



*Where no one faces dementia alone.*



# Annual Report

## FY 2024

**Prepared By**  
Christine LoConte  
Executive Director



**THE DUBIN CENTER**

*Where no one faces dementia alone.*

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# Our Mission & Who We Are

The Dubin Center is an Alzheimer's and dementia resource center that provides support and education to family caregivers.



**The heart of caregiver support in Southwest Florida.**

The Dubin Center, located in Fort Myers, primarily supports caregivers and families across Southwest Florida, while also serving extended family members nationwide. Our work is strengthened by the leadership of 9 dedicated members of the Board of Directors and 11 Advisory Council members, ensuring caregivers never walk this journey alone.

## Vision & Mission

**No one will face dementia alone.**

Our **mission** is to achieve caregiver health, strength and resilience by providing education, information, hope and compassion.



Zelda Dubin

# Our History

The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center was established in 1995 to provide assistance to families of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related memory impairment. Our center is named after Alvin A. Dubin whose widow, Zelda Dubin, made a generous donation to ensure the viability of a resource center in Lee County. Throughout their lives, Alvin and Zelda Dubin used both their time and assets to help others. Their legacy will continue through the Center's work. In 2021, the center completed a marketing rebranding and began doing business as The Dubin Center with a new logo, mission and vision.

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ALVIN A. DUBIN  
Alzheimer's Resource  
CENTER

*Practical support for coping with dementia*



## THE DUBIN CENTER

*Where no one faces dementia alone.*

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# Leadership Transition

In 2024, The Dubin Center experienced an important leadership transition as we thanked Lynne Thorp for their service and welcomed Christine LoConte as our new Executive Director.



## Lynne Thorp

Executive Director, August 2020-August 2024

Lynne Thorp guided The Dubin Center through the challenges of COVID-19 and Hurricane Ian while also introducing and expanding programs and leading the relocation of the Center. We are deeply grateful for her dedication and the lasting impact she has made on caregivers and families.

## Christine LoConte

Executive Director, Appointed July 2024

In 2024, Christine LoConte was appointed Executive Director of The Dubin Center. With a strong background in nonprofit leadership and a passion for supporting caregivers, she is committed to building on our foundation of compassion and innovation while guiding the Center into its next chapter of growth and impact.





# 2024 Board of Trustees

Danielle Dyer, President  
CEO, Right at Home

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Retired Professor, FGCU

Halcyon St. Hill, Ed.D, M.S. ASCP, CM, FASAHP,  
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Community Volunteer

Britton G. Swank  
Attorney, Britton G. Swank, P.A.



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# 2024 Advisory Council

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Daniel Saxe  
Community Volunteer

Jaimee Thompson  
Abby Services

Ronald G. Weaver, AIA, NCARB  
Master Plan Consultant



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# Programs & Impact

## Clients Served

**630 Individuals | 2,990 Interactions**

In 2024, The Dubin Center team provided services across multiple locations—including faith-based sites, senior centers, community centers, and public libraries. Through 2,990 interactions, we supported 630 individuals with a wide range of programs, from support groups and caregiver education to social engagement activities, one-on-one consultations, and memory screenings.

## Caregiver Education

**190 Participants**

In 2024, 190 caregivers took part in our evidence-based education programs, finding both practical tools and renewed hope for the road ahead. Through engaging sessions like Savvy Caregiver and Dealing with Dementia, they shared experiences, learned new approaches to daily challenges, and discovered ways to care for themselves while caring for their loved ones. These programs not only equipped participants with valuable skills, but also reminded them that they are not alone on the caregiving journey.





# Programs & Impact continued...

## Support Groups

### 229 Attendees

In 2024, The Dubin Center held 35 support groups each month, offered both in person and online. A total of 229 caregivers participated in these groups, finding education, encouragement, and a sense of community.

**Early-Stage:** This support group is for those in the early stages of Dementia who are comfortable sharing their experiences with the diagnosis and want to talk with others in a group setting. It also includes a separate support group for caregivers that meets at the same time in another room.

**Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD):** A group for caregivers caring for someone living with FTD. It is led by an AFTD-affiliated facilitator who has received additional FTD training.

**General:** This group is open to all caregivers and is an open discussion focusing on the many challenges family caregivers face.

**Grace Beyond Guilt:** This group is open to all caregivers whose loved ones live in a long-term care community.

**Grief Support Group:** This group is open to those who have experienced the death of a loved one.

**Men's:** A group open to men who are caregivers for someone living with dementia.

**Savvy Support Group:** A group for caregivers who have completed the Savvy Caregiver training program.

# Programs & Impact continued...

## Social Activities

### 162 Participants

In 2024, 162 individuals participated in our social programs, which create meaningful opportunities for connection and enjoyment. These included Memory Catchers, an in-person activity for those in the advanced stages of dementia while caregivers meet separately for support; Memory Café, where caregivers and their loved ones share failure-free activities together; and Out and About, which offers dementia-friendly, enriching, and budget-friendly experiences in the Southwest Florida community.

## Volunteer Hours: 968



# Highlights In 2024



1

## **SecurePath: Lunch & Learns**

We learned about important topics like wandering and fall prevention from community experts.

## **2 New Support Group added: Grace Beyond Guilt**

The Dubin Center introduced a support group dedicated to caregivers who are caring for a loved one now residing in an assisted living/memory care community.



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## Highlights continued...



### 3 Social Opportunities for Clients

- "Out and About" continues to offer activity-based social programs for clients, organizing monthly outings at various locations across Lee County.
- Clients and care partners participated in tours and activities while interacting with others who share a similar journey.

### 4 Approved Care Navigators for Medicare GUIDE Program

The Dubin Center has been in collaboration with Healthspan Partners of SWFL to become official Care Navigators for the new Traditional Medicare Benefit- GUIDE: Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience. This program aims to reduce caregiver burnout by providing unpaid caregivers (family & friends) of a loved one with dementia a yearly respite stipend, care navigation, and caregiver education opportunities. Client onboarding for this program will begin Spring 2025.

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# Financial Review for Fiscal Year 2024



**Net Income On Dec  
2024**

**\$77,977**

**(before return on  
investment)**



**Return on Investments**

**\$175,124**



**Long Term Savings**

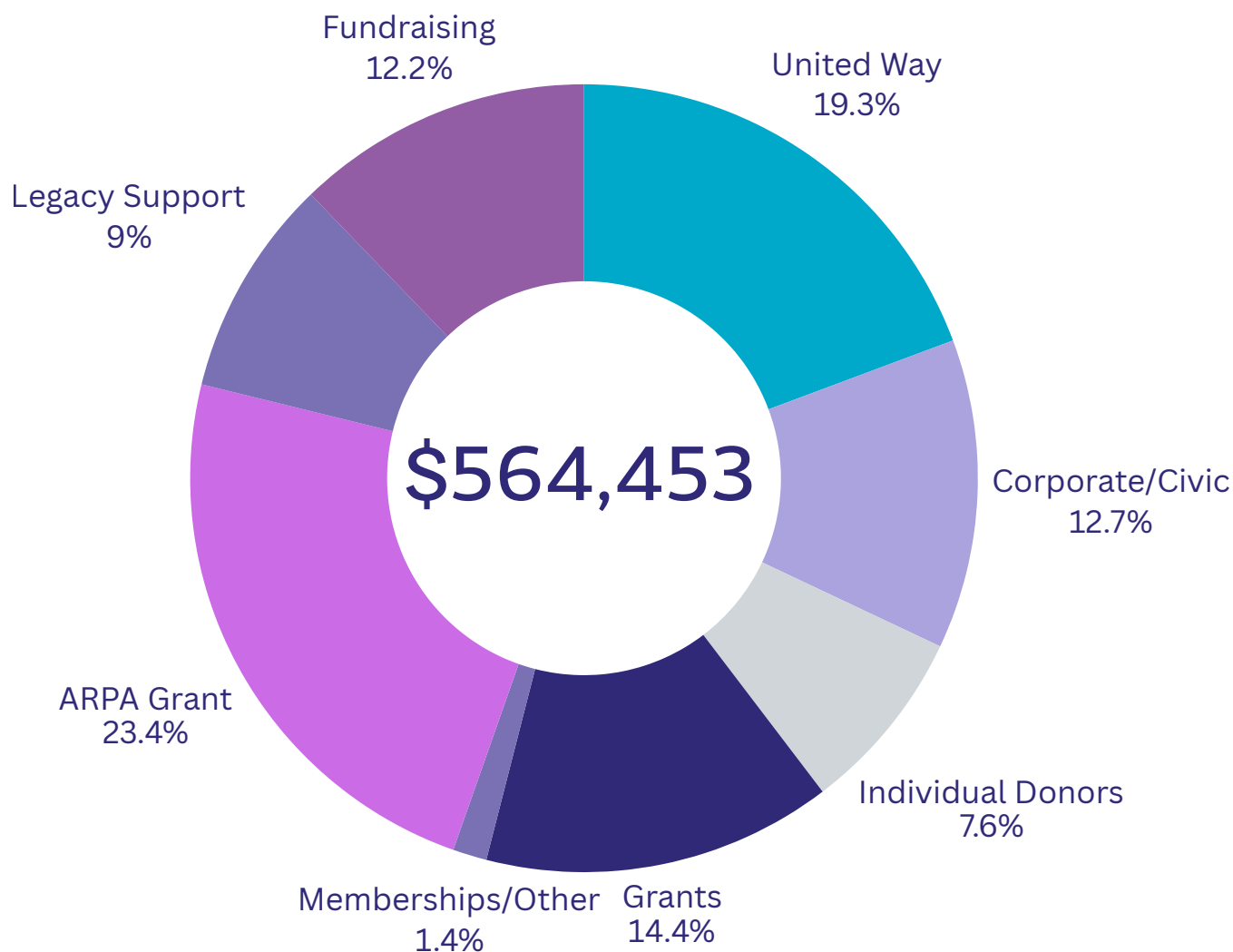
**\$1,357,302**



**Operating Account**

**\$122,184**

# Financial Snapshot 2024



All services are offered at no charge,  
made possible through the generosity of individuals,  
businesses, foundations, and community partners like  
you. Thank you for your support!

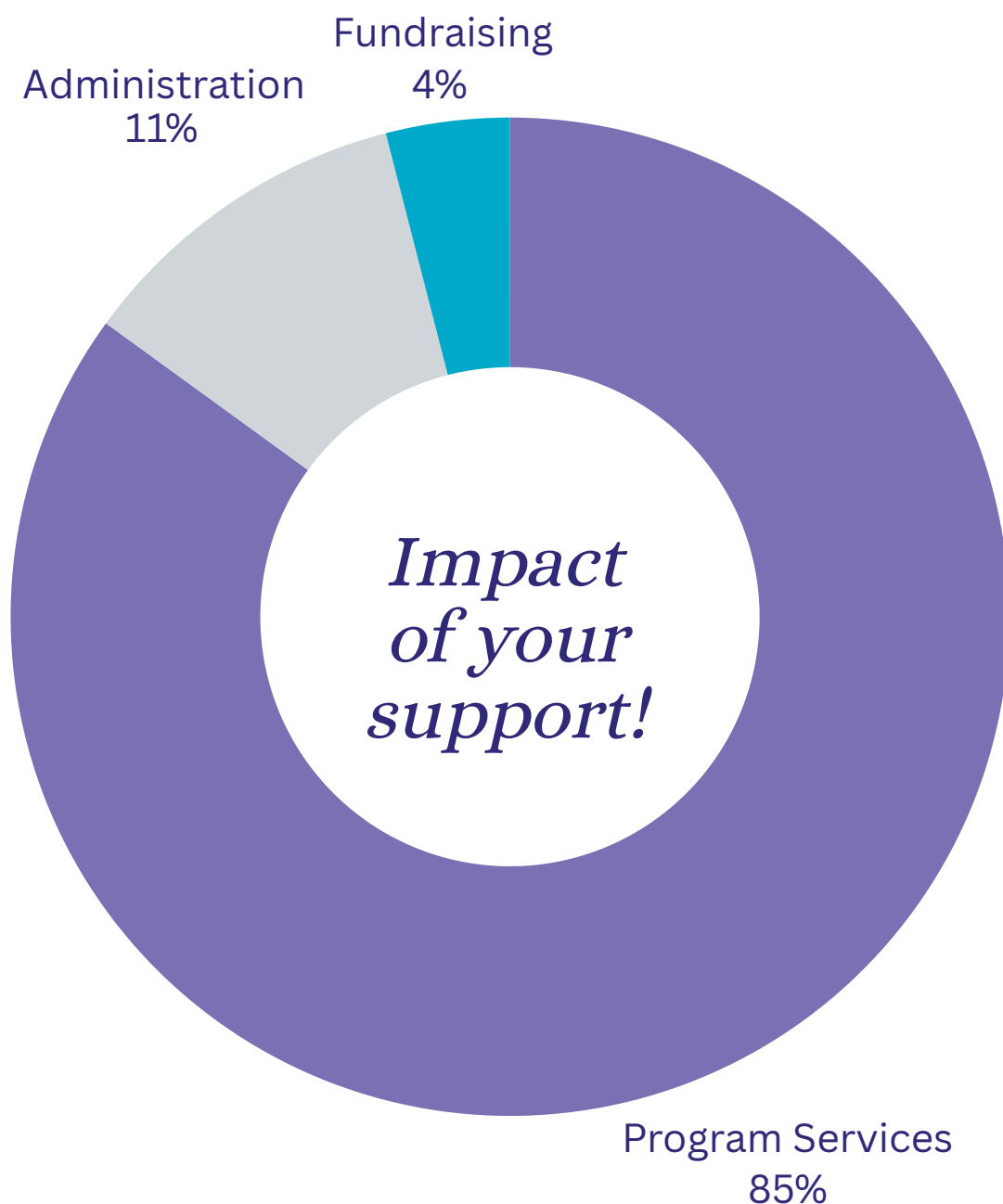
*Note: The Dubin Center benefited from three years of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding created in response to COVID-19.*

*This special funding ended in 2024 and will not be reflected in future years.*



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# Financial Snapshot continued... 2024



*85% of every dollar goes directly to programs and services for caregivers and their loved ones. The rest supports essential administration and fundraising, ensuring our programs remain strong and sustainable.*

# Fundraising Events



## 27th Annual Brushstrokes from the Soul

Our 27th annual Brushstrokes from the Soul, brought more than 100 guests to the Clive Daniel Showroom to celebrate and support families living with dementia. Featuring custom-framed artwork by individuals with the disease, the event raised over \$62,000 to fund The Dubin Center's free programs and services for caregivers across Southwest Florida. Thank you to Masterpiece sponsors, Cypress at Home and Cypress Cove, and Gold Sponsors Shady Rest Foundation and FGCU Foundation.



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# Fundraising Events



*A Light  
to Remember*

The 26th Annual A Light to Remember, sponsored by Ellie Fox in honor of Edward Fox, brought together family and friends to celebrate and remember loved ones affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. More than 60 luminaries lined the Bell Tower's center courtyard during a special lighting ceremony, symbolizing our shared commitment to remember those we have lost, honor those living with dementia, and support the caregivers who serve them. We are grateful to the Bell Tower for generously hosting the event free of charge and providing a champagne and sparkling water toast.

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## Fundraising Events: Looking Ahead

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025:  
A Light to Remember - Float in the Edison Festival of Lights Parade

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025:  
Backyard Game Day at Bay Street Yard

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# Client Testimonials



**“The Dubin Center  
is an essential  
lifeline for me.”**

**“Truly don’t know what I would have  
don’t to handle all this without their  
kindness, support and expertise.”**

**“I gained so much from this  
wonderful experience.”**

++  
++  
++  
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**“Day and night difference in my  
self-care, my feelings about myself and my care  
of my loved one.”**

**“Truly don’t know what I would have don’t to handle all  
this without their kindness, support and expertise.”**

**“The program gave me a positive way to approach situations and  
to have less frustration. Focus was on my approach, not his  
behavior and this strategy works.”**

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# Our Supporters



## **Civic Support**

Collaboratory  
Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation  
Heritage Palms Tennis Association  
Heritage Palms Women's Golf Association  
Hope Hospice  
Knights of Columbus Saint John XXIII  
United Way Charlotte County  
United Way of Lee County

## **Corporate Donors**

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# Our Supporters



## Grants

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Captiva Chapel by the Sea  
Lee County Bar Association  
Pelican Sound Charitable Foundation  
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Senior Friendship Centers, Inc.  
The Daniel R and Anne M Harper Foundation, Inc.  
The Dubin Fund of Jewish Columbus Mike and Hilary Talis  
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United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades





# Our Supporters



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# Our Supporters



## Individual Donors

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# Our Supporters



## Individual Donors

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