



RYAN SHAZIER
FUND FOR SPINAL REHABILITATION

Annual Report
July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021



We're fighting for independence. We're fighting for lives.

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A MESSAGE FROM RYAN

It feels like we started The Ryan Shazier Fund only a short time ago, but we've been going strong for a year. It's almost hard to believe — or maybe I should say “SHALIEVE.” Reflecting on our first fiscal year, I'm proud of the gains we made in implementing governance, operational infrastructure, new programs and setting the stage for the years to come. This year, we...

- Welcomed Executive Director Caroline Boyce, Program Manager Maya Haptas and Communications Specialist Jenna Nace to the team.
- Launched our first program, Shalieve Stories. Written by Cathy Cuff-Coffman and meant to increase visibility and raise awareness, the stories feature inspirational individuals with spinal cord injuries (SCI).
- Launched Ryan Time, a program in which I privately meet members of the SCI community, hear their stories and offer advice and support.
- Established an active SCI Working Group and SCI Advisory Committee. Each contribute knowledge and experience to help build out our programming and provide recommendations for future efforts.
- Hosted and participated in major fundraising events, including an Instagram Live during 2020's Giving Tuesday.

We're off to a great start and the best is yet to come. Thanks to all who help us achieve our goals.

—When we succeed, SCI individuals succeed.



Ryan Shazier

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If, like a heavy freight train firing up its engine, the first fiscal year of The Ryan Shazier Fund was centered on erecting internal infrastructure and introducing our first programming, then the coming months will be all about acceleration — more programs, more partnerships and, most importantly, more lives changed.

First, thanks to the efforts of our tireless SCI Working Group (consisting of individuals with SCIs, medical professionals, nonprofit partners, board members and, of course, Ryan and Michelle Shazier) and our SCI Advisory Committee, we are set to launch The Golden Window Pilot Program in January 2022. This carefully developed program, which we expect to move beyond the pilot phase by the end of 2022, will help individuals maximize their independence through stipend-based funding.

Our groups are also in the process of designing a Family and Caregiver Program aimed at providing resources for these important individuals. The program will be supported by our first exclusive corporate sponsor, Edgar Snyder & Associates. Our relationship with the well-known firm adds to a growing list of businesses and organizations we enjoy ties with, including the Pittsburgh Steelers, The Cam Heyward Foundation, Wabtec, The Woodlands Foundation and Mission for Miracles.

Indeed, it's all-aboard time for the Fund. There's no stopping us now.



Caroline Boyce


OUR PROGRAMS



THE GOLDEN WINDOW PROGRAM

The Golden Window Program, soon to begin its pilot phase, will maximize SCI individuals' independence through a stipend-based funding model. In our first fiscal year, we developed the program by:

- Reviewing existing programs and resources.
- Convening an SCI Working Group made up of diverse individuals including individuals living with SCIs.
- Creating an SCI Advisory Committee tasked with providing input on medical and other evaluative criteria for our program.
- Hiring a professional evaluator and designing the program.
- By the end of FY2021-22, we expect to have helped 11 people regain their independence.



The **first twenty-four months** of SCI rehabilitation are critical. They call it the "**Golden Window.**"



RYAN TIME

In the past year, we completed

10

Ryan Times.

Ryan is acutely aware of the powerful role that **support and inspiration** can play in SCI recovery. He created Ryan Time, private one-on-one conversations with SCI individuals to build a personal and supportive connection while lifting their spirits during their recovery journey.

We expect to more than double the number of Ryan Times during the 2021-22 fiscal year and are already well on our way toward doing so.

Personal. Powerful. Real.

*"I want to show the world that someone with a spinal cord injury can be a corporate leader."
-17-year-old Ryan Time participant*



SHALIEVE STORIES

In the past year, we shared

5

Shalieve Stories.

When Ryan suffered his spinal cord injury, **#SHALIEVE** became a trending hashtag on Twitter, a sign of support seen on hats and other merchandise in the Pittsburgh area, and a way to show love and support to Ryan and his family. Our online collection of Shalieve Stories shares the real stories of inspiring individuals who overcome their spinal cord injury challenges in order to thrive.



Inspiring. Support. Storytelling.

BUILDING A FINANCIAL BASE

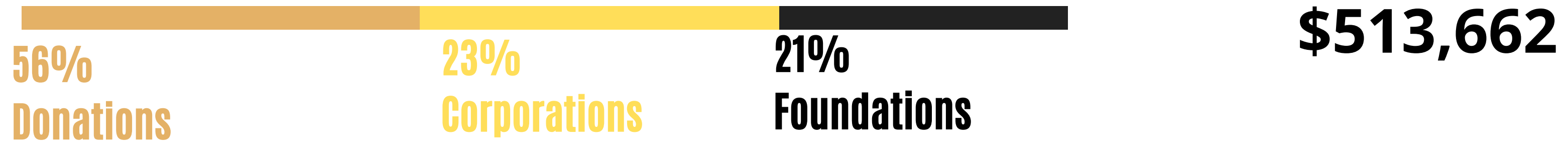
The Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation has a long-term strategy to ensure our mission to support individuals with SCIs and their families is sustainable and scalable.

During our first fiscal year (2020-21) and in accordance with our business plan, we succeeded in minimizing expenses while raising an additional \$367,158 to fund our programs in FY2021-22. We are pleased to report that \$190,000 of that amount has been set aside specifically for the Golden Window Program. The balance will support organizational operations and the development of a Family and Caregiver Program as well as a set-aside for reserves.

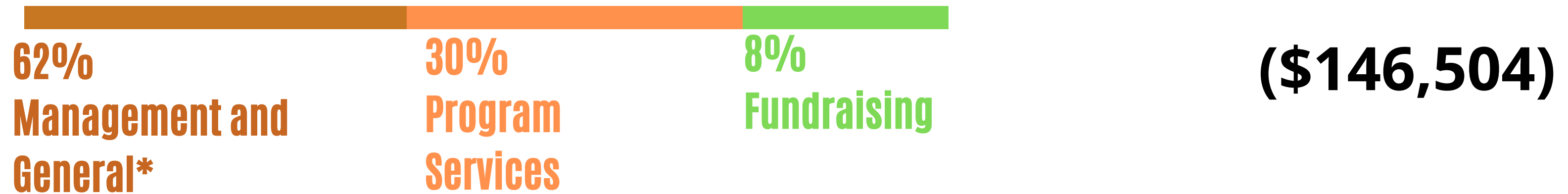
The Ryan Shazier Fund for Spinal Rehabilitation is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization. Its financial statements and independent auditor's report for fiscal year 2020-2021 was prepared by Louis Plung & Company.

BUILDING A FINANCIAL BASE

FY2020-2021 Total Revenue



FY2020-2021 Total Expenses

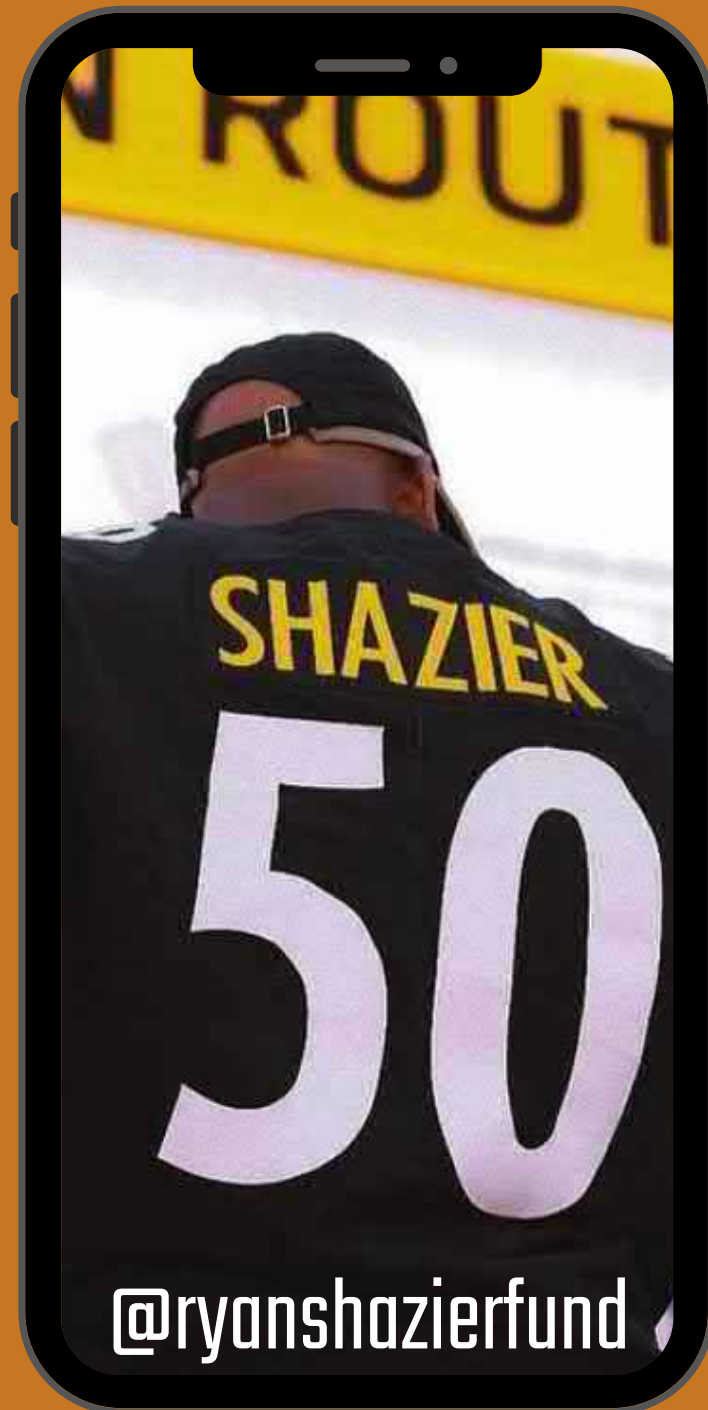


Net Revenue Carry-Forward to FY 2021-2022



*As FY2020-2021 was the official launch of The Fund, additional dollars were used to establish basic management and operational aspects. Funding for programs is the heart of the work we do and those programs will be ramping up in 2022.

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



Instagram
10,992 individuals

Facebook
22,197 individuals

Twitter
30,590 individuals

In addition, Ryan reaches 1.4M individuals on his personal platforms

The Fund is continuing to grow our social media following and engagement. Be sure to follow us on all platforms!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Michael Tomlin

STAFF



Caroline Boyce
Executive Director



Maya Haptas
Program Manager



Jenna Nace
Communications
Specialist



Cathy Coffman
Shalieve Stories
Writer