Club ($500–$999)
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Glenn Newman and Anne Klaeysen
Jeremy Nicholes
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Lois Orth-Lopes and Steve Lopes
Lynda Palevsky
David Pleet
Ronald J. Priest
Alexandra Pyle
Paul Quinn
Kathryn Radke
Mark Remington
Gina Richard and Eric Cox
Gerald Richards
Edwin G. Sather
Christy and Tom Schmitt
Paul Sellnow
Mark C. Sheidler
William Sierichs
Terrence Sloan
Cathy Snow
JT Somers Jr
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Raymond Tanner
Thomas and Rochelle Tear
Janet Tucker and Dan Lammertse
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