# Annual Report




CARE TODAY. CURE TOMORROW.



**Our Mission** Children with Diabetes focuses on **care today**, so we are ready for a **cure tomorrow**. As a global resource, we provide **support, education** and **inspiration** to empower families and all people living with diabetes to enjoy healthy, enriched lives.

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## A LETTER FROM CWD'S FOUNDER, PRESIDENT, & CEO

# A Year to Remember

How do you distill 365 days – a year – into a few paragraphs? How do you capture the excitement of 1,800 people as they rush into the exhibit hall at Friends for Life Orlando, only to be greeted by a life-sized T-Rex? How do you fully grasp what it means to have a scholarship mom tell us "You gave me back my son?" or an adult with T1D, alone for far too long, share "I think that everyone touched by T1D should be able experience the sense of community, acceptance, and healing and love that FFL has brought to us?" How do you express the tears of joy that come from presenting a CWD Journey Award to a person who has lived with type 1 diabetes for more than 50 years? How do you share the excitement of a standing room only crowd at the CWD President's Award dinner in Florence? These are some of the moments that made up 2024 for Children with Diabetes.

In the US, CWD is known mostly for our Friends for Life conferences. In April 2024, we spent a weekend in Falls Church donning our orange and green wristbands and getting to know over 200 attendees, many of whom joined us on scholarship. In July, over 1,800 people from 47 states and eight countries gathered for FFL Orlando 2024. Billed as a "Prehistoric Expedition to Diabetes Innovation," FFL Orlando 2024 was an adventure like none other for our families, with sponsors going above and beyond to bring life-sized dinosaurs to the exhibition hall. And finally, in October 300 Fiffles came together at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, where near perfect weather helped make for another life-affirming weekend.

CWD is also known for the events we host at professional diabetes conferences. Most notable is the CWD President's Award Dinner held at ATTD. This year's venue was the striking St. Regis Florence Hotel, where nearly 150 people helped us recognize the contributions of Dr. Bruce Buckingham. Also at ATTD, our Discovery Luncheon was standing room only, helping us to showcase innovative technology and showcasing CWD's stature in the community. We hosted additional events at ADA, ADCES, as well as dinner events throughout the country.

CWD's partnership with ISPAD dates to the late-1990s. As part of our relationship, CWD supports the CWD-JENIOUS Award, which brings a young researcher to FFL Orlando in the following year to present their work to the FFL family. This year, CWD's Clinical Director, Marissa Town, selected two winners whose work focuses on eating disorders in type 1 diabetes and pain associated with diabetes management, both very important to people living with type 1 diabetes and their families.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our sponsors, generous donors, and legion of volunteers who share their passion for the mission of CWD – providing care today while we await the cure tomorrow. They are the true heroes.

Finally, in December, Rachael Jacques joined us as our new Director of Advancement, rounding out our small but mighty team. As the year closes, CWD stands poised to achieve even more next year, always focusing on making a difference for families living with type 1 diabetes.




**Jeff Hitchcock**

Founder, President, and CEO
**Children with Diabetes**
jeffh@childrenwithdiabetes.com


**Friends for Life,**











# **JAN:** Leadership Retreat

The Children with Diabetes team hosted our annual Friends for Life Leadership Retreat Weekend with members of our conference Volunteer Leadership Team. This year's focus was on revamping and resetting our youth curriculums for all three Friends for Life conferences. In addition to planning for our annual conferences, we held important meetings with Disney cast members and conducted inventory in our Orlando storage units to determine what supplies may be needed for the year ahead. We updated our youth curriculum to reflect current ISPAD guidelines and ADA guidelines so that our educational content would be age-appropriate and reflective of diabetes today. Additionally, we asked that each programming area develop year-to-year activity outlines (over a three-year period) with new activities and new goals and objectives that fit into six different broad diabetesbased categories. Finally, we committed to providing support to our "orange team" during conference programming (participants who love someone with diabetes—either a sibling, friend, parent or significant other).

During the Retreat weekend, we were joined by photographer Chris Kakol (our friend who joins us each year in Orlando and takes all of the amazing conference photographs). Chris helped us to complete the first phase of a digitization project with our "Quilt for Life."




# **MAR:** ATTD Florence

In March, the Children with Diabetes team packed our bags and headed to Italy for ATTD. ATTD is the leading international forum where clinicians, diabetes care providers, researchers, industries, start-ups, investors, regulators, and people with diabetes assemble with the goal "to ameliorate the care of people with diabetes at the fastest pace." ATTD featured educational sessions, breakout sessions, an exhibit hall, and plenty of time for formal meetings and informal gatherings with key diabetes stakeholders from across the world. The Children with Diabetes team spent our week at ATTD attending the conference, meeting with sponsors and industry leaders, talking with beloved FFL faculty members, and developing new relationships with people who share our organization's vision: "providing care today until a cure comes tomorrow." In addition to the excitement at the ATTD conference, CWD also hosted three events during the week, which helped to bring together innovators, thought leaders, and diabetes pioneers in the same room for conversation, exchange of ideas, and friendship. In partnership with Know Labs, CWD hosted an Innovation Lunch and Learn event on exploring a new non-invasive continuous glucose monitoring device. CWD Events helped to facilitate logistics for a luncheon event for the newly established Global Diabetes Advocacy Network (GDAN). This luncheon included a panel discussion on the "Power of Partnering with Parliamentarians." This event was hosted by The Diabetes Leadership Council (DLC) in partnership with the PDGN and was sponsored by Dexcom. We concluded the week with the highly anticipated third annual Children with Diabetes President's Award for Innovation Reception and Dinner. This award is presented to the healthcare professional who exemplifies extraordinary leadership in innovation and advancements in technology for insulin delivery and devices that help people thrive, and was sponsored by our friends at Dexcom and Sanofi. This year's recipient was Bruce Buckingham, M.D., Professor Emeritus of the Department of Pediatric Endocrinology at Stanford Medical Center and Stanford Children's Hospital.









# **APR:** FFL Falls Church

On the weekend of April 5-7 2024, the Children with Diabetes team welcomed 210 attendees to The Falls Church Marriott - Fairview Park in Falls Church, Virginia for our Friends for Life Spring Conference. Like most of our regional events, our Falls Church event was an intimate event with opportunity for conversation and relationship building.

Of our 210 attendees, 42% of these wore a green wristband and 59% of those were adults with diabetes. We had 55 children in our youth program, including 29 tweens ages nine to twelve, the largest tween group we have seen at a regional event in many years. First Timers made up 29% of our participants and we were able to provide scholarships to nine families.

In addition to our hourly youth programming, we offered 19 adult sessions and two social events. Most memorable from our weekend was the Saturday evening karaoke. Our attendees, adults and youth alike, volunteers, and even staff lined up to sing! The room was full of laughter and music. Attendees left FFL Falls Church with full hearts and plans to attend future FFL events with their new diabetes family.

> "Attending Friends for Life is like finding a **warm hug** in a room full of understanding hearts. It's where acceptance meets understanding, friendships flourish, and every moment reminds us that **we're not alone on this journey**. It's more than just an event; **it's a sanctuary of support**, laughter, and shared experiences that truly enriches my life."
>
> *—FFL Falls Church Attendee*

## FFL Falls Church by the Numbers



**29%**
First Timers



**42%**
Green Bracelets



**59%**
of PWD were 18+



**9**
Scholarships Awarded



# **JUN:** ADA Scientific Sessions

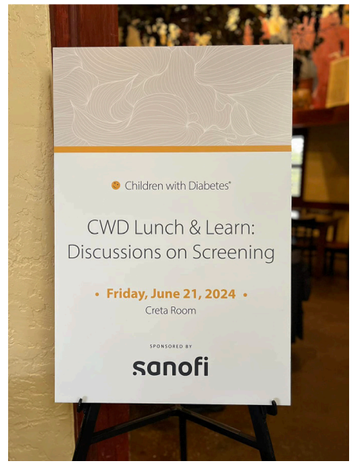
The American Diabetes Association's Scientific Sessions is described as the world's largest meeting on diabetes, offering educational sessions and networking opportunities for those in the diabetes community and industry. With over 11,000 people in attendance, the CWD team was excited to spend the week in Orlando learning more about progress toward preventing diabetes and methods to help manage diabetes until there is a cure. CWD Events hosted a Lunch and Learn event on the topic of "Screening for Type 1 Diabetes." This lunch was sponsored by our friends at Sanofi and was facilitated by FFL faculty member and pediatric endocrinologist Dr. Kimber Simmons. CWD Events hosted an additional Lunch and Learn event on the topic of "Best Practices: Making the Standard of Care a Standard of Practice for Ready-to-Use Glucagon."This event was sponsored by our friends at Xeris Pharmaceuticals and included a panel discussion about options for rescue medications and the importance of prescribing rescue medications to patients in the same manner that insulin or pump supplies are prescribed. CWD, in partnership with DLC and DPAC, hosted an Industry Reception for our key partners in the diabetes industry. This event allows us to spend time with colleagues in a relaxed and informal manner and to say THANK YOU for their partnership over the past year. We concluded the very busy ADA conference week with a CWD-ISPAD Dinner. This event was sponsored by our friends at Dexcom and Sanofi. This annual dinner event celebrates the partnership between CWD and ISPAD.




*Crafted by a local artist at the venue where our reception took place.*















# **JUL:** FFL Orlando

From July 9-14, 2024, the Children with Diabetes team welcomed almost 1800 attendees from 47 states and eight countries to Disney's Coronado Springs Resort for a roaring time at Friends for Life Orlando 2024. This prehistoric-themed event packed a week full of fun, education, and connection with one of our best exhibit hall setups to date and plenty of dino-themed fun for our children in the youth program.

FFL Orlando would not be possible without our amazing team of 180 volunteers. With over 300 applicants, we were able to diversify our volunteer teams this year, focusing on DEI efforts. We had more than a dozen bilingual volunteers speaking Spanish, Mandarin, French, and ASL, making FFL Orlando more accessible for non-English speakers.

The conference was made possible by 30 sponsors and 24 exhibitors, making this the busiest exhibit hall ever! The exhibit hall was a sell-out in April, creating a waiting list of vendors hoping for a spot. Our dino-themened exhibitor area featured life-sized dinosaurs for attendees to pose with or even ride!

Of our almost 1800 attendees, 775 had diabetes, 55% of whom were adults. As our attendee demographic shifts toward more adults, we've expanded young adult and adult sessions. This year, our first young adult craft meetup brought nearly 50 participants together to paint wooden insulin vials and canvas bags!

Our week would not be complete without dozens of educational sessions curated by CWD's clinical director. Each day offered eight concurrent adult sessions per hour block, ensuring everyone, regardless of age or stage in their diabetes journey, found something relevant. We also hosted social events like a prehistoric-themed banquet, an adults-with-T1D social, and a movie night.

The Fellows Program welcomed a dozen future healthcare providers interested in diabetes careers. Fellows participated in adult programming and social events, learning about the latest advancements from sponsors. Past fellows report that the immersive experience changes their perspective.

Lastly, we awarded scholarships to 25 families and five young adults. With 141 applicants, this competitive program focuses on first-time attendees. A panel of 14 reviewers scores each application anonymously, and eligibility is confirmed based on financial information. This program is made possible by individual donors and Better Together Society members.













# **AUG:** ADCES

In August, the CWD team had the opportunity to attend the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES) Annual Conference in New Orleans. The conference featured four days of continuing education, keynote speakers, hands-on workshops, and a giant exhibit hall. In addition to the educational sessions, there were networking events, corporate symposia, and celebration events.

CWD Events hosted two educational sessions during the conference week. We held a Lunch and Learn event focused on "Expanding Diabetes Toolkits," introducing the use of inhaled insulin as a rapid-acting option to help lower blood sugars, sponsored by our friends at Mannkind. We hosted another Lunch and Learn event focused on treating severe hypoglycemia with intranasal glucagon, sponsored by our friends at Baqsimi.

Additionally, CWD Events hosted a Health Care Provider Reception sponsored by our friends at Sanofi. This invitation-only special event was designed to thank healthcare providers for their dedication to the diabetes community and for being partners in our lives as we continue the daily journey with diabetes.

Throughout the conference, we also gave away countless CWD Journey Awards, celebrating all the lives well-lived with T1D.





## **AUG:** Stelo Launch Party

This August, the CWD staff was invited to attend the launch of Dexcom's revolutionary over-the-counter glucose biosensor, Stelo, in NYC. Designed for adults (18+) who are not on insulin, Stelo provides glucose readings every 15 minutes, helping users with type 2 diabetes, prediabetes, or those tracking glucose for wellness understand how lifestyle choices—like food, exercise, and sleep—affect their blood sugars. Attendees received a 30-day supply to try Stelo firsthand, exploring its user-friendly insertion process and real-time glucose insights. Available at Stelo.com for $99 per month (or $89 with subscription), Stelo is FSA/HSA eligible and aims to empower users with personalized data to make healthier lifestyle choices.

## **SEP+OCT:** Mannkind Dinners

In September and October, CWD Events hosted two Dinner Series programs—one in Dallas, Texas, and the other at The Capital Grille in Rockefeller Center, New York. Both events focused on "Expanding Diabetes Toolkits" by incorporating inhaled human insulin into insulin regimens. Dr. George Grunberger spoke at the Dallas event, while Dr. Carol Levy led the New York session. Sponsored by our friends at Mannkind, these evenings provided valuable insights into inhaled insulin's use and effectiveness. Attendees enjoyed engaging discussions and left with information about CWD, our Friends for Life Conferences, and CWD Challenge Coins as a token of appreciation.






## **OCT:** IMEX AMERICA

In early October, CWD had the honor of attending IMEX America as a Marriott International Hosted Buyer. Held at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas, IMEX is the largest exhibition for professionals in the incentive travel, meetings, and events industry. The event brought together nearly 16,000 participants and over 3,500 exhibitors from around the globe, providing an invaluable opportunity to connect with industry leaders and explore new partnerships. It was an incredible experience engaging with potential hotels and venues for future CWD events both internationally and across the U.S. Through IMEX, we've already secured a contract for our Spring 2025 events at ATTD Amsterdam, which will take place at the stunning Hotel Okura.



## **SEP:** AAP

In September, the team at CWD attended the American Academy of Pediatrics conference in Orlando, Florida. The Children with Diabetes team had a 10×10 booth in the exhibit hall where we discussed the signs and symptoms of type 1 diabetes with practitioners. We were fortunate to be able to speak with over 400 people who stopped by our booth to learn more about CWD and our organization's mission of providing care today, until we find a cure for diabetes tomorrow. We discussed the importance of screening for type 1 diabetes and how screening can help prevent life-threatening events like DKA for those who have T1D but have no symptoms. We also talked about clinical trials and advancements in treatment options for those who are in the early stages of autoimmune type 1 diabetes.




*We gave away over 1,500 items including badge reels, mints, and pens—all branded with our beloved Smiley.*



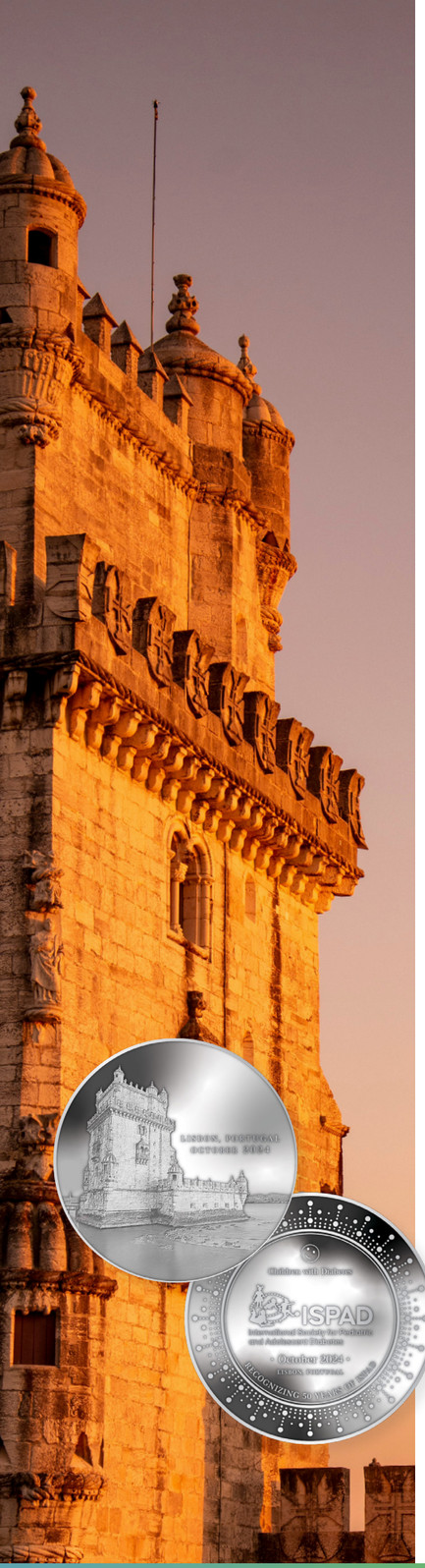






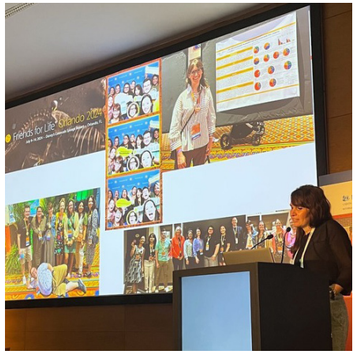
While we were working in our booth at the exhibit hall, we loved meeting attendees who came over to our booth to show us their "diabetes in the wild." We met people with type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes who were wearing continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps. We celebrated these new friends for life and presented them each with a CWD challenge coin. We also spent time sharing the CWD Journey Award program and cheered for those who have hit diabetes milestones in their lives.

CWD Events hosted a lunch and learn event with the topic of "Type 1 Diabetes and New Screening Options."This luncheon event was sponsored by a grant from Sanofi. Dr. Laura Jacobsen from the University of Florida was our faculty speaker for this session. We dined with almost 50 pediatricians and shared more about type 1 diabetes and how the pediatrician can remain an important part of the care team for people with type 1 even once they begin to see an endocrinologist for diabetes care.




# **OCT:** ISPAD

CWD attended the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD) 50th Annual ISPAD Conference in Lisbon, Portugal from October 16-19, 2024. The theme for this year's conference was "Inclusion and Innovation in Pediatric Diabetes." During the conference, we had the opportunity to meet with scientists, allied healthcare professionals, partner organizations, industry representatives, and people with diabetes from around the world to share knowledge, the latest research, and best practices among the international pediatric diabetes community. Also at the conference, CWD Clinical Director Marissa Town awarded the CWDISPAD Jenious prize to two early career investigators, Drs. Didem Günes Kaya and Sofia Fasoli. Both will attend Friends for Life Orlando 2025.







Dr. Günes Kaya practices in Istanbul, Turkey, and her project focuses on identifying eating disorders in diabetes. She discussed the lack of consistent screening for disordered eating and the concern for those not identified. Dr. Sofia Fasoli is a psychologist who lives in Verona, Italy. She will be researching chronic pain related to diabetes, which has received little research despite the significant amount of pain associated with diabetes management. She plans to focus on both the physical and psychological effects of pain on PWD.

CWD Events hosted an educational dinner event on the importance of screening for type 1 diabetes. This event was supported by a grant from Sanofi and included Dr. Kimber Simmons from the Barbara Davis Center as our faculty member. Additionally, CWD Events hosted a breakfast event focused on inhaled insulin as an added tool for diabetes management.



# **OCT:** FFL Anaheim

For the weekend of October 25-27, the Children with Diabetes team traveled to Anaheim, California, to welcome 300 attendees to the Disneyland Hotel for our Friends for Life Fall Conference—the largest regional conference post-COVID.

On Friday, we reunited with friends, shared appetizers, and visited with 14 generous sponsors and exhibitors. One highlight was the CWD-sponsored sticker table in the exhibit hall, where we connected with fellow "green bands," comparing our insulin pumps and regimens and sharing our diabetes journeys.

The conference kicked off with a powerful keynote from Dr. Anne Peters and Olympic Swimmer Gary Hall, Jr. On Saturday evening, attendees donned Halloween costumes for Scare-e-oke, enjoying finger foods, a cash bar, and plenty of song and dance with our Fiffles.

We piloted our new "Dine with a Dietitian" program, where our conference dietitian helped attendees learn carb counting in the wild. Sunday included Mickey bars and "Table Talks: Meet the Speakers," offering attendees one-on-one time with our faculty. Leigh Fickling, CWD's Chief Operating Officer, closed the conference with the keynote, "Friends for Life: The Family You Never Knew You Needed." Once official sessions ended, it was time for tearful goodbyes and the exchange of contact information among new friends who left feeling like family.

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FFL Anaheim was my very first conference and it will not be my last... I left the conference **feeling empowered** to manage living with T1D. I learned new management strategies and how to attain my personal goals...**I felt seen** by others who lived a life like mine and who had the same stories as me. –*Sandra M., T1D*

## FFL Anaheim by the Numbers



**53%**
First Timers



**41%**
Green Bracelets



**56%**
of PWD were 18+



**9**
Scholarships Awarded

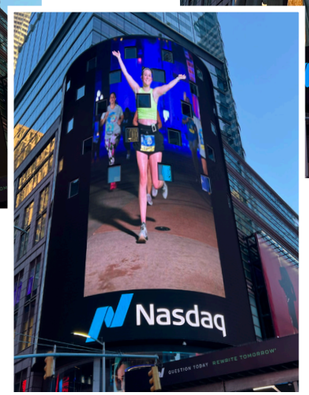



*Photography courtesy of Nasdaq, Inc.*

# **NOV:** NASDAQ

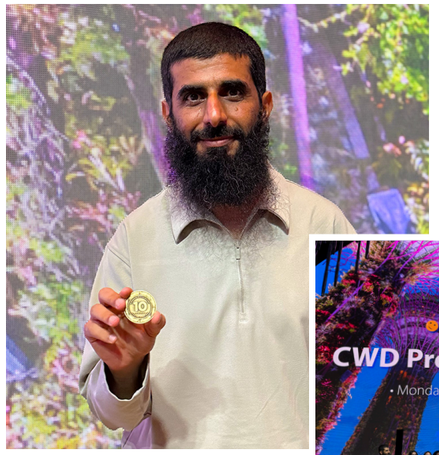
During November, the CWD team had the opportunity to join our friends at embecta, along with other healthcare providers and advocacy organizations, to commemorate Diabetes Awareness Month with the ringing of the Nasdaq Closing Bell in New York City. Everyone at the event shared the common vision of improving the lives of the global diabetes community and working together to make a difference for those living with diabetes. As part of the bell ringing at Nasdaq, our organization and employees were represented on the Nasdaq Tower in Times Square.














# **NOV:** ATTD ASIA

Children with Diabetes attended the first Asian Conference on Innovative Therapies for Diabetes Management in Singapore on November 18-20, 2024. This conference was dedicated to fostering a community where experts could come together to share knowledge, insights, and a passion for transforming the lives of those living with diabetes.

The CWD team created an "office away from our offices" in the foyer of the convention space. From our workspace, we met with key stakeholders in the diabetes community. We awarded countless Journey Awards and even provided some to HCPs to distribute to patients in their home countries. We attended presentations and discussions that were part of the scientific program during the conference. Topics included closed-and-open loop systems, new insulins and medications, pregnancy and diabetes, and so much more. Conference Chairs Professors Moshe Phillip and Tadej Battelino did an amazing job of curating some of the world's top experts on diabetes management and assembled them into an all-star faculty lineup for the conference. We thoroughly enjoyed our time at this inaugural event and look forward to connecting with many of our new friends over the coming months with the hopes that we can bring much of this information to our own Friends for Life conferences in 2025.

CWD Events hosted the inaugural "CWD President's Reception at ATTD Asia" with our friends at Dexcom. This invitation-only event was the highlight of the conference for many attendees. During the reception, CWD awarded Journey Awards to 18 #dedoc$^{o}$ voices recipients and several other distinguished members of the diabetes community. This joyful celebration was one of the highlights of the week!













# CLINICAL REPORT

## Curriculum Development for Youth Programming

At the start of the year, CWD's Clinical Director, Marissa Town, and Youth Program Lead Coordinator, Jen Hanson, developed a comprehensive curriculum for youth programming at Friends for Life conferences. Based on the latest ISPAD guidelines and ADA Standards of Care, the curriculum was designed to be evidence-based and developmentally appropriate.

At the January leadership retreat, the curriculum was presented for each age group: Kiddie Kove (0-5), Elementary (6-8), Tweens (9-12), and Teens (13-17). Working with youth program leaders, the curriculum was adapted for the Friends for Life model, with faculty experts leading or supporting sessions. It will be updated annually to reflect changes in diabetes management and care standards.

## Adult Programming at Friends for Life conferences

The program's goal is to fill clinical gaps and ensure people with diabetes and their families have access to the latest education, empowering them in diabetes self-management. Developing the conference program is complex and time-consuming, with sessions chosen based on topic, speaker expertise, or passion. New topics and speakers are introduced alongside familiar ones.

Surveys gather feedback on sessions, and the clinical director uses this data to improve future programs. This year, feedback indicated some sessions were "too basic," so next summer, sessions will be labeled as levels 1-3 to meet attendees' needs better. A new "speed dating" session format, introduced in Anaheim, received positive reviews and will continue allowing attendees to interact with multiple speakers quickly.

Overall, the adult program is a complex balancing act, with the clinical director managing the needs of attendees, sponsors, speakers, and the organization for each conference.

## Faculty Development

As part of CWD's strategic plan to strengthen relationships with diabetes centers, CWD's clinical director works to recruit new faculty for Friends for Life conferences. Some are referred by trusted faculty or specialists; others are met at conferences like ISPAD, ADA, or ATTD, while some reach out to CWD directly, and the clinical director meets them on Zoom.

At events, the clinical director seeks out researchers with notable work, connecting with them in person or via email for coffee or a meal. New speakers are typically invited to regional conferences first to ensure they align with CWD and FFL attendees. Faculty development also emphasizes diversity across several aspects:

1. Degree/Credentials
2. Relationship to Diabetes
3. Location of practice
4. Diversity







## CWD Fellows Program

The CWD Fellows program consists of two main components: the CWD-ISPAD-JENIOUS Award and the Friends for Life Fellows program. The CWD-ISPAD-JENIOUS Award is a collaboration between the clinical director and the ISPAD Jenious leadership. Each year, young researchers or healthcare professionals working on type 1 diabetes research apply for the award. CWD promotes applications via newsletters, social media, and key opinion leaders. Applications are reviewed by the Jenious leaders and the clinical director, with the winner selected by them. CWD supports the winner's research and attends Friends for Life Orlando, where the winner is announced at the ISPAD conference.

> *"I left feeling **empowered with knowledge and enthusiasm** to continue do great things with the patients and families I encounter with T1D."*

The Friends for Life Fellows program is updated annually based on feedback from previous fellows. CWD's clinical director collected and analyzed surveys, and this year, sponsor feedback was shared with them, which was appreciated. After reviewing applications, CWD selects 9-10 fellows to participate. The curriculum is updated annually to reflect evidence-based practices, and the fellows' schedule is curated to ensure they meet with sponsors and achieve program goals. This year, the clinical director personally facilitated all fellows' activities at Friends for Life Orlando. Next year, a liaison will handle the program to allow the clinical director to focus on other FFL-related responsibilities.

> *"I am so grateful for this opportunity. I left feeling empowered with knowledge and enthusiasm to continue to do great things with the patients and families I encounter with T1D. Continue doing these conferences. Please give as many opportunities as you an to new people in the field as it was a great experience for me. Looking forward to working with you in the future."*
>
> ***—Anonymous***
> *2024 CWD Fellow*

@cwdiabetes

**20K** **13.4K**

**4.3K** **500**

**3,652**
New Followers

**1,068,803**
Impressions

**745,902**
Page & Profile Reach




# *THE WEEKLY DIABETES*

The Weekly Diabetes newsletter reaches over 8,200 subscribers every Wednesday at 1 PM ET. It features essential updates, including breaking diabetes news, clinical articles, CWD/FFL program announcements, Virtual Meetups, CWD Journey Award highlights, clinical resources, and study promotions. With an impressive average open rate of 40%—nearly double the industry average of 21%—we're proud of the newsletter's impact and remain dedicated to delivering engaging, valuable content each week.

## Clinical Articles

Each week, CWD's Clinical Director creates or selects a pertinent clinical article for "*The Weekly Diabetes*" newsletter. Article topics are developed based on clinical experience, current research, new diabetes technologies or tools, or topics that are commonly discussed in the diabetes online community. The top-performing articles were:

1. When It's More Than T1D
2. When your CGM Fails Away from Home
3. iLet Update: 6 Months Later
4. Super-Bolus: A Game Changer in Diabetes Care
5. Guiding Growth: Parenting for Diabetes Autonomy

## Clinical Links

For the weekly newsletter, we curate relevant research and news on type 1 diabetes, carefully selecting evidence-based articles that apply to people with diabetes. The clinical director reviews PubMed research monthly, sharing relevant findings in CWD's Current News section. This keeps the community informed and helps the CWD team stay current on emerging research, ensuring we maintain scientific rigor in our work.

## Study Promotion

CWD partners with various organizations to promote diabetes research participation. We maintain a "Join a Study" page listing actively recruiting studies and sharing participant requests through our weekly newsletter and social media. We may send targeted emails for specific participant needs, such as for Dr. Jessica Kichler's study on pregnant women with diabetes in Canada. CWD also assisted with research conducted at Friends for Life Orlando and Anaheim.

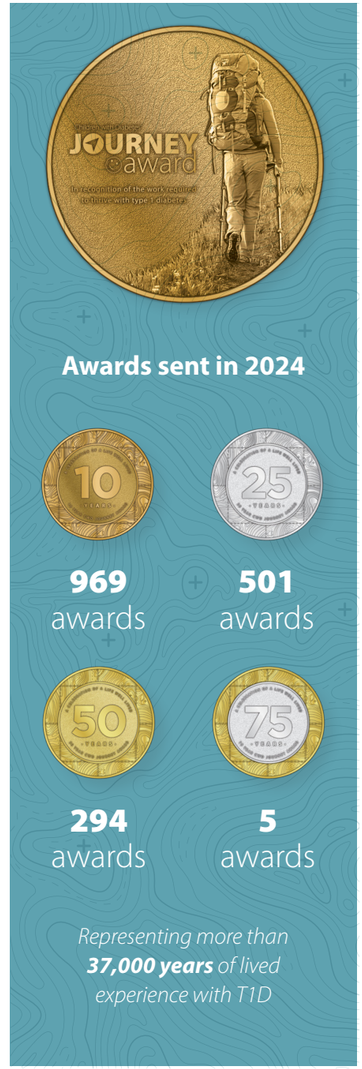
## MoFFL Virtual Meetups

MOFFLs (Moms of Friends for Life) met virtually most first Mondays of the month, led by three experienced moms. Discussions covered topics like diabetes at school, supplies, CGMs, and FFL Orlando. Many moms had previously attended FFL events, shared insights with newcomers. These meetings provided a valuable space for connection, support, and casual conversation about life with diabetes.



"Remember, you can face any challenge with the right support and a positive attitude. **I may have diabetes, but diabetes doesn't have me.** You, too, can take control and live your best life. Embrace the journey, find your strength, and know that you have the power to overcome any obstacle. Together, we can inspire and uplift each other, proving that with hope and resilience, anything is possible."

— ***Jermaine H.*** *10 Year Recipient*




**Awards sent in 2024**

**969** awards

**501** awards

**294** awards

**5** awards

*Representing more than* ***37,000 years*** *of lived experience with T1D*

# CWD JOURNEY AWARDS

In 2024, CWD proudly distributed over 1,700 Journey Awards, celebrating more than 35,000 years of lives lived with type 1 diabetes. At each event we attended—both domestically and internationally—our team honored individuals with these meaningful awards, recognizing their resilience and milestones. Each exchange is an impactful reminder of the strength within our community and the shared journey we navigate together.



*Receiving my Journey Award on stage with my husband at FFL Orlando 2024 was a true full-circle moment for us. We met at Friends For Life Orlando and both live with diabetes every day. I am so proud that we were both able to receive this award together in recognition of our lives well lived with diabetes.*

— ***Lauren S.***
*25 Year Recipient*




*I have lived with type 1 diabetes since I was in high school. I am very grateful to still be alive and for all of the care and support that I have received from my family and doctors over the years. I have always accepted my diagnosis and you must understand that you can't fight it but must learn to live with it. I enjoy photography, opera, football, science, and history.*

— ***Roland G.***
*75 Year Recipient*




# BETTER TOGETHER SOCIETY

Friends for Life conferences are magical and we believe that every person with type 1 diabetes should be able to experience them at some point in their journey. Unfortunately, not everyone is in the financial position to afford to attend. This is why the CWD staff has worked hard this year to promote our Better Together Society and to fundraise for our FFL Scholarship Fund. The Better Together Society is our monthly giving program where individuals can give as little as $5 per month to support the FFL Scholarship Fund.

At FFL Orlando 2024, we had a table that we dubbed the "CWD Swag Table." This table served to not only fundraise for the scholarship fund through the sales of CWD Swag, but also to encourage attendees to join the Better Together Society. During the four days it was open, the table raised over $10,000, enough to cover over two full family scholarships for FFL Orlando. Additionally, we had a whopping 25 additional individuals join the Better Together Society during or following FFL Orlando.





**Become a BTS member today at cwd.is/BTS.**



# FFL SITE VISITS

In early November, CWD's Events and Programs Director, Ashlyn Mills and volunteer Will Nowak, visited the Renaissance Arlington - Capital View, to put the finishing touches on FFL Arlington, to take place in April 2025. We were excited to visit this new venue and meet the team that will help us to make FFL Arlington happen.

This venue is less than one mile from DCA making it convenient for traveling attendees. We spent a day touring the beautiful venue and seeing each of the event spaces and examples of different hotel accommodations. We finalized which programs would go into each room. We also took time to meet with the housing team to discuss the accommodations we may need as a large group of people with diabetes. We also met with the chef and finalized our buffet menus, discussed nutrition, carb counting, and gluten free options. Lastly, Will met with the AV team to secure our AV needs for the weekend.

In addition to our Arlington site visit, in early December, the CWD staff began prepping for 2027 regional conferences. Leigh and Ashlyn visited the Sheraton Music City Nashville Airport to explore it as a potential option for a future regional event. We got a tour of the beautiful conference space, ate at the hotel restaurant, saw examples of different hotel rooms, and met with the Sheraton team who would be taking care of us if we hosted an event here. Lastly, we visited the Gaylord Opryland to explore the activities that would be available to our attendees less than a 10-minute drive from the Sheraton.

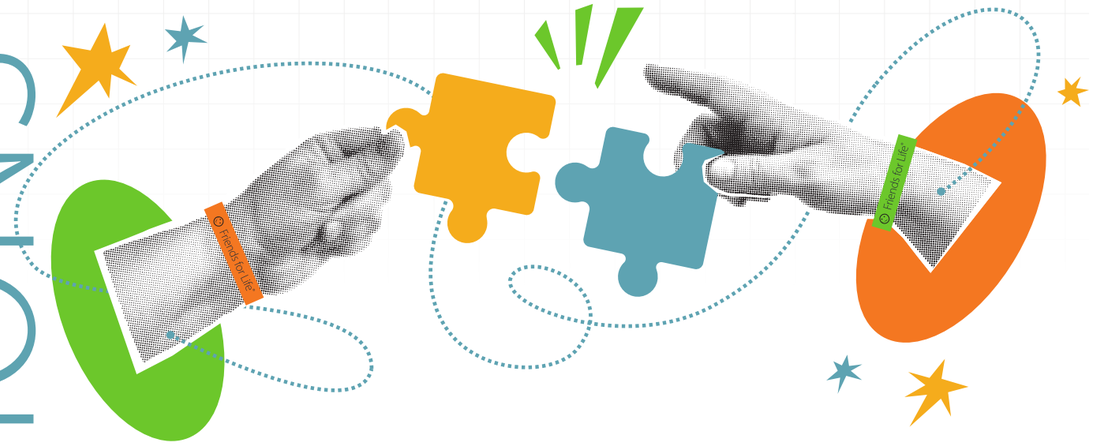
In December 2024, Leigh and Ashlyn are also scheduled to visit Las Vegas, Nevada to explore more options for future regional conferences. We are hard at work planning for the future of FFL! Our planning for FFL Orlando begins 10 years in advance, while our planning for regional events begins four to five years in advance.







# COLLABORATIONS




## Publications

Another aspect of maintaining the scientific rigor of Children with Diabetes is the clinical director's continued involvement in various publications. This year, the clinical director worked with many healthcare professionals and co-authored an article in Diabetic Medicine about standardizing adult person-reported outcomes. Additionally, she has been selected as the lead author of a Travel Chapter for a Springer textbook titled "Textbook on Pediatric Diabetes, Transition Care and Diabetes Technologies."

## The Diabetes Link

Children with Diabetes partnered with The Link to present two live webinars on college accommodations. Part one, "What to Expect," covered the housing application process, disability services meetings, and required medical documentation. Part two, "Accommodations On Campus," addressed last-minute questions and problemsolving for disability-related issues on campus. Both webinars are available for replay on The Link's website.

## Cincinnati Children's Collaboration

CWD's Clinical Director has collaborated on a health equity grant with Cincinnati Children's Hospital for the past two years, strengthening the partnership and expanding CWD's reach. New faculty have been promoting CWD's resources and conferences to patients, and diabetes educators and providers have shared materials in the clinic. One nurse added CWD's Friends for Life to after-visit summaries as a community resource.

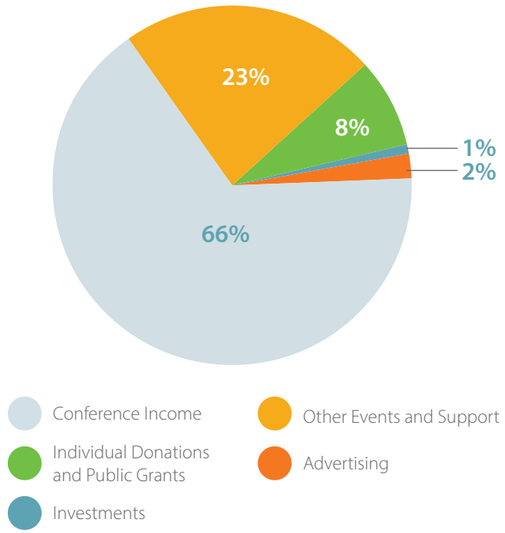
CWD also participated in a community outreach event at the Cincinnati Zoo for 175 local families with children on public insurance. Although many couldn't afford Friends for Life, they were encouraged to apply for scholarships. Journey Awards were given at the event and in clinics throughout the year.

## T1DX QI Patient Advisory Committee

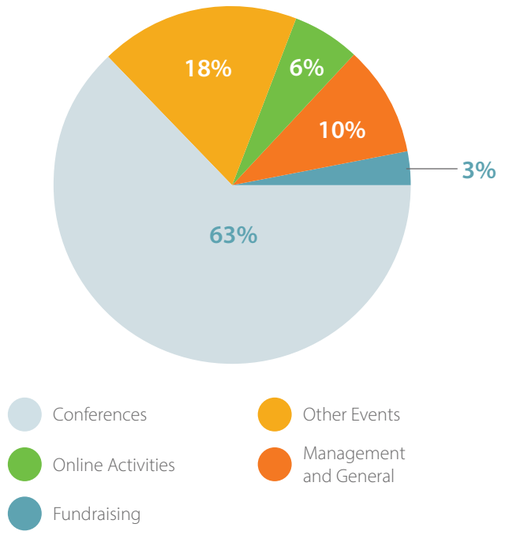
CWD's president previously served on the T1D Exchange's Quality Improvement Patient Advisory Committee. Since November 2023, the clinical director has taken over that position to represent CWD and the voice of the person with diabetes. This helps maintain the relationship between CWD, the T1D Exchange, and the U.S. clinics involved in the QI collaborative. This involves quarterly Zoom calls with in-between collaboration throughout the year.

# A Summary of Our 2024 Finances

## Income by Category




## Expenses by Category




# Sponsors

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