



amputee  
coalition™

# ANNUAL REPORT

A WORLD WHERE OUR COMMUNITY THRIVES



# 2023

## OUR MISSION

To support, educate, and advocate for people impacted by limb loss and limb difference.

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# WELCOME MESSAGE



First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for our community support including our many donors, national sponsors, strategic partners, and community volunteers who alongside our board of directors and dedicated staff make our programs and services successful. If you are like me, somewhere in your journey as a person living with limb loss and/or limb difference you have overcome more than you ever thought possible. Maybe you have, like me, had to remind yourself that mistakes are not only necessary but are the stepping stones we look back on and see the amazing journey we have traveled. And the best is yet to come. As I enter 2024 as the Amputee Coalition Board Chair entering my 7th year of service to the Amputee Coalition the journey has not been without struggle but has continued with the underlying tone of progress, not perfection that will keep the Coalition strong.

We know that **5 million plus people in the U.S. are living with limb loss and or limb difference** so the vision of the Amputee Coalition: a world where our community thrives is a vision, we are persistent in delivering on. In 2023 the Amputee Coalition served people living with limb loss and or limb difference, as well as caregivers, family, and friends who received vital resources for their journey as community members. Our commitment will stay steadfast to serve those who need us most. We thank our continued partners, supporters, and donors and look forward to continued growth and impact in 2024.

- 2024 Board Chair,  
William P. Perno,  
MBA, FACHE







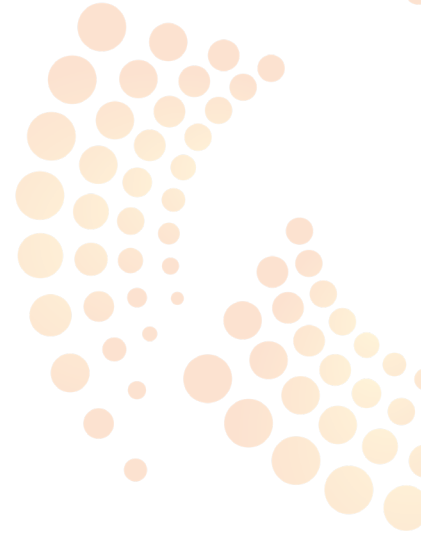
# ACNC 2023

AMPUTEE COALITION  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2023 was one of growth, challenges, inspiring change, and elevation! In my first year as President and CEO gratitude is the theme that has been echoed by our community in response to the Amputee Coalition's service and will lead us into 2024. Along with the board of directors, our staff is fully committed to the mission to support, educate, and advocate for those impacted by limb loss and or limb difference. Throughout the year we successfully re-engaged and were consciously committed to fostering long-term relationships from the grassroots to the national level, and demonstrated the impact the Amputee Coalition is making in the lives of thousands of our community members.

A central focus for the Amputee Coalition leadership team has been set on partnerships and continuous, intentional, and authentic communications with our industry leaders and supporters to continue fostering long-term collaborative relationships for 2024 and beyond. As we look forward to 2024 we need continued community support as we impact the wellness of those living with limb loss and or limb difference across the country. Thank you for your support.

- President and Chief Executive Officer,  
Cass Isidro



LEARN MORE AT: [AMPUTEE-COALITION.ORG](https://amputee-coalition.org)





# 2023 NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND YOUTH CAMP:

## ELEVATING TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW

The Amputee Coalition's 2023 National Conference, held at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld® from August 2–5, marked a groundbreaking moment for our community. For the first time, the event combined the National Conference and Youth Camp, creating a gathering that empowered attendees to connect, learn, and grow together.

With the theme **“Elevate Together Towards Tomorrow,”** this year's conference highlighted the importance of various and unique health needs across the spectrum, along with centering youth engagement, while celebrating the shared mission of the limb loss and limb difference community. Attendees explored ways to expand our collective voice on critical issues and elevate the organization's impact across its core areas of education, support, prevention, and advocacy.

The event brought together community members, healthcare professionals, and industry leaders for a one-of-a-kind experience. From engaging workshops and inspiring keynote addresses to hands-on interactions with the latest prosthetics and assistive technologies, the conference provided attendees with invaluable resources to make informed decisions about their care and support.





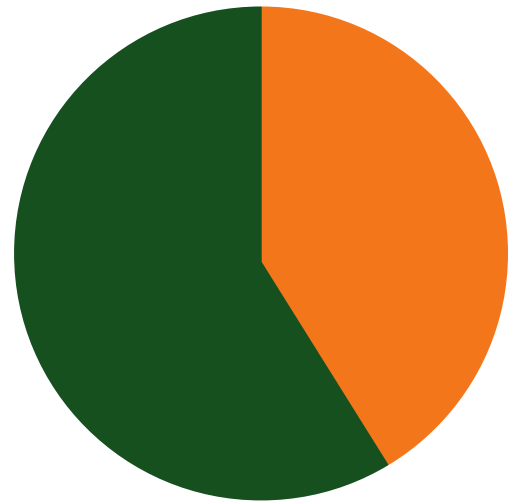


Youth engagement was a central focus, with young attendees participating in a tailored camp experience designed to foster connection, confidence, and camaraderie. Activities for youth included sports, creative arts, and STEM projects, creating a dynamic space where campers could bond with peers while engaging in personal growth.

The 2023 National Conference demonstrated the power of coming together as a united community. By creating a space where lived experiences were celebrated and innovation was embraced, the event left a lasting impact on all who attended, reaffirming the importance of elevating each other toward a brighter tomorrow.

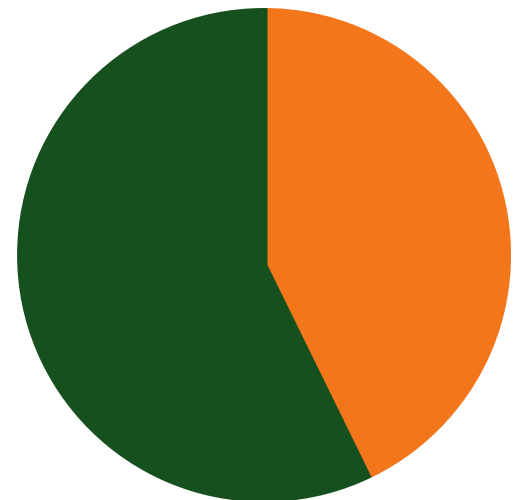
■ **59%**  
First-Timers

■ **41%**  
Previously  
Attended



■ **57%**  
Non-PwLLLD or  
Not Indicated

■ **43%**  
PwLLLD



**PwLLLD = Person who has limb loss and/or limb difference**





■ **69.2%**  
White/Caucasian

■ **10.4%**  
Black/African American

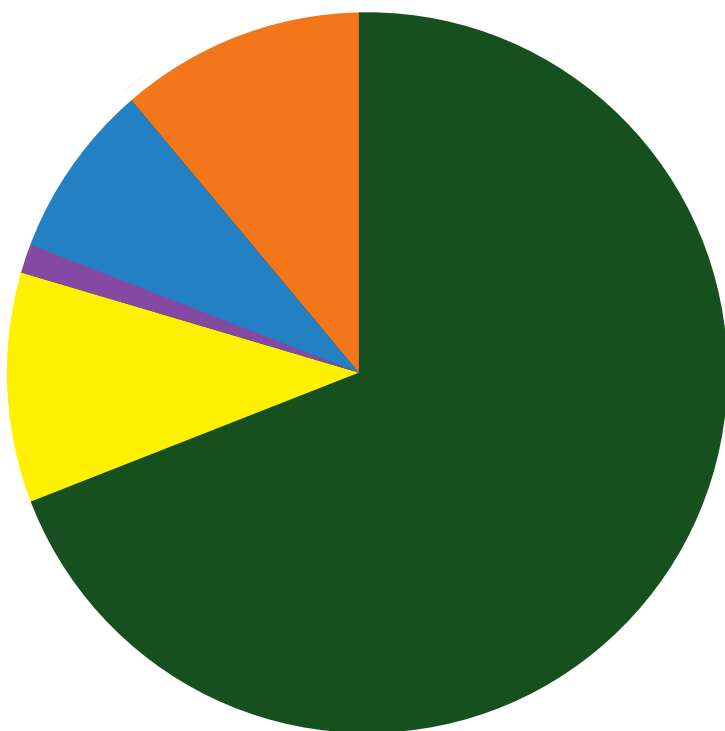
■ **1%**  
Native American

■ **8.5%**  
Hispanic/Latino

■ **10.9%**  
Other

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## BY THE NUMBERS







**OF THE ATTENDEES, THOSE  
WHO WERE FIRST-TIMERS,**

**53.3%**

indicated that they had limb  
loss and/or limb difference

**10%**

indicated that they were  
Veterans

**18%**

indicated that they were  
members of a support group

**20%**

indicated that they were  
caregivers/family members

**18%** were exhibitors

**23%** indicated that they were  
professionals

**22%** indicated that they were  
health-care professionals





# YOUTH CAMP:

## A PLACE TO EXPLORE,

## CONNECT, AND GROW



The Amputee Coalition Youth Camp is more than just a summer event—it's a life-changing experience for campers, Leaders in Training, and counselors alike. This year, we brought together 19 campers aged 10–17 who have limb loss or limb difference, representing states across the country and using a variety of mobility and assistive devices. Held alongside the National Conference at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld®, the 2023 Youth Camp offered a unique opportunity for young attendees to connect with peers, build confidence, and have fun in a supportive environment.

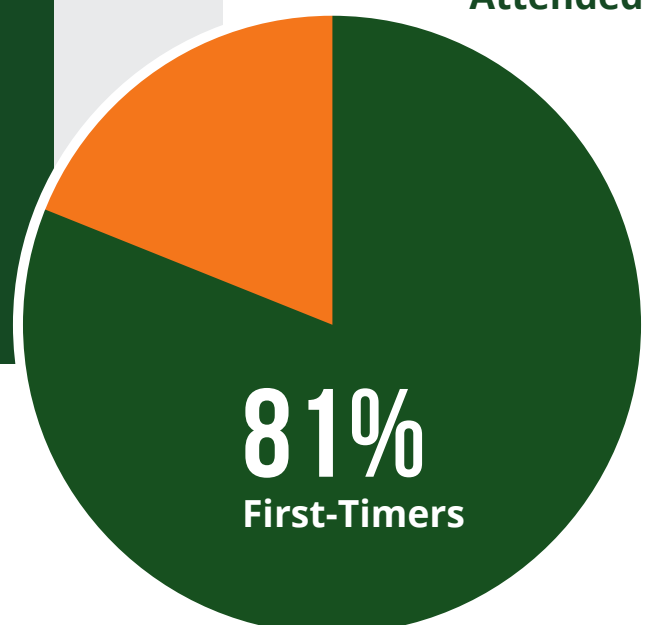
# 19

**Attendees  
Aged 10-17**

All are youth who have limb loss and/or limb difference who use a variety of mobility and assistive devices.



**19%**  
**Previously  
Attended**





This year's camp included exciting activities designed to foster connection and personal growth. From creative arts and STEM projects to interactive sports, campers embraced new experiences with enthusiasm. A standout moment was the **SeaWorld Water Obstacle Course**, where participants challenged themselves and each other, discovering resilience and teamwork in a truly unforgettable setting.

Youth Camp creates a space where young people can build lasting friendships and find a sense of belonging. With peer support and guidance from counselors and Leaders in Training, campers developed skills that extend far beyond the camp experience. This summer, we explored new horizons, connected in meaningful ways, and grew as a community, reaffirming that no one has to navigate the limb loss or limb difference journey alone.

## SPECIAL GUESTS

- 1 Julian Molina
- 2 Gary Weiland
- 3 John Register
- 4 Shima Nixon
- 5 Jovan Booker

## ACTIVITIES

- 1 Gaming Station
- 2 Escape Room
- 3 Workshops







# EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

**99 YOUTH ENGAGED**

**3 VIRTUAL CHECK-INS**

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL CREATED**

This year, the Amputee Coalition's Youth Engagement Program took bold steps to amplify the voices of young people who have limb loss and limb difference. With 99 youth engaged and three virtual check-ins, the program provided a space for connection, learning, and leadership. A significant milestone was the establishment of the Youth Leadership Council, a platform where youth are actively involved in shaping the organization's initiatives. By fostering dialogue on disability awareness nationwide, the council empowers young leaders to advocate for change and make their voices heard.

The Youth Leadership Council focuses on an annual service project that aligns with its four core pillars: Workforce Development, Advocacy, Community Service, and Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. These projects give participants real-world experience, helping them develop skills to lead with confidence and impact. Through programs like these, the Amputee Coalition ensures that the next generation of leaders is equipped to inspire change and elevate the future of our community.







# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## BUILDING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

**16** VIRTUAL WEBINARS

**2** IN-PERSON SEMINARS  
AND WORKSHOPS

**28,685** JOB LISTINGS ON  
JOB BOARD

The Amputee Coalition's Workforce Development Program is dedicated to creating opportunities for individuals who have limb loss and limb difference to thrive in their careers. By offering resources, training, and support, the program equips participants with the skills and confidence needed to navigate the workforce successfully. Focused on bridging gaps in accessibility, the program also engages with employers to promote hiring practices and workplace accommodations. Through these efforts, the Workforce Development Program empowers individuals to achieve their professional goals and fosters a workforce for all.







# 258

ACTIVE CERTIFIED LEAD  
ADVOCATES (CLAS)

# 44

STATES WITH  
CERTIFIED LEAD  
ADVOCATES

# 32

LETTERS SIGNED  
IN 2023



# ADVOCACY PROGRAM

## AMPLIFYING VOICES FOR CHANGE

In 2023, the Amputee Coalition's Advocacy Program made significant strides in empowering individuals to drive change at both state and national levels. With 258 active Certified Lead Advocates (CLAs) across 44 states, our network of passionate champions worked tirelessly to address critical issues impacting the limb loss and limb difference community. We connected with our CLAs nine times and engaged the broader advocate audience 45 times, ensuring everyone had the tools and information to make their voices heard.

Together, we signed 32 impactful letters addressing a range of key topics, including opioid abuse reduction, updates to Section 504 rules on disability discrimination, and wheelchair standing system access. From advocating for changes to the American Community Survey to supporting specific pieces of legislation, our advocates stood at the forefront of progress. These collective efforts not only advanced critical policies but also reinforced the power of a united community working toward a more successful future.





# PEER SUPPORT

# SERVICES

## STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITY

The Amputee Coalition's Peer Support Services continue to be a cornerstone of our mission, providing vital connections for individuals navigating the journey of limb loss and limb difference. In 2023, we trained 156 new CPVs and renewed 161 CPVs, reflecting our commitment to equipping volunteers with the tools and resources needed to offer compassionate, impactful peer support. These efforts underscore the power of connection and the importance of shared experiences in fostering resilience and hope within our community.



**156**

**New Certified  
Peer Visitors**

**161**

**CPVs Renewed their  
Certification**





# HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIPS

## EXPANDING REACH AND SUPPORT

In 2023, the Amputee Coalition partnered with 130 hospitals across the country, strengthening our ability to provide vital resources and support to individuals who have limb loss and limb difference. These partnerships play a critical role in connecting patients with our programs, such as Peer Support Services, and ensuring access to information and tools that promote recovery and independence. By working closely with hospitals, we aim to create a seamless bridge between medical care and community support, fostering a holistic approach to patient well-being. Through these collaborations, we continue to expand our reach and impact, delivering hope and empowering individuals from the very start of their journey.

# 130

HOSPITALS ACROSS  
THE COUNTRY





# 2023 INFORMATION AND REFERRAL (I&R)

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

**This year was one of impactful strides and meaningful achievements for the Amputee Coalition's I&R Department. Here's a glimpse at what we accomplished together in 2023:**

**Launched the Patient Navigator Program:** We introduced this critical resource to provide community members with tailored guidance for navigating the often-complex landscapes of healthcare and insurance. From understanding policies to tackling denials and appeals, our Patient Navigators were there every step of the way.

**Advocating for Necessary Care:** In collaboration with I&R staff, the Patient Navigator Program empowered individuals to successfully appeal insurance denials, ensuring access to medically necessary prosthetic, orthotic, and mobility devices. These victories spanned generations and backgrounds, positively impacting youth, adults, Veterans, and civilians alike.

**Streamlined Support Access:** We made it easier than ever to place an I&R inquiry by enhancing and refining our web forms, simplifying the process for those reaching out for help.

**Commitment to Excellence:** This year, 75% of our I&R staff earned InformUSA certification, with the remaining team members actively pursuing their certifications, reinforcing our dedication to providing informed and professional support.

**Enhanced Community Connections:** Feedback from I&R inquiries inspired updates to Community Connections, our public resource database. We refined topics and filtering categories, making it more intuitive and user-friendly for individuals seeking support on everything from crisis assistance to financial aid, assistive technology, and support groups.

The I&R Department remains committed to being a trusted lifeline for the limb loss and limb difference community.

# LOOKING AHEAD:

# BUILDING ON SUCCESS



As we close this chapter of the Amputee Coalition's journey, we celebrate a year filled with meaningful wins and progress. From expanding our Peer Support Services and Youth Engagement Program to growing our Advocacy and Workforce Development initiatives, the impact of our collective efforts is clear: together, we are empowering individuals and creating a stronger, community. Feedback from our community

highlights appreciation for the wide variety of resources we offer and recognition of a positive cultural shift within our organization, with excitement about the direction of our leadership.

While we're proud of what we've achieved, we remain committed to continuous improvement. Goals for the future include adding more staff who represent people who have limb loss and limb difference, improving communication and transparency, and continuing to build on the foundation of acceptance and fairness. These aspirations reflect our belief in the power of listening, adapting, and growing together.

Thank you for your support, partnership, and belief in our mission. As we elevate together toward tomorrow, we look forward to working hand-in-hand to build a future where every individual who has limb loss or limb difference can thrive. Together, we are unstoppable.





# WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2024



- **ACNC24 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta from 8-10 August with pre-conference clinics and activities beginning on August 7th**
  - Registration, scholarships, program schedule, and scholarship fund information all available via **[Amputee-coalition.org/acnc24](https://amputee-coalition.org/acnc24)**
- **Paddy Rossbach YEP Youth Camp at Camp Aranzazu in Rockport, TX from 15-19 July**
  - Open to youth ages 10-17
  - Adaptive sports:
    - Archery, Rock Climbing, Fishing, Creating Art, Kayaking, Birding, Swimming, Challenge Course, and so much more
  - Traditional camp activities
  - Workforce Development Programming geared specifically for youth ages 10-17
- **Scientific and Medical Advisory Committee (SciMAC): new members including Medical Director, Dr. Prateek Grover**
- **Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month (April) and State Proclamation Campaign**
- **So Every BODY Can Move ([SoEveryBodyCanMove.org](https://SoEveryBodyCanMove.org))**



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