

2024

# STRIDES Annual Report

*Ensuring disabilities never limit possibilities*



## ABOUT STRIDES

STRIDES was founded in 2019 by a group of passionate Texas A&M students with one goal in common: to help open the doors of higher education to students with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

We are a nonprofit organization that provides yearly scholarships and grants to students in Texas A&M's PATHS and Aggie ACHIEVE post-secondary education programs.

We assist the students in these programs in other ways throughout the school year, as well as advocating for them and the entire IDD community as a whole.

# A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

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Dear STRIDES Family,

After closing out another year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've been on together and share our vision for the future of STRIDES. With the support of our incredible donors, volunteers, family and friends, this year has been one of remarkable growth and impact for STRIDES. We have achieved a monumental milestone for our organization, providing another \$25,000 in scholarships, bringing us to a total of \$100,000 in scholarships and grants given to amazing students at Texas A&M.

Reaching this milestone has been both humbling and inspiring. It's been an incredible experience to witness the generosity of our community—those who have donated, participated in our golf and volleyball tournaments, sponsored our events, or simply spread the word about our mission. The collective support has made all the difference and is the sole reason we have been so successful in the five years since our founding.

As we continue to grow, we've faced the natural challenge of managing the organization as many of our founding members have moved on to new career and educational pursuits. However, we've embraced this transition by making a concerted effort to expand in new and meaningful ways. With a solid track record behind us, we are now actively pursuing grants from family foundations and funds, and helping develop our organization with new STRIDES internships. We are also forging partnerships with businesses and new Texas A&M organizations that align with our vision for STRIDES.

At the heart of it all, our focus remains on those we serve. This year, we awarded scholarships to five outstanding students—individuals who are not only exceptional in their studies but also in their character. The opportunities they receive through our programs will empower them to build meaningful and sustainable futures, which is the core of our mission.

We are deeply honored to be part of their journey, and we're more committed than ever to making a lasting impact.

Thank you for your continued support.

Emerson Lout  
Chairman of the Board



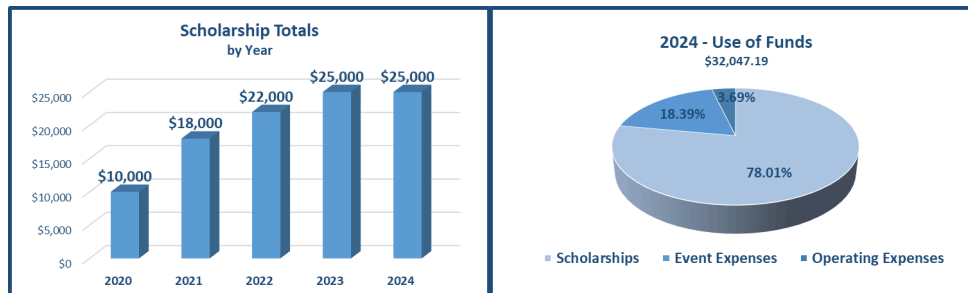
# OUR FINANCES

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STRIDES is dedicated to serving our mission and making sure that all contributions we receive are spent wisely and in the most productive way possible. It is important to us to assure that we maximize how much of each dollar goes to scholarships and awareness, and that we openly share that information with our supporters.

## \$100,000 in Total Scholarships Awarded!

We are elated to hit this important milestone. Our wonderful donors, sponsors and supporters made it happen.



STRIDES	
Balance Sheet	
April 30, 2024	
End of Fiscal Year	
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Checking/Cash	\$5,232.03
Savings	\$25,746.77
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Promotional Gear	\$83.02
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$31,061.82</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Current Liabilities	
Account Payable	
Pledged Scholarships	\$0.00
Pledged Grants	\$2,158.05
Other Accounts Payable	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,158.05</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Beginning Net Assets	\$31,972.38
Change in Net Assets	-\$3,068.61
<b>Ending Net Assets</b>	<b>\$28,903.77</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$31,061.82</b>

STRIDES	
Income Statement	
May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024	
Fiscal Year	
<b>REVENUE</b>	
Donations	\$14,513.46
Events	\$14,447.30
Other	\$17.82
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$28,978.58</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Event Expenditures	\$5,863.53
Operating Expenses	\$1,183.66
Wages/Salaries	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,047.19</b>
<b>GIVING</b>	
Scholarships	\$25,000.00
Grants to Programs	\$0.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>-\$3,068.61</b>



# OUR EVENTS

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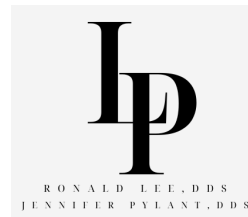


## Annual Golf Tournament

The 2024 STRIDES Golf Tournament was a big success. Our 4th annual tournament was held at the Grapevine Golf Course in Grapevine, TX. The event raised over \$8500 and allowed STRIDES to spread awareness of the PATHS and Aggie ACHIEVE programs to the Dallas-Ft. Worth community. Our sponsors included:



**Doug & Linda  
Manner**



## Sand and STRIDES

Our second annual Sand and STRIDES sand volleyball tournament was great fun. This was an opportunity to raise money for STRIDES, and also an opportunity to advocate for and make Texas A&M students more aware of the PATHS and Aggie ACHIEVE programs.

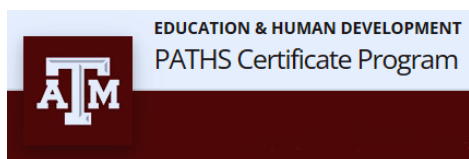


# AWARENESS + SUPPORT

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A primary aim for the organization is to foster recognition for the PATHS and ACHIEVE programs at Texas A&M, and this year we have pursued that in several different ways.

Our social events on and off campus have enabled us to spread the word about the programs to community members, corporate entities, and Texas A&M leadership and social organizations. Additional grassroots activities include partnerships with student organizations at Texas A&M - ASAP and FEST - who have worked to support the mission of STRIDES through outreach, fundraising events, and direct student assistance.



The **PATHS Certificate Program** is partnered with the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University and the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Texas at Austin to provide a **two-year program** for students with IDD in which they are awarded a certificate and are prepared to be **Direct Support Professionals, Para-Professionals, or Child Care Professionals**. By participating in this program, the students are able to leave with both **classroom** and **career experience**.

As there are so few programs for students with IDD, the PATHS program is the perfect opportunity for students to learn in a classroom similarly to any other post-secondary education, while also learning skills they will be able to use in home and career settings following the two-year program.





# AWARENESS + SUPPORT

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The **Aggie ACHIEVE Program** is a **four-year post-secondary program** for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The program allows students with IDD to participate in a college education that also prepares them for later employment. Aggie ACHIEVE is focused on creating a more inclusive and immersive educational precedent in our society, and, therefore, their students participate in **coursework** that follows the students goals and interests, **on-campus clubs and organizations, school traditions, etc.**

Being an organization with a drive to overcome barriers in higher education. STRIDES could not be more excited to partner with Aggie ACHIEVE in an effort to push educational inclusivity.

# OUR LEADERSHIP

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**Emerson Lout**

Co-Founder, Chairman  
M4 - UT Southwestern Medical  
School



**Wesley Thompson**

Co-Founder, Vice Chairman  
Director of Operations  
M4 - UT Southwestern Medical  
School



**Zachary Skrehot**

Director of Internal Development  
Consultant - Government  
Contracts  
Berkeley Research Group LLC



**Anna Fedewa**

Director of External Development  
Senior Manager of Government  
Relations  
National Down Syndrome Society



**Eva Lout**

Director of Engagement  
PhD Student - Psychology  
(Cognitive Neuroscience)  
University of Texas at Austin





We thank you for your continued support and efforts to contribute to STRIDES!



<https://letsmakestrides.com>