

## 2024 Impact Report

[ACPAcares.org](https://ACPAcares.org)



## A note from ACPA's Executive Director

**You are the difference  
makers, the believers,  
and the doers.**

I want to point that out first, as there is no time to wait for the work we do. On behalf of the American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your generous support and unwavering commitment to our mission. You make a profound difference in the lives of children with cleft and craniofacial conditions, as well as their families.

Because of your generosity in 2024, we have been able to comprehensively update educational resources for patients and families, enhance and grow educational programs for healthcare professionals, and perhaps most importantly, complete an 18-month project to overhaul ACPA's Parameters of Care, a document that is a critical driver of ACPA's mission to facilitate access to high quality care for individuals with cleft and craniofacial conditions and to promote team care as the best model for cleft and craniofacial care. Donor support allows ACPA to advocate for children and adults to ensure they receive the specialized care and resources necessary to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our vision of advancing research, increasing access to team care, and amplifying the voice of the facial difference community. With your continued dedication, we can achieve even greater progress in the fight to improve the lives of children with cleft and craniofacial conditions worldwide.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and belief in ACPA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Levy'.

**Adam Levy, CAE**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AMERICAN CLEFT PALATE CRANIOFACIAL ASSOCIATION



# About ACPA



The American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association (ACPA) is the premier scientific resource and interdisciplinary professional network for healthcare providers serving patients with cleft lip, cleft palate, and craniofacial differences.

ACPA plays a pivotal role in advancing the care and treatment of individuals with cleft and craniofacial conditions. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit association, ACPA brings together affected individuals, families, and healthcare professionals with a shared commitment to improving the lives of those affected by these conditions.

Founded in 1943, ACPA has been at the forefront of supporting interdisciplinary team care, ensuring that patients receive the comprehensive, specialized attention they need across various medical disciplines. With an estimated **6,800 babies** born each year with a cleft lip and/or palate, it remains the second most common birth difference.

Through our commitment to evidence-based practices, continuing education, research, and team-based care, ACPA helps infants, children, and adults receive the most appropriate and coordinated care possible to address their unique needs, both medically and emotionally. By focusing on the comprehensive nature of cleft and craniofacial care, ACPA has been instrumental in promoting patient advocacy and helping shape policies that improve the quality of life for affected individuals and their families



ACPA members represent **36 medical disciplines**, including plastic surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, otolaryngology (ENT), nursing, speech-language pathology and more.

More than **2,207 members** work with patients and conduct research in **50 states** and **63 countries** around the world.

Argentina	Ghana	Norway	Uzbekistan
Austria	Greece	Oman	Vietnam
Australia	Guatemala	Pakistan	
Bangladesh	Guyana	Peru	
Belgium	India	Philippines	
Benin	Indonesia	Poland	
Brazil	Iran	Qatar	
Canada	Ireland	Singapore	
Chile	Israel	Slovakia	
China	Japan	Slovenia	
Colombia	Jordan	South Africa	
DR Congo	Kuwait	Spain	
Costa Rica	Malaysia	Sweden	
Cyprus	Mexico	Switzerland	
Czechia	Mongolia	Taiwan	
Denmark	Namibia	Thailand	
Egypt	Nepal	Turkey	
El Salvador	Netherlands	United Arab Emirates	
Ethiopia	New Zealand	United Kingdom	
Germany	Nigeria	United States	

**36** Disciplines  
**2,207** Members  
**50** States  
**63** Countries

# ACPA by the Numbers



76,000

**PATIENTS SERVED**

The **204 ACPA Approved Teams** in the U.S. and Canada play a crucial role in providing specialized, comprehensive care to patients affected by cleft and craniofacial conditions. These teams are composed of a wide range of healthcare professionals all working together to support patients and their families throughout their care journey.

306

**CLEFT COURAGE BEARS SOLD**

Since 1989, the ACPA Cleft Courage Bear has become a lifelong friend to children of all ages. With stitches across the upper lip, this fuzzy companion provides comfort and cuddles at every stage of their journey.

\$15,500

**PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS GRANTED**

ACPA supports patients and families by equipping providers with essential professional resources. Each year ACPA provides professional scholarships for graduate students and young professionals in the cleft and craniofacial field to join ACPA and attend ACPA's Annual Meeting. Awards are granted to recognize dedication to research.

\$20,000

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED**

ACPA awards college scholarships to outstanding students born with cleft or craniofacial conditions. In 2024, ACPA was honored to provide scholarships to **three deserving students**.

3,156

**PATIENT EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES DISTRIBUTED**

ACPA works with cleft and craniofacial experts to develop educational resources to ensure patients and families receive research-based and trusted information. ACPA offers **more than 30 resources** to help parents learn about their child's diagnosis and navigate every stage of their treatment journey.

## Top 5 Most Read Website Articles

**8,668**  
Page Views

Introduction to Cleft Lip and Palate  
<https://acpacares.org/resource/introduction-to-cleft-craniofacial-conditions/>

**4,153**  
Page Views

Standards of Approval for Team Care  
<https://acpacares.org/standards-of-approval-for-team-care/>

**7,376**  
Page Views

Feeding Your Baby  
<https://acpacares.org/resource/feeding-your-baby/>

**3,680**  
Page Views

ACPA Cleft Bears  
<https://acpacares.org/cleft-courage-bear-program/>

**6,167**  
Page Views

Speech Samples  
<https://acpacares.org/resource/speech-samples/>

## Financials

*All financials are unaudited*

### Revenue:

Annual Meeting Income*	\$573,434
Professional Dues	\$436,943
Donations and Grants	\$307,138
Teams, CPCJ, and other sales	\$142,279
Other	\$51,669
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,511,463</b>

\*Includes supporter and exhibitor revenue

### Expenses:

Program Services	\$1,353,972
Management and General	\$233,711
Development	\$94,024
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,671,707</b>

### Donations Received by Fund:

<b>\$174,468</b> Unrestricted	<b>\$40,000</b> Search Engine Optimization Initiatives	<b>\$30,000</b> Parameters of Care Project	<b>\$25,351</b> Toni Chayra Memorial Fund
<b>\$16,926</b> John Riski Speech Scholarship Fund	<b>\$3,570</b> Family Services Endowment	<b>\$3,400</b> Randall/LaRossa College Scholarship Fund	<b>\$2,400</b> Resources for Patients
<b>\$2,250</b> James F. Mulik Educational Scholarship Fund	<b>\$2,070</b> David Kuehn Speech Scholarship Fund	<b>\$1,500</b> Samuel Berkowitz Long Term Study Award	<b>\$1,050</b> Innovative Research
<b>\$1,000</b> Young Professional Service Award	<b>\$750</b> Team Care	<b>\$500</b> Education	<b>\$250</b> Mazaheri Young Professional Scholarship Fund



# ACPA at a Glance

A snapshot of our 2024 membership engagement

2,207 Members

1,508  
Professional

31  
Affiliate

201  
Students

328  
Life

29  
Retired

110  
Early Career



## Top 5 Benefits According to our members

- 1

Subscription to *The Cleft Palate Craniofacial Journal*
- 2

Reduced Registration Rate for ACPA's Annual Meeting
- 3

Reduced or Free Registration Rate for ACPA Online Learning Opportunities
- 4

Access to the ACPA Online Community
- 5

Participation in Special Interest Groups



405  
MEMBERS CONTRIBUTED  
ON THE ONLINE  
COMMUNITY <sup>\*1</sup>



253  
VOLUNTEERS <sup>\*2</sup>



100,000+  
SUBSCRIBERS TO THE CLEFT  
PALATE CRANIOFACIAL JOURNAL

<sup>\*1</sup> The ACPA Online Community is the place for members to ask questions, connect, network, share resources and more. Features include discussions, groups, events, and private messaging.

<sup>\*2</sup> Volunteers support ACPA's mission by serving on the board of directors, editorial board, committees, selection panels, and task forces. Volunteers also chair sessions at ACPA's Annual Meeting and lead Special Interest Groups.

## Top 3 Most Read Articles From *The Cleft Palate Craniofacial Journal*

1,778  
PAGE VIEWS

Comparison of Two Specialized Cleft Palate Feeders  
*Volume 61 Issue 3*  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/10556656221129977>

1,515  
PAGE VIEWS

Stem Cell-Based Tissue Engineering for Cleft Defects: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis  
*Volume 61 Issue 9*  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/10556656231175278>

1,498  
PAGE VIEWS

Comparison of Alveolar Bone Grafting Outcomes Using CBCT in Individuals with UCLP Based on the Presurgical Orthodontic Treatment Methods  
*Volume 61 Issue 5*  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/10556656221143945>



# Areas of Impact

ACPA depends on donor support to carry out our mission to lead interdisciplinary cleft and craniofacial care so patients and families thrive. We're incredibly grateful for the impact we've made this year. From advances in patient care and our advocacy efforts to research and education—none of which would be possible without donor support.

## Advances in Cleft and Craniofacial Evaluation and Treatment

The Parameters of Care for Evaluation and Treatment of Individuals with Cleft Lip/Palate and/or Other Craniofacial Differences (Parameters of Care) is an essential resource for stakeholders committed to best practices in cleft and craniofacial care. The document underwent a comprehensive update and reformatting in 2024, emphasizing interdisciplinary, evidence-based care and incorporating hundreds of citations.

## Advocacy Efforts

ACPA's advocacy efforts play a vital role in improving the lives of individuals affected by cleft and craniofacial conditions. Through advocacy, ACPA works to raise awareness, promote policies, and secure resources that enhance care and support for patients and their families.

In September, ACPA held its first advocacy training webinar with **over 100 people registered**. Additionally, ACPA created two letter templates to aid in advocating for interdisciplinary cleft and/or craniofacial team care at the institutional level.

Impact of current legislative issues:

- **Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA):** ACPA Participated in the National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasia's day on the hill in July. ELSA will be reintroduced during the 119th legislative session.
- **Ally's Act:** ACPA continues to support this bill, which will be reintroduced in the next legislative session.
- **Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act:** This bill passed unanimously in the House on September 17 but was not voted on by the Senate before the end of the 118th legislative session. The bill will be reintroduced in 2025.

## Education

Healthcare providers around the world depend on ACPA as the premier scientific resource for the latest techniques and research in interdisciplinary cleft and craniofacial care. ACPA's interdisciplinary Annual Meeting brings together more than **1,000 providers** to learn and grow from each other to improve patient care. ACPA's webinar program expanded in 2024, educating more than **1,300 cleft and craniofacial care providers**.

ACPA's accreditation to provide continuing medical education (CME) for physicians was renewed by ACCME through July 31, 2028, reinforcing ACPA's commitment to high-quality education.

ACPA Family Resources offers more than 30 resources to help parents learn about their child's diagnosis and navigate every stage of their treatment journey. ACPA is working to update these valuable resources with the latest research and treatment options.

## Financial Support for Students and Professionals

ACPA awarded **\$20,000** from the Randall/LaRossa College Scholarship Fund to three deserving students born with cleft/craniofacial conditions. This support will alleviate a portion of college expenses for these families who have already committed so much.

Additionally, ACPA granted **\$15,500** in scholarships and awards to cleft and craniofacial professionals to remove barriers to attending ACPA's Annual Meeting and to recognize dedication to research.

## Research

ACPA established a new Research and Development Special Interest Group. Their collaborative efforts were featured in a special issue of *The Cleft Palate Craniofacial Journal* which highlighted Early Career Researchers.



## Visiting Scholar Program

ACPA was honored to reintroduce the Visiting Scholar Program in 2024 after a seven-year hiatus. The ACPA Visiting Scholar Program selects cleft and/or craniofacial care providers from developing countries to travel to the United States and Canada to learn more about cleft and craniofacial care from ACPA Approved Teams. The visiting scholar travels to two ACPA Approved Teams and attends ACPA's Annual Meeting.

The purpose of the Visiting Scholar Program is to give scholars a first-hand opportunity to see interdisciplinary team-based cleft/craniofacial care and provide them with the knowledge to establish or improve cleft and/or craniofacial care within their home country in a team setting. Total duration of the scholar visit is approximately 5-6 weeks.

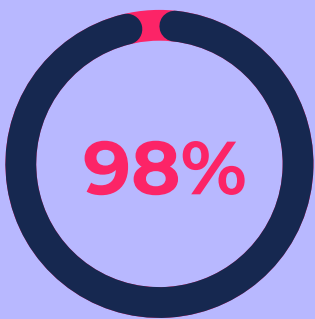


# Annual Meeting Impact

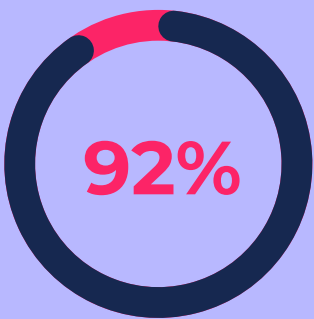


ACPA has conducted a multidisciplinary Annual Meeting since March 1943, focusing on state-of-the-art techniques and research and promoting and improving interdisciplinary treatment of individuals with cleft and craniofacial conditions.

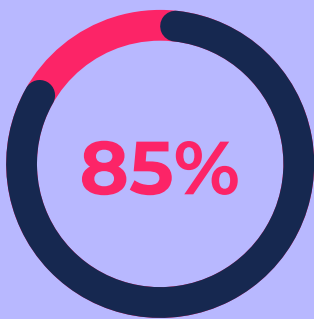
The 2024 Annual Meeting brought together **1,013 medical professionals** from more than **20 countries**, representing **32 disciplines**. Early career professionals learned from seasoned experts, while specialists collaborated across disciplines to enhance interdisciplinary care. Attendees had access to **406 abstract** presentations featuring the latest research and clinical innovations, ensuring they remain at the forefront of patient care.



Applied knowledge gained from ACPA's Annual Meeting into their daily practices, resulting in improved patient outcomes, enhanced leadership skills, updated protocols, improved communication with patients and colleagues, updated knowledge, and implementation of new techniques.



Agreed that networking opportunities at ACPA's Annual Meeting either led to or will lead to collaborations or professional partnerships.



Said they perceive that patient outcomes have improved since participating in ACPA's Annual Meeting.

## Amplifying Lived Experiences

ACPA is committed to elevating the voices of individuals with cleft and craniofacial conditions. By bringing those with lived experiences to the forefront, ACPA continues to drive meaningful conversations and advocate for a more inclusive future in cleft and craniofacial care.

### The Power of Lived Experience: Facing Cleft and Craniofacial Care Forward

One of the most impactful moments of the 2024 ACPA Annual Meeting was this panel session. It brought together a diverse group of individuals with firsthand experiences to discuss key topics such as patient-centered care, family-centered care, and the representation of professionals with lived experiences in the craniofacial field. Their insights provided invaluable perspectives on how to enhance care, advocacy, and inclusion in the profession.

### Keynote Address: Cleidocranial Dysplasia and CCD Smiles: Our Stories

The 2024 Annual Meeting featured an inspiring keynote address by Kelly Wosnik and Gaten Matarazzo, who shared their personal journeys with Cleidocranial Dysplasia (CCD) and their work with CCD Smiles. Their powerful message highlighted the importance of advocacy, resilience, and community support for individuals with cleft and craniofacial conditions. Through their stories, they reinforced ACPA's mission to ensure that those affected are seen, heard, and supported throughout their journeys.

### The Psychology of Facial Difference: Communication, Stigma, and Social Support

Dr. Kathleen Bogart offered her expertise and her lived experience as the 2024 Research Keynote. Dr. Bogart earned a Ph.D. from Tufts University and an M.A. from San Francisco State University. She currently serves as an associate professor of psychology at Oregon State University. Her research focuses on the psychosocial implications of living with disability, rare disorders, and craniofacial differences. In addition to her work in academia, Dr. Bogart is co-founder of the Disability Advocacy and Research Network (DARN) for disabled psychologists and allies. Dr. Bogart's blog, Disability is Diversity, is featured in Psychology Today.





# Professional Scholarship Recipients

ACPA's commitment to supporting patients and families begins by equipping healthcare providers with the essential professional resources they need to deliver the best care possible.

ACPA accomplishes this is by offering professional scholarships to graduate students and young professionals in the cleft and craniofacial fields. These scholarships provide recipients with the opportunity to become members of ACPA and attend the Annual Meeting. By supporting the next generation of professionals, ACPA helps to foster a well-trained, well-connected community that is better equipped to address the challenges of cleft and craniofacial care.



**Alaina Martens, MS, CCC-SLP**  
*David P. Kuehn Speech Scholarship*

Named in honor of ACPA Member David P. Kuehn, this scholarship was established to help current master's or doctoral students enrolled in a communication sciences and disorders or related program the opportunity to attend ACPA's Annual Meeting.



**Nicholas Mechas, DMD**  
*Mazaheri Young Professional Scholarship*

Established by ACPA Member Mohammad Mazaheri, this scholarship supports the participation of professionals new to their field and gives them the opportunity to attend ACPA's Annual Meeting.



**Natalie Wombacher, PhD, CCC-SLP**  
*Karlind T. Moller Cleft/Craniofacial Scholarship for Speech Path./Audiology Students*

This scholarship helps current undergraduate/graduate students in accredited speech-language pathology and/or audiology degree programs fund research or projects involving patients with cleft lip/palate and/or other craniofacial anomalies.



**Sharmila Arjunan, BDS, MDS, MSc, FRCD(C)**  
*James F. Mulick Educational Scholarship*

Established by ACPA Member Dianne Altuna in memory of her father, James F. Mulick, this scholarship supports the participation of orthodontists in ACPA's Annual Meeting.



**Stephanie Hansen, RN**  
*Donna Pruzansky Memorial Fund for Maternal and Child Health Nursing Grant*

Established by Sam Pruzansky, MD, in memory of his wife, who practiced as a nurse in the area of maternal and child health, this grant supports the participation of nurses new to their field with the opportunity to attend ACPA's Annual Meeting.



# Professional Award Recipients

ACPA takes great pride in recognizing the dedication and outstanding contributions of individuals in the cleft and craniofacial community through professional awards. These awards celebrate the tireless efforts of those who advance research, improve patient care, and provide valuable support to patients and families affected by cleft and craniofacial conditions.



## Henry Baddour

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Recognizes an individual or group, such as a parent, patient, advocate, or community organization, who has demonstrated exceptional service and leadership on behalf of individuals with cleft or craniofacial differences.



## Jack C. Yu, DMD, MD, MS, Ed

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Recognizes an individual, member or non-member, who has demonstrated exceptional service to ACPA.



## Azeez Butali, DDS, PhD

### EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Given to an early career professional who is a member of ACPA for at least three years and not more than 15 years, who exhibits exemplary accomplishment and dedication to the issues affecting people with cleft and craniofacial conditions.



## Mark P. Mooney, PhD

### HONORS OF THE ASSOCIATION AWARD

Represents the highest expression of respect and gratitude ACPA bestows. It is granted to those individuals whose lifetime of research, healthcare delivery, or leadership has advanced, significantly and uniquely, the amelioration of physical, behavioral, or social conditions of cleft lip and palate or other craniofacial differences.



## Jessica L. Williams, MS, CCC-SLP

### YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to a cleft/craniofacial professional with 10 or fewer years in the field who demonstrates exceptional service to a cleft/craniofacial team, professional society, community, or the profession.

## The Cleft Palate Craniofacial Journal Awards



## Rany M. Bous, BDS, MSD

### CPCJ PEER REVIEWER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Given annually to the peer reviewer recommended and selected by the Editorial Board who best exemplifies the core values and mission of *The Cleft Palate Craniofacial Journal*.



## Midia Najar Chalien, DDS, MS, and co-authors

### SAMUEL BERKOWITZ, DDS, MS LONG-TERM OUTCOMES STUDY AWARD

Given annually to the primary author of the article judged to be the best long-term outcomes study published in *The Cleft Palate Craniofacial Journal*.



## Anand R. Kumar, MD, FACS, FAAP

### STEWART ROD CPCJ SECTION EDITOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is given annually to a section editor of *The Cleft Palate Craniofacial Journal* in recognition of their significant and substantive contributions to the journal.

## Junior Investigator Awards



## Robert B. Fujiki, PhD & Austin Stellpflug, PhD

### SUBTELNY JUNIOR INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

ACPA's Junior Investigator Award recognizes outstanding presentations from investigators either recently graduated or currently enrolled in a training program dealing with cleft and craniofacial evaluation and treatment.



# College Scholarship Recipients

ACPA awards college scholarships annually to outstanding students born with cleft or craniofacial conditions.

Award recipients are selected based on past academic performance, evidence of leadership and/or community and school involvement, indications of future academic success, and the applicant essay.

ACPA is pleased to have awarded **\$20,000** in scholarships to three deserving students in 2024.



## Madelyn Jurek

**HONORS AWARD, RANDALL/LAROSSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

I will be attending the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse this fall to study Exercise and Sports Science on the pre-professional track. My goal is to become either a Physician Assistant or Physical Therapist. I was born with Goldenhar Syndrome, which for me includes having clefting throughout most of my face as well as being blind in my right eye and deaf in my left ear. I have endured over 30 surgeries in my life. My journey has connected me with numerous providers in various specialties from surgeons to orthodontists to speech language pathologists. I am grateful to have met these incredible providers who inspired me to explore careers in medicine/healthcare. I hope to take the lessons that I have learned from them into my future career. They have shown me the difference that a caring and passionate provider can make in a patient's life.

*The financial support of this scholarship will allow me to focus on my studies and pursue my dream of having a career in medicine where I hope to make a positive impact and inspire others.*

Being awarded a Randall/LaRossa Scholarship is an honor.

## Blake Meyer

**GENERAL AWARD, RANDALL/LAROSSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

I am looking forward to attending Illinois State University in the fall in Normal, Illinois. My collegiate goals are to attain a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry as well as a minor in Civic Engagement and Responsibility, followed by completing a Doctorate of Dental Medicine and finishing with a specialization in Orthodontia. Throughout the years I have had many surgeries that have brought challenges, since I was born with a cleft lip and palate. These challenges brought a sense of responsibility to give back and represent Shriners Hospital for Children to raise money and awareness for them. I have been a patient ambassador for many years and have been honored to participate in events. All of these experiences had led me to the realization that I wanted to help kids with similar craniofacial conditions as an orthodontist. These big dreams need significant financial commitment to complete not only undergraduate school, but also dental school.



*This scholarship will help me get through college with less of a financial burden, but more importantly bring me closer to my dream of building better smiles each day.*



## Jordi Howell

**VOCATIONAL AWARD, RANDALL/LAROSSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

I participated in my first welding class as a freshman in high school, and prior to that class, I had no experience with welding. The first time I put on my helmet and had struck an arc, I knew that welding was something I wanted to know more about. By the time I had started Welding II, I had made the decision that welding would be in my future and my career path. I enjoy and thrive at pulling down my helmet and focusing on the weld. Regarding my cleft journey, I have had quite a few surgeries; one to close my hard palate, then another for my soft palate, and a bone graft. To date, I have had eleven surgeries, two sets of braces, various other pieces of metal in mouth, and years of speech therapy. Some surgeries were worse than others such as the bone graft and the palate closures while others required less of a hospital stay and less time to heal. It's definitely been a process and it has yet to be determined if I am done with procedures and braces, but it's doable. I have support from my family and my doctors, so we get through it.

*I will be attending Kentucky Welding Institute in Fall 2024, where I will receive certifications in multiple types of welding, including pipe, fabrication, and structural welds.*



# Donor Spotlight

ACPA is deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors, whose support makes a lasting impact on the cleft and craniofacial community.

This section shines a well-deserved spotlight on individuals who have made exceptional contributions that help to advance patient care, education, and research in the cleft and craniofacial field. Their commitment to improving the lives of patients and families is invaluable.

## Meet Luke and His Pal Tucker

Luke and his pal Tucker were both born with cleft. Inspired by their shared experience, Luke decided to donate proceeds from the sale of Tucker to support ACPA. Luke's story is a heartwarming example of kindness, resilience, and giving back. Enclosed with the donation, Luke wrote this touching letter to ACPA:

*"Tucker is extra special to me as we both were born with a birth defect. While my birth defect has been corrected and not outwardly visible, Tucker's cleft lip was a topic of conversation everywhere we went the past year. In honor of Tucker, I am donating \$500 from the sale of him to help support the ACPA. I hope this donation will help educate and assist the families of the 7,000 children born in the US each year with a cleft lip and/or palate. As you can see in the enclosed photo, Tucker's cleft lip did not slow him down eating as he weighed 1,485 pounds at my county fair. It was neat to watch him adapt to be able to eat, and especially drink as he would submerge his whole nose in his water bucket. Sometimes he would even blow bubbles! Again, I hope this donation helps support your organization and the families."*



As Luke shared in his letter, Tucker adapted to his cleft in remarkable ways, even learning to drink water by submerging his nose and blowing bubbles. Their story reminds us the resilience of those born with cleft conditions and the generosity of those who choose to give back.

ACPA is honored by Luke's donation and grateful to all who support our mission. His act of kindness is a testament to the impact one person can make in the lives of thousands of children born with cleft conditions each year.

## Honoring a Legacy: The John Riski Speech Scholarship

Over a distinguished **40-year career**, **Dr. John E. Riski, PhD, CCC-SLP, F-ASHA**, left an indelible mark on the field of speech-language pathology, particularly in the care of children with cleft and craniofacial conditions. As the founder of the nation's first Craniofacial Speech Pathology Fellowship, Dr. Riski's expertise, dedication, and leadership shaped the way professionals approach and treat these complex conditions. His commitment to advancing clinical care and training exceptional clinicians, has positively impacted the lives of countless individuals, both patients and professionals alike.

In 2024, a group of **50 dedicated members of ACPA and friends** of Dr. Riski came together to establish the John Riski Speech Scholarship. The scholarship, funded with **more than \$30,000** in generous donations, was created to honor Dr. Riski's remarkable contributions to the field and to continue his mission of improving the lives of children with cleft and craniofacial conditions.

The John Riski Speech Scholarship is designed to provide funding for speech-language pathologists who wish to deepen their expertise in cleft and craniofacial care by attending ACPA's Annual Meeting. The scholarship serves as a vital resource to help clinicians stay at the forefront of the latest advancements in cleft and craniofacial care. It is an investment in both the professional development of speech-language pathologists and, ultimately, the well-being of the children they serve.

Beyond financial support, the scholarship also fosters professional growth by pairing recipients with experienced craniofacial SLP mentors. These mentor-mentee relationships will enable the next generation of clinicians to develop invaluable insights and build lasting professional connections within the ACPA community. It's a way to ensure that Dr. Riski's vision of collaboration, continuous learning, and mentorship lives on for years to come.

The first John Riski Speech Scholarship will be awarded for the 2026 ACPA Annual Meeting. For those interested in applying for the scholarship, more details about eligibility and application deadlines will be available in fall 2025.



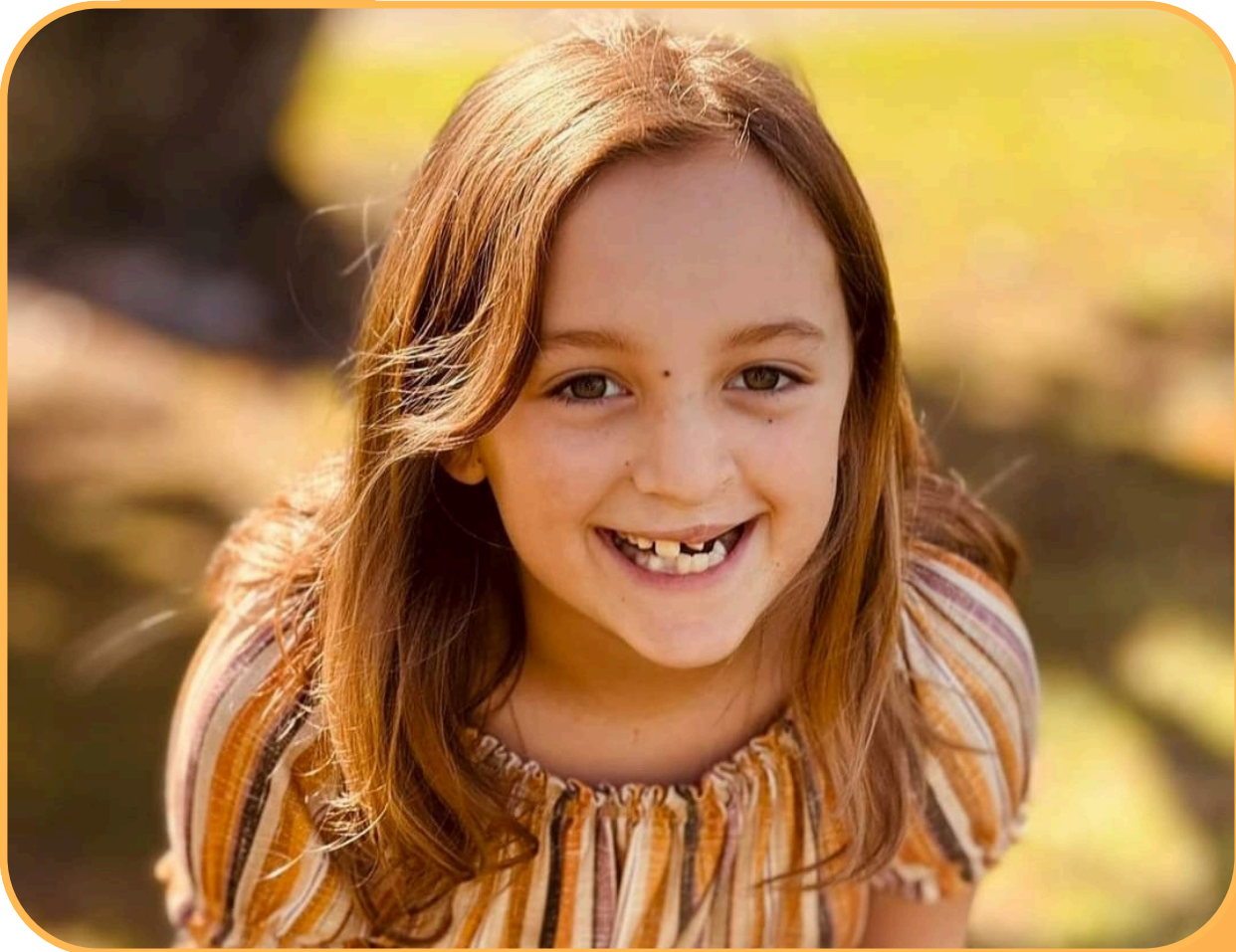


# 2024 President's Circle Members

ACPA takes great pride in celebrating the incredible contributions of its members, families, and friends. We are beyond grateful to our President's Circle Members—individuals who have made gifts of \$1,000 or more to ACPA.

Through their contributions, our President's Circle Members help ensure that ACPA remains at the forefront of innovation in the field, fostering collaboration among professionals, advancing scientific knowledge, and providing essential resources for the cleft and craniofacial community.

We are beyond grateful for their commitment to our mission and for their continued support. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to making a lasting difference in the world.



## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE KEYSTONE SOCIETY (\$10,000 +)

- Anonymous  
Anonymous\*  
CleftStrong (Ray and Chelsea Ortiz)
- Garey Chayra\*  
Kenneth W. Szymanski

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE GOLD LEVEL (\$3,000-\$9,999)

- Hugh Gillard  
Richard J. Green  
Marilyn C. Jones\*  
Kathleen A Kapp-Simon\*
- Land Realty, Inc.  
Alexandra MacCracken  
Sasha and Nichelle Weintraub  
Libby Wilson\*

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE SILVER LEVEL (\$1,000-\$2,999)

- Anonymous\*  
Adriane L. Baylis\*  
Stephen\* and Patricia\* Beals  
Lynn Berkowitz  
Thomas Biermann  
Silvia S. Blemker  
Daniel J. Brachman  
Richard\* and Cheryl Bruun  
Richard G. Burton\*  
John F. Caccamese\*  
Marilyn Alice Cohen\*  
Canice E. Crerand\*  
Claudia Crilly Bellucci\*  
Amelia F. Drake\*  
Deji V. Fashemo\*  
Lynn M. Fox\*  
John A. Girotto\*  
Matthew R. Greives\*  
Yvonne R. Gutierrez\*  
Tasha E. Hall\*  
Ron R. Hathaway\*  
Carrie L. Heike\*  
William Y. Hoffman\*
- Oksana A. Jackson\*  
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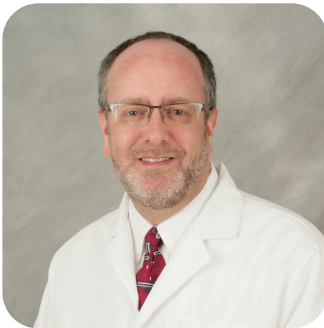
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