



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

THE FOUNDATION OF NACE



OUR MISSION

To support the catering and events industry by investing in the future of the NACE community.

Founded 1985

The Foundation of NACE is a 501(c)3 public charity. EIN 33-0203771.

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foundation@foundationofnace.org | foundationofnace.org

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Foundation of NACE Supporters,

It was my distinct honor to serve as President during our 40th Anniversary year, a milestone marked by reflection, growth, and renewed commitment to the catering and events profession. Together with an exceptional Board of Trustees, we advanced our mission in meaningful and lasting ways.

This year brought significant transformation. We implemented Bloomerang, our new CRM platform, launched a redesigned website, and unveiled a commemorative 40th Anniversary video at NACE Experience's Opening Reception. Our 40 for 40 Campaign raised more than \$30,000, which allowed us to increase our sponsorship at EVOLVE Nashville. I am especially proud of the continued expansion of our scholarship programs, particularly the Foundation of NACE CPCE Scholarship, made possible through the generosity of Patrick Higgins, CPCE. Investing in education and certification strengthens individual careers and elevates our entire industry.

Together, we:

- Awarded five scholarships totaling more than \$21,000 to students and event professionals
- Provided \$12,000 in Speaker Grants supporting educational programming for 21 NACE Chapters
- Surpassed \$350,000 in total scholarships awarded since 2008
- Expanded our donor community through new partnerships, like Teremana
- Received continued support from long term corporate donors including, BBJ La Tavola

We proudly welcomed two new Trustees to our Board:

Amber Allen, CPCE | Director of Food and Beverage, Hotel Valley Ho

Leigh Tidwell, CSEP | VP Sales – Special Events, AFR Furniture Rental

We also extend our deepest gratitude to my dear friend, outgoing Foundation Trustee and Foundation Patron. Timothy Lam, MIBS, MS, CHT, CGSP, CWIP, whose years of leadership, generosity, and mentorship have left a lasting impact on our Foundation and industry.

In closing, together with the support of our Legacy Donors, Foundation Friend, Fellow and Patron (see page 7) we will continue to create opportunities that elevate our industry and together, we will keep empowering the next generation of catering and events professionals.

Thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Kevin Dennis, CPCE

2025 President, Foundation of NACE Board of Trustees



KEVIN DENNIS, CPCE
PRESIDENT

2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Kevin Dennis, CPCE
President**
Owner
Fantasy Sound Event Services
Livermore, California



**Dana Blaugrund, CPCE, CWC
Immediate Past President**
Communications Director
Urban Family Concepts
Dallas, Texas



**Karen Tucker, CPCE Vice
President/President Elect**
Owner and Business Development
Relish Catering
Denver, Colorado



**Selina Mullenax, CMP, CPCE
Treasurer**
Regional Sales Director, South
Central & Southeast
Cort Events
Orlando, Florida



**Delores Crum, CPCE, CERP
Foundation Trustee**
President and Chief Culture Officer
Premiere Events
Austin, Texas



**Vincent Dreffs
Foundation Trustee**
Owner
Dreffs for Success
Nashville, Tennessee



**Timothy Lam, CHT, CGSP
Foundation Trustee**
Executive Director
The International School of Hospitality
Las Vegas, Nevada



**Erin Ollendike
Foundation Trustee**
Vice President of Sales and
Marketing
BBJ LaTavola
Dallas, Texas



**Virginia Santa Ines, CPCE, CWC
Foundation Trustee**
Senior Catering Sales Executive
San Jose Marriott
San Jose, California



**Terry Shields, CPCE, CSEP
Foundation Trustee**
Owner
Terry Shields Event Design
Addison, Texas

2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Foundation of NACE scholarships provide aid that supports tuition, travel, leadership training, and professional development to those who want a career in the catering and events industry.

The **Vince DeFinis Scholarship** honors the founder of the first NACE chapter, Philadelphia/South Jersey/Delaware, and provides support to undergraduate students who demonstrate leadership abilities.



Jackson Vicio
Houston, Texas

"I am incredibly honored to be selected as a recipient of the Vince DeFinis Scholarship. This recognition not only supports my academic and professional journey but also inspires me to continue pursuing excellence in the field of hospitality. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and the legacy of service and leadership it represents. I want to thank the Foundation of NACE and my NACE Student chapter, none of this would be possible without y'all!"

The **Jo C. Dermid Scholarship** honors a member of the NACE community that was not just well-loved, but a pillar of NACE. Her personality and positivity has inspired many over her decades-long hospitality career.



Xavian Frisby
Houston, Texas

"Being selected as the Jo C. Dermid Scholarship recipient is a true honor. It inspires me to continue pursuing excellence, leadership, and service within the hospitality industry in which Jo C. Dermid championed. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and motivated to carry forward her legacy through my future endeavors."

The **Foundation of NACE Scholarship** provides support to student members and members in the hospitality industry who demonstrate leadership abilities.



Amy Kujawa - Hirsch, CPCE
Bryan / College Station, Texas

"The scholarship's biggest impact on me was providing funds for education and certifications. Taking the CPCE was a huge accomplishment for me over the last year. My scholarship motivated me to take the Fast Track and complete the certification at Evolve, I likely wouldn't have set aside time outside of work to do this without the help of the scholarship."



Nicole Berriman
Salt Lake City, Utah

"As someone who's built a career creating intentional, bold, and meaningful experiences this recognition from The Foundation of NACE means a lot. It's more than a scholarship it's a nod to the more than a decade of work, the long nights, and the belief that incredible things happen when we bring people together on purpose. I'm honored, grateful, and so energized to continue pushing the events industry forward. To my fellow event professionals: keep showing up. Keep creating. This industry needs your voice, your vision, and your magic."

The **CPCE Scholarship** is a turnkey opportunity that covers everything you need on your path to becoming a Certified Professional in Catering and Events (CPCE).



Veronica Thompson, CMP
Hampton Roads, Virginia

"I am totally shocked, as I did not know that there was just one scholarship and feel so very honored to have been chosen for this opportunity! I look forward to working towards obtaining my CPCE."

IMPACT:

Supporting Our Chapters \$43,000 Given Back in 2025

- 1 The Foundation of NACE awards **over \$21,000 in scholarships** annually to event professionals and students.
- 2 **Over \$12,000 in speaker grants** awarded to NACE Chapters last year.
- 3 A **\$10,000 sponsorship from the Foundation of NACE** helped keep **EVOLVE** chapter and member costs lower than the previous year.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

"I'm honored to receive the Foundation of NACE Scholarship. This recognition reinforces my passion for continued growth, leadership, and creativity in the events industry. Thank you to the Foundation for investing in the next generation of event professionals. I'm excited to keep growing and giving back to the industry I love."

- Amy Kujawa-Hirsch, CPCE
2025 FoN Scholarship Recipient

"As chapter president, I see how vital the Foundation of NACE is for chapters like ours. It supports our members' growth through grants and scholarships, bridging ambition and access in a relationship-driven industry. We look forward to strengthening that connection and elevating the experience for our members."

-Thomas Schabow,
Greater Chicago Chapter



2025 CHAPTER SUPPORT

Stronger Together. 23 CHAPTERS. NATIONWIDE IMPACT.



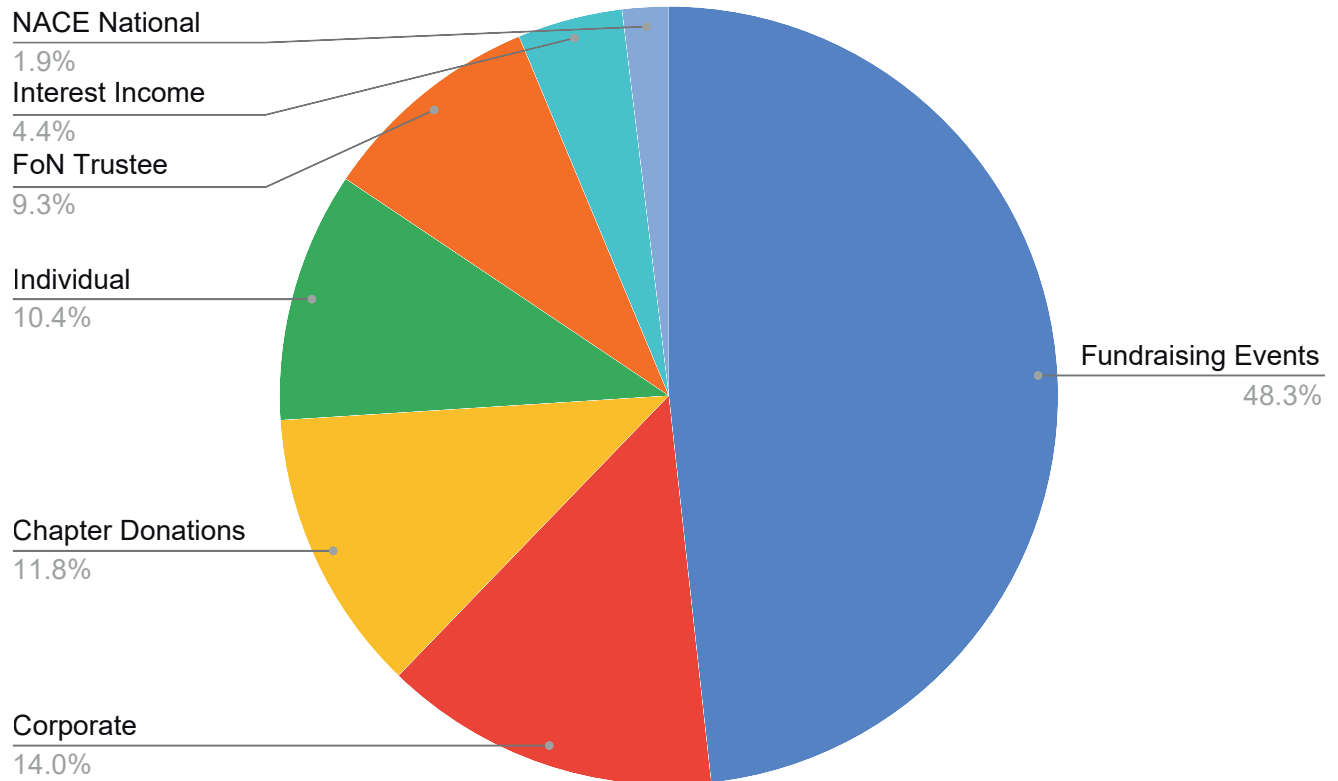
Alamo
Anchorage
Boston
Bryan/College Station
Charlotte
Dallas/Fort Worth
Greater Atlanta
Greater Denver
Greater Palm Springs
Houston
Las Vegas
Madison

Maine
Milwaukee
Music City
New Orleans
Orlando
Philadelphia/South Jersey/ Delaware
Phoenix
Richmond
San Diego
Greater Seattle
Triangle
Twin Cities
Ventura

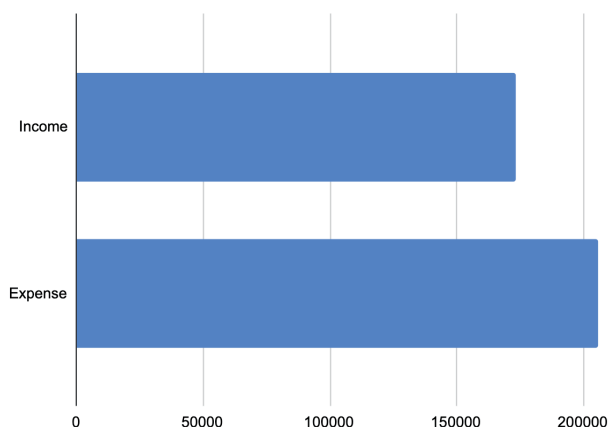
Thank You

2025 FUNDING REPORT

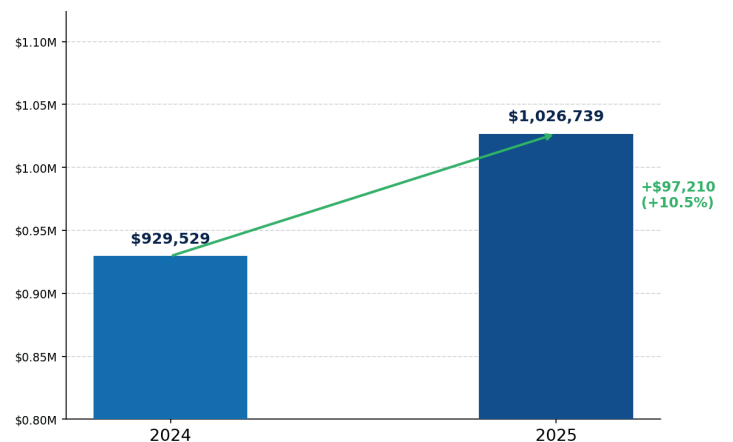
FUNDING BY TYPE



INCOME V. EXPENSES



ENDOWMENT BALANCE



LIFETIME DONORS

Foundation Patron

(\$25,000+)

Timothy Lam, CHT, CPGE

Joe Mahoney, CPCE

Gary McCreary, CPCE, CMP, CSEP

Foundation Fellow

(\$10,000-\$24,999)

Donnell Bayot, Ph.D, CPCE, CWIP, CHE, CFBE

Kevin Brant, CPCE

Greg Casella, CPCE

Michel Malecot

Harvey Stern, CPCE, CMP

Foundation Friend

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

Gary Baumann, CPCE

Dana Blaugrund, CPCE, CWC

Delores Crum, CPCE, CERP

Kevin Dennis, CPCE, CWIP

Michael John King

Zena Philips, CPCE, CMP

Terry Shields, CPCE, CSEP

Jill Vidal-Raines, CPCE

Diamond (\$2,000-\$4,999)

Amber Allen, CPCE	Steve Kemble
Kevin Dana	Gigi Santa Ines, CPCE
Vincent Dreffs	Karen Tucker, CPCE
Michelle Dunnick, CPCE	

RUBY (\$1,000-\$1,999)

Andy Bomberger	Alex Kouzmanoff
David Caruso	Selina Mullenax, CPCE, CMP
Kristi DePew	Adam Rineer, CMP, CPCE
Patrick Higgins, CPCE	Monique Studak

Emerald(\$500-\$999)

Rob Broms
Robin Denny, CPCE
Julie Brown Pflueger, CPCE

Sapphire(\$250-\$499)

DyAnn Andrews	Clemente Pascarella
Nicole Benvenuti, CPCE	Richard Portney
Jennifer Burns	Mary Quintanar
Erin Ollendike	Michelle Stansfield, CPCE

Garnet(\$100-\$299)

Chantel Boudreaux	Lauren Eck	Dana Kadwell, CPCE
Kama Carter	Amos Gott	Sara Beth Kincaid
Matthew Crowe	Gilbert Hall, CPCE	Dawn Mitchell
Kelly Dalisa, CPCE	Mikayla Harang, CPCE	Emma Seitz
Mikayla Dhein, CPCE, CWP	Douglas Howland	Michael Williams



Saz's Hospitality Group
Benson Restaurant Group
Zilli Hospitality Group
Truluck's Restaurant Group
Pok-e-Jo's Smokehouse / PEJ Events



GIVING

In celebration of the Foundation of NACE's 40th anniversary, the 40 for 40 Campaign was launched as a special fundraising initiative to honor the Foundation's legacy while investing in the future of the catering and events profession. The 40-day campaign culminated at the Opening Reception during NACE Experience MKE, inviting supporters to make a \$40 gift, commit to a recurring donation, or contribute at a level that was meaningful to them. The response from our community was truly inspiring, reflecting the passion, generosity, and shared commitment that have sustained the Foundation's mission for four decades.

Thanks to the support of more than 70 donors across the Events and Hospitality community, the 40 for 40 Campaign exceeded expectations, raising more than \$31,000 to support scholarships, educational grants, leadership development opportunities, and other Foundation programs. Beyond the dollars raised, the campaign served as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when our community comes together in support of a shared mission. We are deeply grateful to every donor who helped commemorate this milestone year and strengthen the Foundation's ability to create opportunities for future generations of hospitality and event professionals.

CONTRIBUTORS

Amber Allen, CPCE

DyAnn Andrews

Donnell Bayot, Ph.D., CHE, CPCE, CFBE, CWIP *

Gary Baumann, CPCE *

Nicole Benvenuti, CPCE

Meg Bittner

Dana Blaugrund, CPCE*

Chantel Boudreaux

Kevin Brant, CPCE*

Rob Broms

Jennifer Burns

David Caruso

Delores Crum, CPCE, CERP*

Kelly Dalisa, CPCE

Kevin Dana

Sarah Davidson, CPCE

Kevin Dennis, CPCE*

Robin Denny, CPCE

Katie Townend Doherty

Vincent Dreffs

Michelle Dunnick, CPCE

Lauren Eck

Heather Freeman

Amos Gott

Gilbert Hall, CPCE

Diana Hamilton

Mikayla Harang, CPCE

Patrick Higgins, CPCE

Douglas Howland

Kristin Huben

Gigi Santa Ines, CPCE

Sarah James, CPCE

Angela Johnston

Bick Jones

Steve Kemble

Erin Kenyan, CPCE

Alex Kouzmanoff

Julian Leaver

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Clemente Pascarella

Kate Patay

Judy Phillips

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Michele Polci

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Wendy Timson, CPCE

Karen Tucker, CPCE

Jill Vidal-Raines, CPCE*

Michael Williams

Aisle Planner Pro

BBJ La Tavola

Benson Restaurant Group

Leta Verbena Floral Design

NCG Hospitality

Pok-e-Jo's Smokehouse / PEJ Events

Saz's Hospitality Group

Southall Farms & Inn

Truluck's Restaurant Group

Zilli Hospitality Group



GET INVOLVED

BECOME A SPONSOR

Your corporate partnership supports scholarships, promotes educational diversity, and benefits the industry. Plus, it enhances your brand reputation and visibility while supporting catering and event professionals. We offer recognition and support opportunities to our valued partners. Join us in building a brighter future for the catering and events industry. Contact the Donor Relations Committee at foundation@foundationofnace.org, or visit our website to donate online today.

JOIN A COMMITTEE

Ready to make a difference? Whether you can spare an hour each month or are ready for a more substantial commitment, we have diverse opportunities to match your schedule and interests. From marketing strategy to fundraising, administrative tasks, and graphic design, there's a role for everyone to contribute their expertise and passion. Your involvement makes a meaningful impact, driving our mission forward.

JOIN THE BOARD

Are you interested in shaping the future of the Foundation of NACE? We're always on the lookout for individuals who are eager to participate at the board level. Bring your experience, your passion, and your energy to help steer the Foundation forward.

For more information about board opportunities, please contact Jennifer Burns, foundation@foundationofnace.org

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