

A Legacy of Giving: Supporting the Great Dane for Over Two Decades

The **Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust** was granted **501(c)(3)** status by the IRS in **November 2001**. Created as the charitable giving arm of the Great Dane Club of America (GDCA), the Trust was founded with a clear purpose: **to improve the quality of life of the Great Dane**. All donations to the Trust are tax deductible, allowing supporters to give back while directly helping the breed they love.

The Trust began with three dedicated founding Trustees—**Jane Chopson, Lisa Foltz, and Paul Hardiman**—along with an initial **\$10,000 allocation from the GDCA**. From these humble beginnings, the Trust has grown steadily in both scope and impact.

Our Mission

The mission of the Trust is broad yet focused, supporting initiatives that directly benefit Great Danes through:

- Welfare and rescue efforts
- Educational programs
- Disaster relief
- Scholarship programs
- Breed-specific health awareness
- Medical research

Over the past **24 years**, the Trust has remained committed to these core goals while continually expanding its reach to meet the evolving needs of the breed.

Growth Through Service

What began as a small group of Trustees has grown into a team of **10 volunteer Trustees**, all generously donating their time and expertise. The Trust continues to welcome individuals who are passionate about Great Danes and willing to contribute their time in service to this important mission.

Fundraising with Heart

Fundraising has always been central to sustaining the Trust's work. Among the most notable efforts were two extraordinary raffles featuring custom artwork designed by **Jerry Lobato**:

- A **bowl featuring three Great Dane heads**, raffled in memory of founding Trustee **Jane Chopson**
- A **full-size Great Dane puppy sculpture**, also raffled to benefit the Trust

Each of these remarkable pieces raised **over \$10,000**, and the Trust continues to hold raffles and auctions throughout the year to support its programs.

Programs That Make a Difference

The Trust originally focused on **scholarships, research, rescue, and education**, and those pillars remain strong today. Over time, additional programs have been added, including:

- **Cardiac Clinics at the National Specialty**, allowing participants to receive echocardiograms at **half the cost**
- Expanded **scholarship opportunities**, including the **Carmody Scholarship** and the **Robert & Carolyn Thomas Scholarship**, made possible through the generosity of dedicated donors

- A **National Disaster Relief Program**, established through the generous contributions of **Eleanor Bartman and others**
- Health-related stipends, including:
 - **Echocardiogram stipends** for members testing outside of the National (introduced in 2020)
 - **Holter monitoring stipends**, launching in **2026**

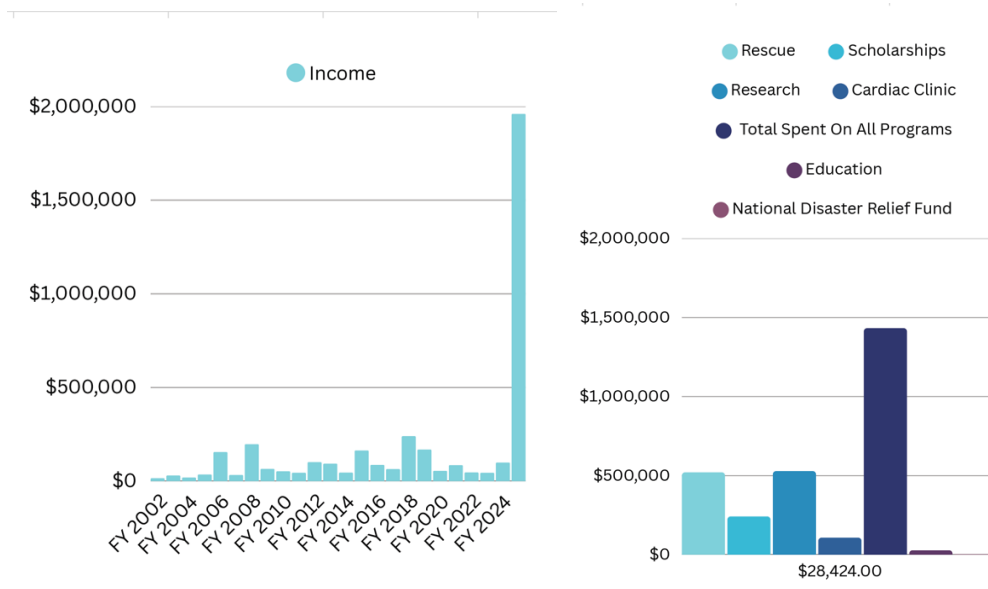
These programs would not be possible without the continued generosity of donors who believe in safeguarding the future of the breed.

Transparency and Stewardship

Below you will find charts outlining:

- **Income raised through donations**
- **Expenses paid in support of the Trust's core mission activities**

These charts reflect the Trust's ongoing commitment to responsible stewardship and transparency.



Join Us in Making a Difference

To learn more about the Trust, its programs, and how you can help, please visit our new website:

👉 www.GDCACharitableTrust.org

Remember: every donation helps us help them.

Together, we can continue to protect, educate, and improve the lives of Great Danes for generations to come.

