Dear Friend,

The world became a different place in 2020. This experience, like grief, has been unique for each and every one of us. All those affected by sudden death know the fragility of life and how the future can be uncertain.

A year ago, we did not know what the future held. But we did know, no matter the challenges of our world, our work needed to continue. We knew the need of our services would grow ever more critical. Sometimes through such chaos, it is only by looking back that we can truly see how far we have come and what we have overcome.

We ended 2020 forever changed, but with an unrelenting commitment to our mission. We remember the precious children who have touched our hearts and whose memories propel us toward a future free of SUDC.

Reflecting on 2020 gives me hope and reminds me of the strength we have when we act as one. Thank you for joining us throughout the twists and turns of this year. Please read on to see what we were able to do together in 2020. On behalf of the SUDC Foundation’s Board of Directors, our volunteers and our staff, we thank you for all you do.

In gratitude and peace,

Laura Gould
Co-founder and President

The mission of the SUDC Foundation is to promote awareness, advocate for research and support those affected by sudden unexpected or unexplained death in childhood.

The SUDC Foundation
Board of Directors

Bobby Jenkins, Chairman of the Board
Laura Gould, Founding Member & President
Erin Bowen, M.D., Vice President
James W. Lintott, Esq., Founding Member & Treasurer
Julia Burgess, Secretary
Lorri Caffrey, Founding Member
Matthew Polenzani
Laura Dozier
Steve Myers
Groundbreaking Book

Unexplained Pediatric Deaths: Investigation, Certification and Family Needs offers the first national consensus guidelines to fill crucial needs to help identify why these deaths happen and support families after these tragedies. It is the product of an expert panel led by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) funded by the SUDC Foundation.

“The medicolegal investigation of a child death is complex, requiring the meticulous attention of multiple professionals who bring to bear special techniques and resources. Variability in the medicolegal response is inevitable and flexibility is essential. However, the guidance provided in Unexplained Pediatric Deaths can move the U.S. closer to a consistently comprehensive approach.”

- Editor Elizabeth Bundock, M.D., Ph.D., Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for the Office of the Chief Med-

“Clearly, a lot of hard work went into the creation of this reference book. It is accessible, easy on the eye and easy to read. It provides the necessary background theory, and offers sound, practical advice for the management of unexplained pediatric deaths. I think this reference book is a 'must have' for any practicing forensic pathologist.”

- Professor Ryan Blumenthal MChB (Pret), MMed (Med Forens) Pret, FC For Path (SA) Dip For Med (SA) PhD (Wits) Senior specialist forensic pathologist at the University of Pretoria’s Department of Forensic Medicine, South Africa.

Pioneering Medical Education

Our medical education initiative, led by SUDC Foundation Vice President and pediatrician, Dr. Erin Bowen, provides a unique opportunity for discussion across specialties on how to provide collaborative care to support families after the sudden and unexpected death of a child.

SUDC Foundation Vice President Erin Bowen, M.D., and President Laura Gould, M.A. present at the AAP National Conference in October. This conference is typically attended by over 10,000 pediatric professionals globally.

Forensic pathologist and medical examiner at the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Kristen Landi, M.D., presents virtually to the Pediatric Grand Rounds at Maimonides Children’s Hospital in Brooklyn, NY.

SUDC Foundation Board Secretary Julia Burgess presents virtually to Children’s Minnesota, one of the largest pediatric health systems in the U.S.
The Scarlett’s Sunshine on Unexpected Death Act was signed into law on December 31st, 2020 by the President of the United States. Named after Scarlett Pauley, who passed away in her sleep of unknown causes in 2017 when she was just 16 months old, this marks the first time federal legislation in the United States was named after an SUDC child. The law strengthens existing efforts to understand Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and SUDC better, facilitate data collection and analysis, improve preventative efforts, and support children and families.

In November of 2019, SUDC Foundation board members and Ambassadors headed to Washington DC to educate their congressional representatives on SUDC and the importance of the legislation. We are thankful to Senators Casey and Isakson and Representatives Moore, Cole and Herrera Beutler for leading the effort, and all our supporters for helping to get this critical legislation over the finish line.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we persevered in raising awareness during SUDC Awareness Month in March through education, fundraising and undaunting kindness. Forty-one states in the U.S. proclaimed March as SUDC Awareness Month. The SUDC community donated over 3,300 books across the United States and Canada, leaving books at libraries, schools, pediatric and dental offices, in shopping carts or on a bench at a local park. Each book included the name of an SUDC child and information on SUDC. We are thankful to Sarah Nesheiwat and the Zaibo Foundation for organizing.

Historic Legislation

Spreading Awareness

Senator Bob Casey with SUDC Foundation Ambassadors

Medical professionals like pediatrician Shannon Dufresne, M.D. marked the month by sharing SUDC information with colleagues in her pediatric practice.

Scarlett’s parents and sister meet with lead House sponsor, Congresswoman Gwen Moore, in January 2020.
Advocating for Research

Innovative Research

Through your generosity, we granted over $285,000 to the SUDC Registry and Research Collaborative (SUDCRRC) at New York University Langone Health. The project is dedicated to explaining the unexplained and we are privileged to support this multi-centered project with more than 25 multidisciplinary co-investigators.

The SUDC Foundation is embarking on another groundbreaking research project examining grief responses and coping strategies of families affected by the sudden and unexpected death of a child. The study, entitled “Coping Mechanisms, Grief Responses and Experiences with Professionals Following the Sudden Unexpected Death of a Child,” also examines the experiences primary caregivers had with the professionals involved following the death of the child. This study will fill a glaring gap in current bereavement research, which until now has only focused on parents who have lost an infant or child under the age of 1.

The path to producing high-quality research is long, arduous and full of many challenges related to SUDC – such as the difficulty in identifying cases of SUDC, little funding and awareness, inadequate medical training around pediatric deaths and a shortage of forensic pathologists. But we are dedicated to advancing our mission.

To help explain how the SUDC Foundation advocates for research, we released a video which you can watch at sudc.org.

The generosity of the supporters of the Taylor McKeen Shelton Foundation donor community has allowed us to invest in cutting edge and innovative research funded by the SUDC Foundation. This research was featured on the cover of the American Journal of Neororadiology in March 2019. Together with the SUDC Foundation, we will continue to find answers.”

– Wes and Ella Shelton

Advancing Advocacy

The SUDC spearheaded an effort to ask the National Institutes of Health in the U.S. to consider a targeted and ongoing funding allocation to support research on the epidemiology, causes and prevention of SUDC. Ideally, this funding will be a yearly allocation for research specifically and only targeted to SUDC, and that this allocation extend for at least five years. We’d like to thank each of the over 4,600 of you that signed the petition.
Supporting Those Affected

Evolving Support for Evolving Needs

The pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus changed the lives of people around the world, including families affected by the sudden death of a child. Social distancing presented the newly bereaved with unprecedented challenges on top of their fresh, raw grief. Coping tools many of us take for granted were not available to them, such as holding funerals or other common grief rituals and ceremonies to honor their loved one. Activities that could offer respite from their sadness and away from the home they shared with their child were closed, unavailable or cancelled. And world uncertainty left many families in a state of further instability making the future an even more difficult place.

Families like the Shaw family faced the first year without their son, Paxton, during a global pandemic, adding to their struggles and anxiety.

As the world’s response quickly evolved, so did the services the SUDC Foundation provides to meet the needs of our global community. The SUDC Foundation is always proud to provide a range of services at no cost to our families.

“In my early days of grief, I needed a connection with those who truly understood what I was going through. When I have needed to vent, cry or ask a question in relation to my grief, we know the SUDC Foundation and its community are always there. As our grief has evolved over the years since we lost Alexander, we appreciate how the SUDC Foundation has evolved to meet the needs of the SUDC community.”

— Michelle Emerson

“Navigating our first year without our son during a pandemic has been incredibly difficult and painful, but we are grateful for our connections with the SUDC Foundation which taught us to cope and reduce our isolation.”

– Greg and Natalie Shaw
While many in-person services were forced to shut their doors, the SUDC Foundation expanded services to those who needed it most. Led by staff member Amanda Brindle, LSW we have added virtual social hours for our community of families to connect - catch up, share coping skills, vent, discuss their experiences in a safe place with others who understand and sometimes even laugh. We also host sessions tailored to newly bereaved families, fathers and grandparents. Some of our community members share their talents to offer unique programs – including a webinar on volcanoes, gardening through grief and virtual book club based on a book authored by an SUDC mom on her journey as a grieving mother.

The third annual SUDC Foundation family retreat turned into the inaugural virtual Family Day, an opportunity for SUDC families all over the world to connect, which featured family yoga, a grief speaker, a virtual trip to a zoo, memorial craft activity and sharing session and small local gatherings around the world. Our most heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and helped make it happen.

Check out our new look at SUDC.org. Our newly designed website has improved navigation and updated resources!
Guidestar, the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations, has consistently awarded the SUDC Foundation its highest honor, the Platinum rating. Guidestar uses its rating system to advance transparency, help donors make better decisions and encourage charitable giving.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>36% Research</th>
<th>35% Programs</th>
<th>26% Operating Management</th>
<th>3% Fundraising</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>53% Private Foundations</td>
<td>23% Special Events</td>
<td>20% Individual Donors</td>
<td>4% Other</td>
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### 2020 Financials

#### Revenues

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<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Foundation Contributions</td>
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<td>$8,000</td>
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Special events, net of expenses of $13,252 and $53,451 for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively:

- 219,681
- 181,061
- 23,561
- 8,758

- Net assets released from restriction
- Satisfaction of purpose restrictions

Total revenues: $953,301 ($16,641) $936,660

#### Expenses

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<tr>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program services - research and family services</td>
<td>$575,972</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>$211,239</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$12,650</td>
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Total expenses: $799,861

#### Changes in Net Assets

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<th>End of year</th>
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<tr>
<td>$1,270,030</td>
<td>$1,423,470</td>
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<tr>
<td>$26,260</td>
<td>$9,619</td>
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#### Net Assets - Beginning of year

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>$1,270,030</td>
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<td>$1,296,290</td>
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#### Net Assets - End of year

<table>
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<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
Our Impact 2020

- 1,351 families served in 21 countries
- $285,000 donated to support cutting edge SUDC research
- 1,376 copies of unexplained death investigation guidelines distributed to support medical death investigators and medical professionals
- 7 presentations to educate medical professionals on SUDC, how to care for families and SUDC research opportunities
- 3 new research publications helping bring us closer to solving this medical mystery
- 5,000+ new followers bringing awareness to SUDC through our social media channels
- 4,600+ petition signatures in support of SUDC-specific funding from the National Institutes of Health in the U.S.
Get Involved

GIVE
Donate now at sudc.org.
Support the SUDC Foundation at work through your employer’s giving program. Find out if your employer includes the SUDC Foundation in their employee giving program on our website.
Become a monthly donor – even $10 a month can make a difference.
Join our Starlight Society by remembering the SUDC Foundation in your estate planning.

VOLUNTEER
Join the Ambassador Program promote awareness of SUDC and support the mission of the SUDC Foundation.
“Being able to volunteer for the SUDC Foundation has allowed me to ‘Pay it Forward’ on behalf of those fellow loss parents who have helped me so much along the way. It is an honor and a privilege to work with such an amazing organization that helps support the most vulnerable parents, those who are just looking for an answer as to why their children are no longer with them.” - Janet Wichern, SUDC Foundation Ambassador

JOIN
Attend an event near you held in memory of an SUDC child to support the SUDC Foundation.
Find events at sudc.org/events

SHARE
Follow us on our social media and share the stories of the beautiful children lost to SUDC and the work we are doing to create a world free of SUDC.