We're Just Getting Started



DNA Doe Project

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Dear Friends,



As we close the chapter on another year, my heart is full of pride, gratitude, and awe at the journey we have shared. Together, the DNA Doe Project has reached a remarkable milestone, lifting the burden on investigators across the country by returning well over 100 Jane and John Does to their grieving families and communities. Each identification represents a life restored to history and a family that finally has answers.

This past year was defined by growth and commitment. We deepened our investment in the next generation of forensic genealogists, offering valuable practicum opportunities where reciprocal learning continues to enrich our team. Our management team successfully strengthened our internal infrastructure, ensuring we maintain the stability and integrity needed for years to come. Our newly-enhanced Data Dashboard underscores our commitment to transparency, while our newsletters and annual "Welcome Home" video capture the pride and poignancy of our work.

Crucially, we've laid the groundwork for our story to reach a global audience. The exciting documentary series with Wall to Wall Media and National Geographic Channel has been filmed and is set for release in 2025. This will be a pivotal moment, raising awareness and bringing new support to our mission.

Thank you for continuing this remarkable journey with me. I embrace the future of this organization with cherished memories and a profound sense of optimism for the life-changing work that lies ahead.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Margaret Press

Now more than ever: the need

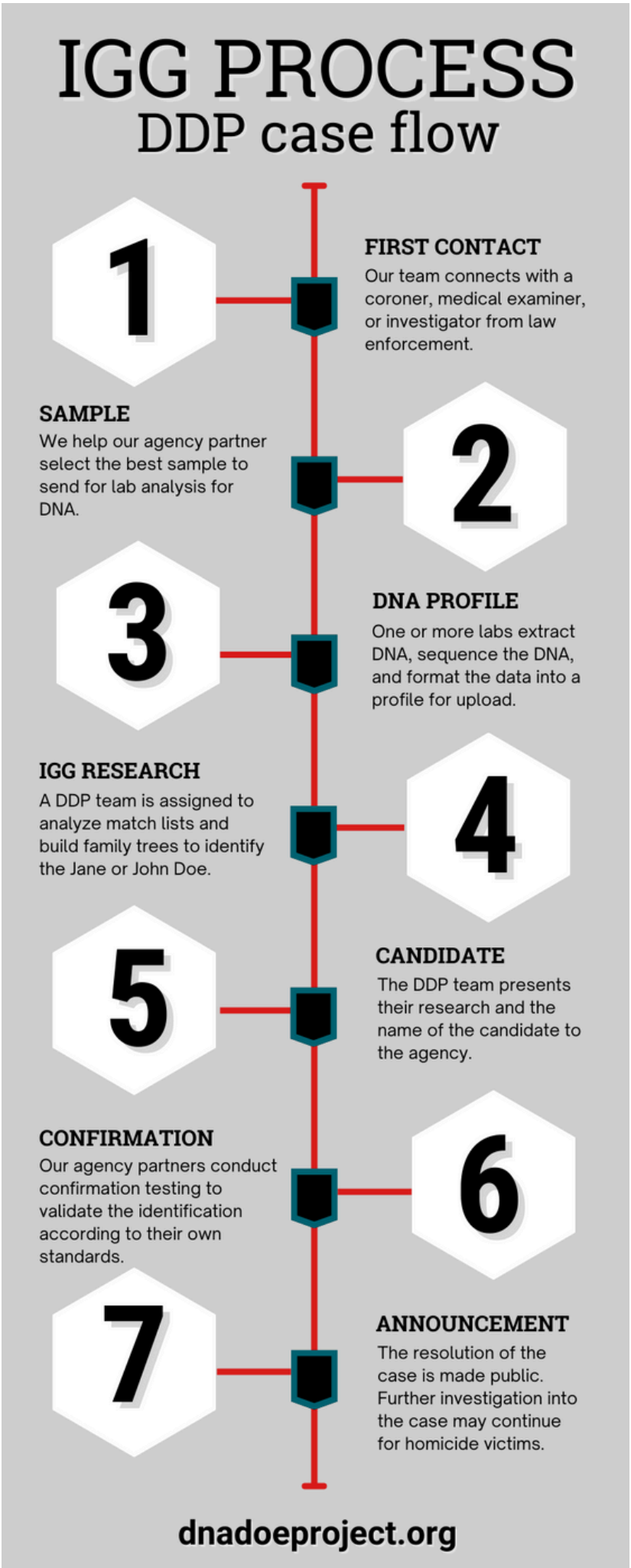
In the United States, there are over 50,000 sets of unidentified human remains. Those that have been discovered and cataloged by government agencies face an intractable problem — a lack of investigative leads as to who these individuals are. With no evidence, lack of investigative genetic genealogy expertise, or insufficient funds to glean genetic information about the Jane or John Doe, cases typically go cold.

This is where DNA Doe Project Steps In

As the largest nonprofit organization in the field, we can take the cases that could otherwise be ignored. The tough ones, the underfunded, the almost forgotten, the longshots. Because we are funded by donors who believe in our mission and powered by over 100 volunteer Investigative Genetic Genealogists, we can keep going until the job is done.

We believe that now, more than ever, it's crucial to set the standard for investigative genetic genealogy (IGG) and solidify its critical role in restoring the identities of John and Jane Does. It is even more crucial to make sure these resources are deployed for communities that are generally underrepresented.

We're just getting started.



2024: A Year of Impact

100+
VOLUNTEERS

60
CASES IN RESEARCH

15k
VOLUNTEER HOURS

7
YEARS OF INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP

1445
DONATIONS

24
CASES IN THE LAB PIPELINE

319
CARING DONORS

687k+
SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

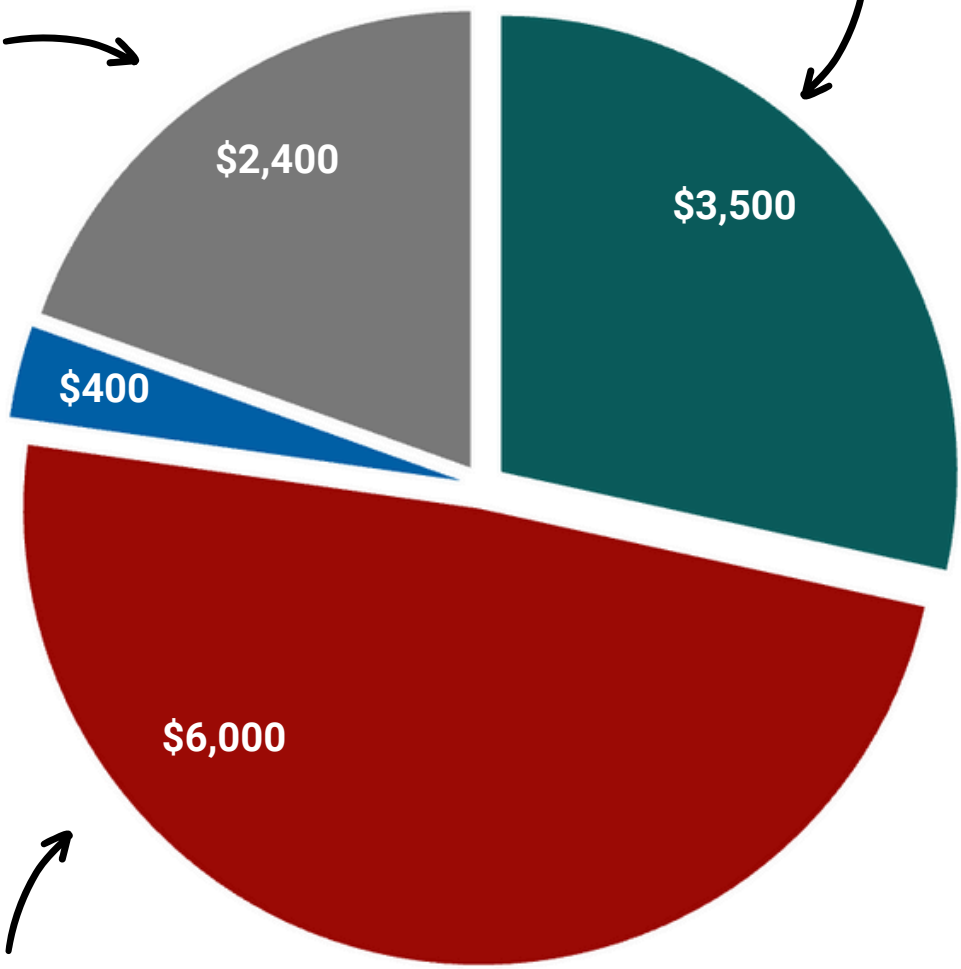
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IDENTIFICATIONS

What IGG costs:

$12,300

Professional case management includes communications, record-keeping, supervision of researching team volunteers, and data security

DNA Databases charge upload fees for law enforcement DNA profiles



Lab fees include DNA extraction, library preparation, quality control, and sequencing of a sample from unidentified human remains

$0

Investigative Genetic Genealogy is always provided pro-bono

What agencies pay:

$4,100

On average, DDP's medical examiner and law enforcement partners pay far less than our actual costs because we underwrite every case with donated funds.