

# Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Association 2023 IMPACT REPORT



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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear RPLA Friends,

I can hardly believe we are entering our 5th year of operations. It feels both as if we've been at this forever, and that we're just getting started. In either case, I find myself overwhelmingly proud of our work, grateful for the generosity of our Board members and donors, and inspired by the strength of the RPL community.

2023 was a year of growth and substantiation. We awarded our second annual RPLA-ASRM research grant to a doctor investigating how sperm damage relates to pregnancy loss. We increased attendance at our monthly peer-to-peer support group. We recruited additional participants to our RPL Community Registry. We sponsored a symposium session on the basic science of early pregnancy. And we saw our biggest year of fundraising to date.

Yet as we look to the future, our challenge and our charge remain the same. Too many continue to walk this "complicated, complex" path feeling alone and without answers.

This year we hope to inspire more innovative areas of inquiry through our RPL research grant, and we look forward to sharing results from our first awardee who was searching for inherited genetic mutations that lead to RPL.

**Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Association**

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— “  
**Recurrent pregnancy loss is the most complicated, complex, multi-factorial disease I can think of.**

— *- Dr. Tim Jenkins, PhD, BYU*

” —  
We also have plans to expand our resource library, issue a summary report of data from the RPL Community Registry, and highlight additional stories from the RPL community.

Finally, in the shifting landscape of reproductive rights, RPLA remains committed to raising awareness about issues that affect the RPL community and supporting programs and policies that will bring families more answers and better treatments.

We invite you to engage with us and our work. Join our mailing list, follow us on social media, volunteer, join our Board, or just cheer us on. But stick around. There are big things to come.

Sincerely,  
Megan Hanson  
Co-Founder and President



# ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

## mission

RPLA is dedicated to:

- **Eliminating recurrent pregnancy loss through the advancement of research into causes and treatments;**
- **Providing support and resources to those affected; and**
- **Increasing awareness of the impact of miscarriage and fertility challenges on individuals and families.**

## vision

We envision a future where recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL) is eliminated and individuals are empowered to make informed healthcare and family building decisions.

## team

### 2023 Board of Directors

Megan Hanson (President), Volunteer  
Benjamin Burnham (Vice President), Amazon  
Mari Trevino Glass (Treasurer), Trevino Consulting Group  
Jessica Ryniec, MD (Secretary), CCRM Fertility Boston  
Joey Konefal, XOS  
Ronald Librizzi, DO, Retired, Virtua Health  
Melissa Loonan, Esq, US Bank  
Amy Henderson Riley, DrPH, Population Media Center  
Ashlee Van Schyndel, MPH, University of Illinois Chicago

### Scientific Advisors

Winifred Mak, MD, PhD, Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin  
Dana McQueen, MD, MAS, RMA Northern California  
Hannah Palac, MS, AbbVie  
Elizabeth Sefton, PhD, Stanford University



# FIGURES

## Current Landscape

1.0M

pregnancy losses per year in US\*

2-6%

couples have 2 or more losses\*\*

40%

report high stress levels b/c of RPL\*\*

66

support group attendees

185

flowers in our memorial garden

<2%

NIH budget for infertility & pregnancy

50%

cases of RPL that are "unexplained"

## RPL Impact

6.3K/144K

website/social media views

692

registry surveys completed

\$93K

given to RPL research since 2020

\*Mamoun, F. (2023, September 19). Placenta holds answers to many unexplained pregnancy losses, study finds. <https://medicine.yale.edu/news-article/dr-harvey-kliman-study-finds-the-placenta-holds-answers-to-many-unexplained-pregnancy-losses/>

\*\*Cuenca D. (2023). Pregnancy loss: Consequences for mental health. *Frontiers in global women's health*, 3, 1032212. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fgwh.2022.1032212>



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Funding Research

We are thrilled that our second annual RPLA-ASRM RPL Research Award was given to Dr. Winifred Mak for her project studying the role of sperm DNA fragmentation in RPL.

Dr. Mak is an Assistant Professor at Dell Medical School at the University of Texas, and Director of the Early Pregnancy Loss program at UT Health Austin.

Dr. Mak specializes in understanding oocyte (egg) and early embryo biology. Her project aims to identify different types of DNA damage in sperm and determine if and how they lead to recurrent pregnancy loss.

This could lead to a paradigm shift in the diagnostic work-up of RPL which is currently centered on the female partner.

## Supporting Science

RPLA was proud to sponsor a scientific session titled, *"Let's Get Molecular About RPL,"* during the 2023 American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) Congress.

The goal was to encourage research collaborations between scientists studying topics related to RPL and providers caring for RPL couples. It showcased the work of three researchers:

- Dr. Francesco De Mayo, MS, PhD from NIEHS for his work on the endometrium (uterine lining)
- Dr. Tim Jenkins, PhD from Brigham Young University for his work on sperm and RPL
- Dr. Soumen Paul, MS, PhD from Kansas University for his work on trophoblast cells and RPL (trophoblast cells play a key roll in embryo implantation and placental development)

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**RPLA provided a safe space for me to process and share my experience after feeling extremely isolated.**

## Creating Connections

Recurrent pregnancy loss can feel isolating. Often people don't feel like they have friends or family who can relate to their experience. Early losses in particular can lead to 'invisible grief' if news of the pregnancy was not shared.

To combat feelings of aloneness, we host a free, monthly, peer-to-peer support group for anyone who has experienced recurrent pregnancy loss.

It is a space for communal grief, validation, and connection to help people feel seen and supported.

## Using our Voice

Recurrent pregnancy loss is hard to talk about, so its impact is often unnoticed or misunderstood. One of RPLA's crucial roles is to be a voice for the community and an advocate for its needs.

RPLA is a community partner of RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association. Together, we advocate for insurance coverage for infertility treatments including IVF.

We are also a member of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, a coalition of organizations that support increased funding for NIH research.

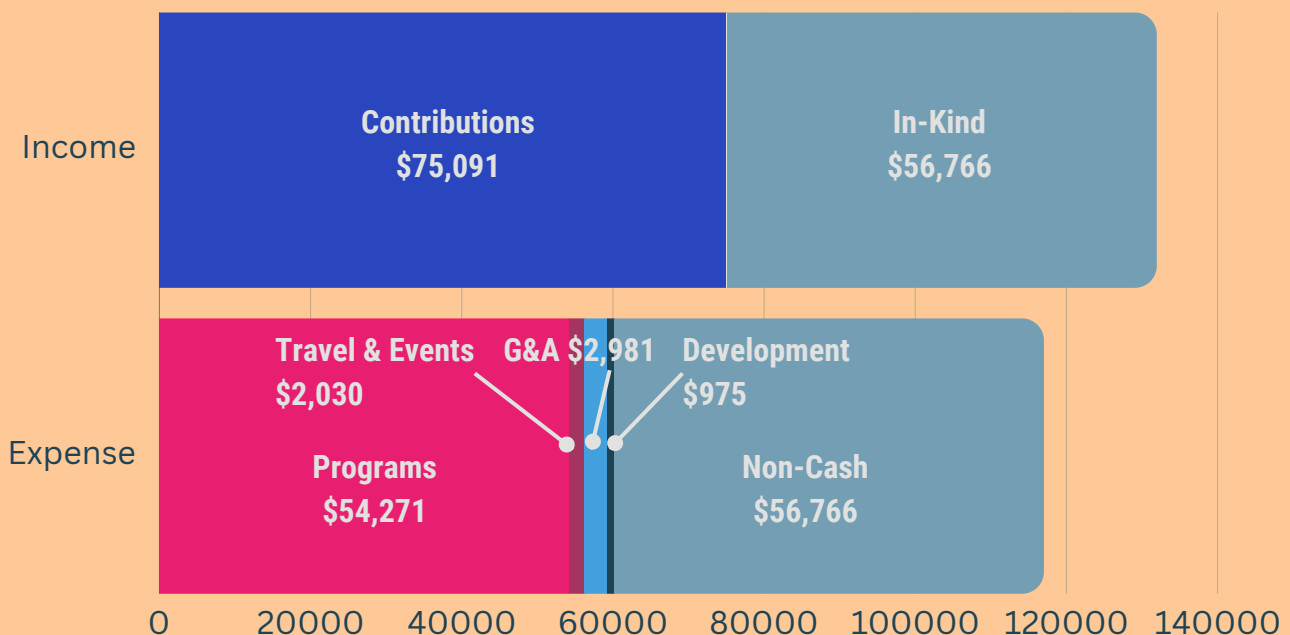
Finally, we formally endorsed the reintroduction of the *Support Through Loss Act*, which would require employers to provide paid leave for workers following a pregnancy loss and provide \$45M additional funding for pregnancy loss research to the NIH.

# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

In 2023 RPLA received \$75,091 in unrestricted gifts from 261 donors. This represents a 17% increase in contributions from FY2022. Total income\* was \$131,956.

Cash expenses held relatively steady at \$60,256. The largest single expense was our annual research grant of \$40,000 awarded to Dr. Mak at the University of Texas (see page 5). Management and general expenses totaled \$2,981, representing 4.0% of contributions. Fundraising and development expenses were \$975, representing 1.3% of contributions.

Net gain for the year was \$14,934. Total assets as of December 31, 2023 were \$121,703. There are no liabilities.



\*No money was spent on salaries. RPLA is entirely volunteer run. Executive Director services were recognized as an in-kind contribution valued at \$56,766 for the year along with an offsetting non-cash expense to represent the work that is currently done by our Board president on a volunteer basis and our intent to eventually hire a full-time, paid ED.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## statement of financial position

### Assets

Checking	\$102,242
Cash in Transit	\$19,461
Total Assets	<b>\$121,703</b>

### Liabilities

Total Liabilities	<b>\$0</b>
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### Net Assets

General Fund - Unrestricted	\$121,703
Total Net Assets	<b>\$121,703</b>
Total Liabilities + Net Assets	<b>\$121,703</b>

## statement of comprehensive income

### Income

Contributions	\$75,091
Interest Earned	\$99
In-Kind Donations	\$56,766
Total Income	<b>\$131,956</b>

### Expenses

Programs	\$54,271
Fundraising & Development	\$975
General & Administrative	\$2,981
Travel & Events	\$2,030
Executive Director Services (non-cash)	\$56,766
Total Expenses	<b>\$117,022</b>
Net Income (Loss)	<b>\$14,934</b>

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **\$10,000 and Up**

- Rev. Jeanne Hanson

## **\$5,000 to \$9,999**

- Dr. Joseph & Mrs. Karen Konefal
- Ben Burnham & Megan Hanson

## **\$1,000 to \$4,999**

- Dr. Ronald & Mrs. Robin Librizzi
- Judy Jones
- Gail Palac
- Bob & Jane Simpson
- Joey & Kate Konefal
- Mike & Laurie Burnham
- Randy & Nancy Green
- Sonja Koenig
- Brandon & Amy Henderson Riley
- Richard & Michelle Anderson
- Kieran & Emily Duggan
- Virtua Health on behalf of Dr. Gregory Piazza

## **\$500 to \$999**

- Tom & Melissa Loonan
- Beth Rahn
- Mockingbird Incubator
- Ben & Megan Foulger
- Drs. Jake Gillen & Natalie Karp
- Pete Greenberg & Carrie Harwood
- Alexander Morgan
- Charles Rosson
- J Michael Trevino
- Adam & Christy Wolf

## **\$100 to \$499**

- Abbvie Employee Engagement Fund
- Ann Coyle
- Craig and Nancy Davis
- Jon Chappell
- Eckberg Lammers PC
- Tom Koenig
- Doug Mullen & Annie Mitsak
- Abhi Hansoti & Jasmi Shah
- Apple
- Pascal & Allie Arcese
- Lizhong Cao
- Jay & Betsy Dahlke

## **\$100 to \$499 cont.**

- John Flood
- Bob & Denise Loonan
- The Schieltz Family
- Priyanka Singh
- Paul & Stephanie Van Hook
- Eric & Amberly Zwiener
- AmazonSmile
- Peter Bevan
- Alex & Courtney Collins
- Mari Trevino Glass
- Serena Hohmann
- Grant Martin
- Thomas Poelking
- Deborah Rasmussen
- Douglas McCadden & Laryssa Storozuk
- Cherly Packard
- JW Victor & Chris Wang
- Jake & Ashley Reiter
- Chan Zuckerberg Foundation
- John Borofka & Ingrid Camacho
- Paul Buchel
- Adam Chopko
- Jim & Melissa Coleman
- Robert Debbs
- Chris & Carolyn Eigel
- Tim Hanson
- Amanda Henry
- Gerard Honig
- David Humphrey
- Alicia Irizarry
- Thomas & Shae Joyce
- Angela D Kay
- Dr. Brent & Susan Kaziny
- Thom Knapp
- Meredith Koenig
- Virgil & Shirley Koski
- Dmitry Kopylovsky
- Alex Kowell & Janna Avner
- Brae Loonan
- Matthew Malc
- Dave & Abi Montgomery
- Drs. Nick Neuss & Alex Borst
- Elizabeth Pacek
- Hannah Palac

## **\$100 to \$499 cont.**

- Danny & Shane Parkinson
- Kristen Patrick
- Scott Peppel & Dr. Michela Blain
- Gary & Michele Polvere
- Dr. Jessica Ryniec
- Salesforce
- Prajwal Salguti
- Andrea Souther
- Greg & Caroline Stabler
- Jim & Alissa Staples
- James Soper
- Debbie Talbot
- James & Anysia Tonthat
- UHG
- Jennie Wike
- Adam Wrzos

## **\$50 to \$99**

- Matt & Ayn Dietrich Williams
- Nasim Lari
- Joe Sperlunto
- David Joseph
- Heidi Genereux
- Katherine Killeffer
- David Wolf
- Emily Wahl
- Lynn Godmilow
- Elizabeth Angelova
- Catherine Johnston
- Desiree Barreras
- Amber Blomberg
- Tom & Suzanne Bolling
- Matt Brolsma
- Elizabete Campanella
- Octavia Cannon
- Thomas Cannon
- James Daniel
- Natalie S Donnell
- Resolve New England in honor of Senator Paul & Laura Feeney
- Mary Ellen Flood
- Carla Garbis
- Google
- Colleen Gorman

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## **\$50 to \$99 cont.**

- Dylan Gott
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- Jennifer Gunvalson
- Forrest Hanson & Jenny Bircher
- Robert Henderson
- Harvey Hinman
- Kenny Johnston
- Harsh Kapoor
- Emily Kucik
- Mary Langlas
- Benjamin Loonan
- Denise Loonan
- Janet Lyons
- Kristina Matkowsky
- Susan McGettigan
- Microsoft
- Jordan & Rachel Rasmussen
- Lorinda Rasmussen
- Nick Rasmussen
- Lindsay Roberts
- Chris Prasal Sapieja
- Barry Schmidt
- Jack Shouldis
- Deborah Spitalnik
- Bob Stanton & Jane Hansen
- Chris Taylor
- Raj & Katy Vasnani
- Ashlee Van Schyndel

## **Up to \$50**

- Laura Rasmussen
- Kevin Cannon
- Georgian Crusenberry
- Sonja Eidenshink
- Julie Janik Farris
- Abigail Lano
- Jena LaPlante
- Jennifer Tilliss
- Julia Anker
- Vesna Stojanovska
- Riste Mladenov
- Robert Risteski
- Rebecca Boone
- Stephanie Chuipek
- Pat Church

## **Up to \$50 cont.**

- Conagra Brands Foundation
- Carolyn Cooper
- Carrie Larson
- Sarah Linn
- Diana Long
- Kelly Billman
- Daniel Brown
- Karon Boyd
- Bethany Diaz
- Red Disarno
- Mary Fenske
- Theresa Fitzpatrick-Barkley
- Jessica Foote
- Anne Gant
- Kim Green
- Noreen Henson
- "Grammie" Janik
- Gina Joyce
- Kershaw
- Lori Manske
- Vana McCleave
- Gail Martin
- Lindsay Pastrana
- John Patrick
- Michelle Spychalla
- Amber Stevenson
- Marlene Sorrell
- Alexa Callery
- Madeline Manalang
- Andrea Olson
- Kirsten Olson
- Kate Penz
- Colleen Williams
- Monica Simmons
- Viki Lindholm
- Ljuben Stojceski
- Gabrielle Amig
- Sherry Eaton
- Jenny Egan
- Marilu Garza
- Wendy G-C
- Barbara Hazlett
- Alex Heckner
- Bryce Hegi
- Chris Kayne

## **Up to \$50 cont.**

- Rita Kettle
- Kelly Kilonsky
- Cathy Mongiolo
- Karen Muzio
- Cindy Ouellette
- Anna Smith
- Emi Smith
- Tessa Rasmussen
- Doug Whitehead
- D.D.
- Danny & Gretchen Fitzgibbons
- Sam Darby
- Sarah Frugs Folger
- Jennifer Jenkins
- Sarah Kersten
- Mirela Roberts
- Rick Artis
- Megan Baganha
- Audrey Brazel
- Jenn Bialek
- Katie Boyd
- Jon Breeding
- Tracy Callari-Roberts
- Kristin Elizabeth
- Tiffany Erin
- Samantha Faye
- Robyn Freuck
- Stephanie Garvey
- Monica Guzzetta
- Jillian Jayme
- Me Khorashadi
- Em Marie
- Rebecca Walczak Nalbach
- Bonnie Rainone
- Amanda Ziccarelli
- Bridget Black
- Nancy Burnham
- Molly Flood
- Alison Juarez
- Alessandra Pd
- Danelle Tibbetts
- Kaitlynn Marie
- Esther Moon

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