

MCPF

MORTON CURE PARALYSIS FUND
That All May Walk Again!

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Celebrating 30 Years of Advancing Research!

MCPF
MORTON CURE PARALYSIS FUND
5021 Vernon Avenue, Suite 145
Minneapolis, MN 55436



Scan to learn more
at mcpf.org

info@mcpf.org • mcpf.org • 612.904.1420

The Morton Cure Paralysis Fund is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization under federal tax code 501 (c)(3).

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LEADERSHIP

Jon Stevens, President

As I reflect on 2025 and our goal That All May Walk Again, I think of two statements people tend to make: 'I can't' and 'I can.' As a manager, there are many who approach work with one of these attitudes. I know who will succeed and the ones I want on my team!

Since the beginning of MCPF, we have heard 'You can't' many times. You can't cure paralysis. You can't give people hope. You can't raise millions of dollars for research, especially with a group of volunteers.

Well, I'm proud to share the results MCPF and you, our partners on this journey, accomplished in 2025! We can raise the most money in a single year. We can make the most grants in the history of MCPF. We can hold an outstanding event and learn about the remarkable progress to find cures for paralysis.

Thank you for understanding the power of saying 'I can make a difference' – because you have!



Peter Morton, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for what you have accomplished by supporting spinal cord injury research.

There was a time when illnesses such as smallpox and polio terrified communities. Cataracts and age-related blindness were inevitable. Degenerating joints meant the gradual loss of mobility and independence. Today, because of medical research, treatments for these devastating conditions allow us to live free of life-threatening childhood illnesses and remain active well into old age.

Spinal cord injury research is following the same path. Progress requires determination, collaboration, and sustained commitment. One day, future generations will look back and see spinal cord research as a medical miracle, a miracle that changed the lives of everyone with central nervous system damage, a miracle that was achieved by people like you.

In 2025, as government funding declined, you stepped forward to make this one of the most successful years in the history of MCPF. Thank you for believing in what is possible and for your commitment to turn that vision into reality.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY as of 12/31/2025

In 2025, MCPF supported over \$500,000 in spinal cord research while keeping expenses under 15%.

DONATIONS & REVENUE	464,877
PROGRAMS & SERVICES (Research & Community)	557,099
SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES (Administration/Fundraising)	58,097
TOTAL EXPENSES	615,196
CHANGE/NET ASSETS	-150,319
NET ASSETS	\$489,988

WE SAID 'WE CAN!'

... THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, WE DID!

Visionaries (\$50,000+)

An Anonymous Family
Anonymous
Jon and Kristine Stevens

Pioneers (\$25,000-\$50,000)

Kristina and Patrick Morton

Innovator (\$10,000-\$25,000)

David and Sachiko Eckert
Peter and Susan Hasselquist
Nuveen

Andrew and Anne Ogren

Micky and Vinita Pant

John and Nancy Peyton

TIAA

Mary and Bill Zimmer

Platinum (\$5,000-\$10,000)

Ronald and Elayne Engebretsen

Sherry Lou Engebretsen Memorial Fund

Joan Hinnenkamp

William and Angela Huffman

Teri and Rod Johnson

Rich and Jenny Sluss

Weiser Family Foundation

Gold (\$2,500-\$5,000)

Glen and Tracey Baehler

Timothy and Christina Hennessy

Peter and Krista Morton

In Memory of Todd Phillips

Terry O'Brien

Jim and Therese Palmer

Jenna Theisen

Pete and Susan Worley

Silver (\$1,000-\$2,500)

R. Edward Bergmark

Andy and Eva Berney

Anthony and Lynn Branch

Steve and Amanda Carter

David Chalupnik

Kay Dixon

Jenny and Eliseo Faz

Gregg and Julie Getchell

Mark and Shelley Gryzwa

Mike and Nancy Hinnenkamp

Michael Hosier

Paul Jungquist

Scott and Cindy Kellett

Kurt Knaak

Meredithe Lardie

Charlie and Deb Manzoni

Brett and Mel McKay

In Honor of Peter Morton

Bruce and Jayme Neary

David and Susan Ogden

David and Mindy Park

Lars and Juanita Pekay

Martyn and Lynne Redgrave

Jose and Margaret Rodriguez

Recognize Jon & Kris Stevens

Ann and Tony Safo

Paula Umbehoeker

Michael and Lynsey Wherry

Bronze (\$500-\$1,000)

Aafedt, Forde, Gray, Monson & Hager,
P.A.

David and Kathleen Barclay

Dan and Nancy Bauer

Karen Bowie

Dennis and Peggy Braunshausen

Lemar Brown

William and Connie Bush

John Bushey and Mary Corya

Keith Fenhaus

Jodi Finger

James Fisher

W. Barry and Mary Jo Graham

Noah Hauser

Karen Heintz

Dan and Jacki Latvala

Chris and Melanie Morrison

James and Luanne Olson

Sheldon Peterson and Gaye Skelly-
Peterson

Jeff and Ann Ruotsalainen

Gary and Vickie Schettl

William Sweatt, III

Peter Torvik and Julie Holland

John Vanderheyden

Blue Ribbon (\$250-\$500)

Anonymous

Jerry and Linda Anderson

Monte and Eveline Anderson

Bob and Lisa Bell

Doug and Deb Burns

Louise Clitty

Patrick and Mary Colbert

Patrick and Gwen Cooney

Aaron and Carreen Cooper

Michael Dai and Gail Engstrom

Topher Downham

Greg and Sharon Duerr

Arne Espeseth

Rochelle Hauser

Jerry and Kathy Hayes

Helen Hopton

Kathy Johnson

Todd and Nan Krizenesky

Janet Laudenbach

Dan Marsh

In Memory of Bonnie Marsh

Bob McDermott

Mary Melbo

Mary O'Brien

Charles Olson and Sara Gjerdrum

John and Debbie Orenstein

Beth Paulson

Kurt Peterson

Joan Phillips

Beverly Schleper

Carla Smith

David and Ana Stevens

Michele Stevens

Tom Vande Hey

Honoring Peter and Krista

Scott and Michele Voet

Chad and Becky Walker

Red Ribbon (\$100-\$250)

Jay and Teresa Alva

Jared and Melanie Bailin

Jeff and Teri Barber

Amy Basten

Beth Baumann

Marcia Byars

Suzanne Carson

David Chelgren

Brett Chell

Chris Clauson

Steven and Lucy Coble

Karmin and Steve Corkery

Cole and Sue Couvillion

Wendy Crawford

Steven Dickinson

Leslie Dietrich

Barbara Downham

Cassidy Durkin and Corey Glynn

Helen Engman

Scott and Sharolyn Erie

Frank and Roxanne Flett

Eric Froelich

Kathryn Garner

Kevin Gibbons

Erin Goebel

William and Nancy Gordon

Luke and Kristen Green

Heather Hahn

Cheryl Hinnenkamp

William S. Hughes

Christopher Huss

In Honor of Kelly Moore

Al and Barb Jedneak

Brian and Anne Kienert

John and Maureen King

Lori and David Larson

In Honor of Peter Morton

John Lynch

Lori Maki

Patricia McMorro

Martha J. Nadolny-Sanders

Kathleen Nagel

B. June and Willard Nettles, Jr.

David Polzin

Dan Purvis

Larry and Anita Rauscher

Michael Schadauer

Terry Schiesel

Dan and Renee Schmid

Dean and Kimberly Schoeberl

James and Charlotte Schreifels

Mark and Amy Schwanz

In Honor of Topher Downham

Mark and Libby Simones

Robin Simpson

Jill Skeem

Jerome Sonnabend

Bob Spangenberg

Christine St Pierre

Jim and Lynea Steinhagen

Andrew and Erika Stevens

Evangeline Stevens

Judith Strebel

Terrence Tracey

Linda Unverzagt

Jenny Uselding

Karl Vande Hey

Mark and Lana Vande Hey

Robb and Sue Vanderloop

Tom and Penny Vinnedge

Jeff Ward

Timothy and Linda Williams

Steve Zekoff

Mary Grace Zwick

White Ribbon (up to \$100)

Laurie Adams Temple

John and Jayne Anstett

Scott and Lynn Banken

Cindy Bergum and Bill Schmechel

Kevin and Kristine Callahan

Deborah Dunham

Sharon Graber

Michael Grant

Greg and Kathy Hagens

David and Juanita Hall

Maureen and Ron Halverson

In Honor of Kathy Fransson

William and Judy Kobussen

Leslie and Barbara Lamers

Terrance and Grace Leigh

In Memory of Staci Leigh O'Brien

Louie and Myrt Liebig

Bernadette Mackey

Teresa Matson

Gaylord and Mary May

Homer and Marie Meehl

John and Judy Melbo

Bridget Peters

Gary and Cindy Seelen

Michael and Many Jo Seidl

Christina Sheran

Albert and Heather Thibodeau

Randall and Bethany Veilleux

Susan Weisberg

Michael and Shanon Wichterman

MCPF

The last thirty years have brought many innovations. Today our cell phones are more advanced than the original bulky computers. Likewise, there have been many significant advances in spinal cord research including electrical stimulation, brain-nerve interface, and biological methods such as stem and other cells. MCPF has played a significant role by finding and funding early-stage positive approaches.

WHAT WE DO

RAISE FUNDS TO ADVANCE RESEARCH

SEEK OUT PROMISING PROJECTS

SERVE THOSE WITH PARALYSIS

HOW WE DO IT

SPECIAL EVENTS



DEDICATED DONORS

UNIQUE FOCUS



NICHE STRATEGY

MCPF.ORG SPINAL CAST



EXPERT GUESTS
ONLINE & IN-PERSON

WHY WE DO IT

15.4 MILLION
PEOPLE LIVING WITH SCI
17,000+
NEW INJURIES PER YEAR

FAST-TRACK
INSPIRED IDEAS



SUPPORT PEOPLE &
FAMILIES FACING SCI



30 YEAR IMPACT

\$7.5 MILLION RAISED
for MCPF seed-funded projects
\$25 MILLION GENERATED
in grants for continued study

AWARDED GRANTS IN
24 U.S. STATES

11 COUNTRIES

FUNDED 127
RESEARCH PROJECTS


Using this proof-of-concept strategy, The Morton Cure Paralysis Fund has contributed significantly towards our mission -
That All May Walk Again!

HIGHLIGHTS

2025 OUTSTANDING SCIENTIST AWARDS

New Investigator Awards: MCPF's Most Prestigious Award



Claudia Kathe, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland

At King's College in London, Dr. Kathe developed gene therapies to improve mobility after corticospinal spinal tract injury. She was recruited to the Swiss Fédéral Institute of Technology to work with famed Professor Grégoire Cortine where she developed tools to identify and study different spinal neuron populations leading to identifying a population required for the recovery of walking after spinal cord injury.

Raza Malik, University of British Columbia, Canada

Dr. Malik studied neurorehabilitation at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. His work expanded to visual and proprioceptive control of locomotion to understand ambulation after spinal cord injury. He now focuses on using electrical stimulation of the spinal cord for recovery of the cardiovascular system.



Research Grant Awards - in one of MCPF's Most Competitive Years!

Catherine Collins, Case Western University, Cleveland • Isaura Martins, Católica Medical School, Lisbon • Matija Milosevic, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, Miami • Soshi Samejima, UW Rehabilitation Medicine, Seattle • Eva Tsai, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa

ADVANCE CRITICAL RESEARCH

Excited about MCPF's work? You can keep this progress moving forward! There are many ways to participate:

- Check or Credit Card
- Appreciated Stock
save on Capital Gains Tax
- IRA Charitable Distributions
satisfy annual distribution requirements
- Donor Advised Funds
- Beneficiary Designations
popular, tax-savvy options include 401(k), IRA, & Life Insurance
- Bequests in Will or Trust
simple, flexible, and tax-free

To explore which options work best for you, contact Anna Dietrich at anna@mcpf.org or 989.277.0650.



Scan QR code to learn more or give online at mcpf.org

MILESTONES

- 1995 Peter Morton paralyzed
- ▼
- 1996 First Golf Event, Peshtigo
- ▼
- 1997 Move Golf Event to Minnesota
- ▼
- 1998 MCPF Founded
- ▼
- 2006 Hit \$1,000,000 in Funding
- ▼
- 2011 Establish Review Committee
- ▼
- 2012 First Arizona Golf Tournament
- ▼
- 2020 Adapt during COVID
- ▼
- 2021 25th Anniversary Event
- ▼
- 2022 Launch Spinal Cast
- ▼
- 2025 Surpass \$5,000,000 in Funding
- ▼
- 2025 Inaugural New Investigator Award
- ▼
- 2026 Celebrating 30 Years of Service!

SERVING COMMUNITY

“When my sister was injured, I received more information from MCPF than from any place else. They also gave me comfort and helped me through these tough times.” These words sum up the dedication of MCPF to provide resources and support to people who are spinal cord injured and their families. MCPF offers information and support through its website, response to email inquiries, and personal phone calls. With its direct access to many scientists and other direct resources, MCPF is able to provide up-to-date and situation-specific replies.



SPINAL CAST UPDATE

Since 2022, listeners of MCPF's Spinal Cast have enjoyed monthly episodes with varied SCI experts. In 2026, Peter Morton will take over as Spinal Cast host to facilitate quarterly live episodes. Based on listener feedback, future episodes will be research-focused with live viewer Q&A.



SPINAL CAST

All episodes, past and new, are available to listen or view wherever you find podcasts.

MCPF extends sincere appreciation and congratulations to David Stevens, for his dedication and enthusiasm as our original host of Spinal Cast.



NOTED SCIENTIST POINTS TO PROMISING FUTURE



His mother's paralyzing accident opened his eyes to an unmet need. A grant from MCPF when he was a young graduate student launched his career. Today Dr. Murray Blackmore is a leader in the field of spinal cord injury research. MCPF was honored to have him as the featured speaker to celebrate our 30th anniversary of pushing the frontiers of research.

Guided by moderator Jim Palmer, Dr. Blackmore, with patience and self-deprecating humor, led the audience through the weeds of neurons, axons, and spinal scarring to an understanding of the challenges to developing effective treatments. He shared new discoveries in gene replication to induce regeneration, tremendous advances in biomaterials, and removing barriers and building bridges in the injury site. He also outlined the complications of dealing with hundreds, even thousands of genes, and the difficulties of running tests and trials involving complex, combination treatments.

Dr. Blackmore emphasized that to make critical advances, a research laboratory must be nimble and willing to take risks. When asked what people can do to help, Dr. Blackmore said that although federal funding is critical, it is stodgy, slow moving, and now very much at risk. He encouraged donors to seek out smaller organizations that can move quickly and are willing to take chances. He praised MCPF for embodying that approach from its inception and affirmed the impact MCPF has already made in the field.

A lively game of 'Heads or Tails' brought fun, funding, and a fitting finale to an exciting evening.



Scan to watch MCPF's 30th Anniversary Fireside Chat with Dr. Murray Blackmore, hosted by Board Member Jim Palmer.



In Loving Memory

A Legacy Of Generosity: Recognizing the Eckert Family

The Eckert and Morton children grew up together, celebrating Thanksgivings, graduations, and many fun times. When Peter was injured, the Eckert Family became one of the first and most faithful donors to MCPF. When Ann died, they named MCPF for memorials. *"There are many people doing things worthy of donations, but we know of no place more effective than MCPF to share what we can do good in this world."*

Memorial Donors

The Eckert & Jest Families
Gerald & Joyce Babcock
Sharon Behnke
Timothy & Laurie Rude Howland
Dee Lambert
The Morton & Faz Families
Toby Neshkosh
Donald & Mary Pike
Robert & Joan Sparks
Gregory Stewart



Remembering Bill Morton



Ever present at golf tournaments, happily running errands, and greeting people with a joyful 'Life is Good', Bill was a fixture in MCPF. Feeling helpless when Peter was hurt, he was grateful to Peter's friends who took up the cause of funding spinal cord injury research and delighted to watch MCPF grow. It would have meant a lot to him to know that gifts in his name continue the search for a cure.

The Morton & Faz Families
Sue Amateis
APi Group
Russ & Trish Becker
Lemar Brown
Tim Corsaro
The Eckert & Jest Families
Christen Eliason
Craig Fellman
David Hallett
Kay Halverson
Rev. Mel Henrichs
Glen Jackola, Jr.
Rod Johnson

Louis Lambert
Myra Larson
Melanie Leite-Carroll
Josh & Amy Lorenz & Family
Verner & Verna Meybaum
Chris & Melanie Morrison
Matthew & Amanda Ropchak
Jenny & Rich Sluss
Jeff & Patricia Strickler
The Tetreault Family
Mark & Lona Vande Hey
Pam & Ben Wellumson
Barbara York

The Morton Cure Paralysis Fund extends our deep sympathy to the Family of Jenni Taylor.