

2023 GRATITUDE REPORT







Dear Friends,

It is an honor and privilege for me to serve the Greenwood Genetic Center - an organization full of talented, innovative, and compassionate people who all believe wholeheartedly in our mission to provide the highest quality genetics services for the patients and families who depend on us.

On behalf of all of our wonderful employees and the thousands of patients they serve every year, we want to express our sincere gratitude for YOU. You have given of your time, talents, and resources in support of our work, and we know that we couldn't do it without you!

This annual report provides a glimpse at the work we're doing and an introduction to some of the individuals we have impacted this year. We hope you feel a sense of pride in being such an important part of our mission and vision.

We are looking forward to 2024 which will mark GGC's 50th anniversary! This milestone is providing us with a chance to look back on an amazing five decades of compassionate care and advances in our field. It is also an opportunity to imagine what we can achieve in the next 50 years! With a bold precision medicine initiative underway and our upcoming campaign, Care Reimagined, we look forward to continuing to partner with you in providing the absolute best state-of-the-art care for patients and families impacted by genetic disorders.

Your support has led us to the scientific advances that are helping families today and will be an integral part of the advances of the future for patients across South Carolina and around the world who continue to rely on the work of the Greenwood Genetic Center.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Cady Nell Keener, CFRE
Executive Director
Greenwood Genetic Center Foundation

A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair hugging a child with long brown hair. The woman's eyes are closed and she has a joyful, tearful smile. The child's head is resting against her chest. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

Thanks to you!

The impact of your generosity
is **ASTOUNDING!**

You and your fellow donors are directly helping patients and families across SC and around the world by removing financial barriers to care and supporting GGC in improving diagnostic testing, developing a better understanding of genetic disorders, and inspiring the next generation of clinicians and scientists!

GGC Foundation Gifts

\$507,053 was raised for the GGC Foundation through the generosity of **350** donors. Funds supported all areas of the GGC mission including **\$224,363** to directly impact patients through the GGC Cares Fund to offset the cost of vital genetic services for uninsured or underinsured families. In the last year, **\$34,423** was paid out to assist **19** families with the cost of their child's genetic care, testing, or treatment.



Compassionate Care

5,325 patients with genetic concerns received clinical care through in-person consultations, telemedicine evaluations, or asynchronous eVisits.



Finding Answers

17,960 diagnostic genetic tests were completed to help identify an often long-awaited diagnosis - providing answers and the hope of an improved quality of life for patients and their families.



Future Geneticists

9,663 students in middle and high school were exposed to innovative hands-on lab experiences to improve their understanding of genetics and explore career opportunities in our exciting and rewarding field.



Research Advances

\$1.33M in research grant funding supported numerous projects including functional studies on **19** patients leading to the resolution of **10** new genetic variants and **4** new avenues of investigation for treatments.



Global Reach

65 peer-reviewed papers were published to share GGC's collaborations and scientific advances with scientists and clinicians around the world.

At the Heart of What We Do

The numbers tell an amazing story of the impact of the work of the Greenwood Genetic Center. But behind the data and statistics are real families with real challenges. Each of GGC's four divisions has a vital part to play in changing lives for the better. And they couldn't do it without the support of generous donors like you!



Clinical Services

“

The GGC Cares Fund has provided our daughter with the chance to begin taking the supplements needed so that her mitochondria can have extra help in doing what they naturally should be doing, but can't. The Cares Fund took that financial burden away. We are forever thankful and grateful for GGC. Everyone has been so nice and understanding, and they are helping our daughter to continue to thrive.

Breanna Marra

Mom to Salem who was diagnosed with Leigh syndrome and receives treatment covered by the GGC Cares Fund



Diagnostic Labs

“

GGC's lab did for me what they have done for so many families - they provided a resolution to my diagnostic journey. The support I have received along with the expertise of clinicians and laboratory directors has meant more to me than I can express. I work with amazing people. As both an employee and a patient of the Greenwood Genetic Center, I can assure you that your support truly makes a difference in the lives of patients and families.

Robin Fletcher, MS, CGC

A genetic counselor at GGC who received a long-awaited diagnosis of a rare mitochondrial deletion syndrome.



Research

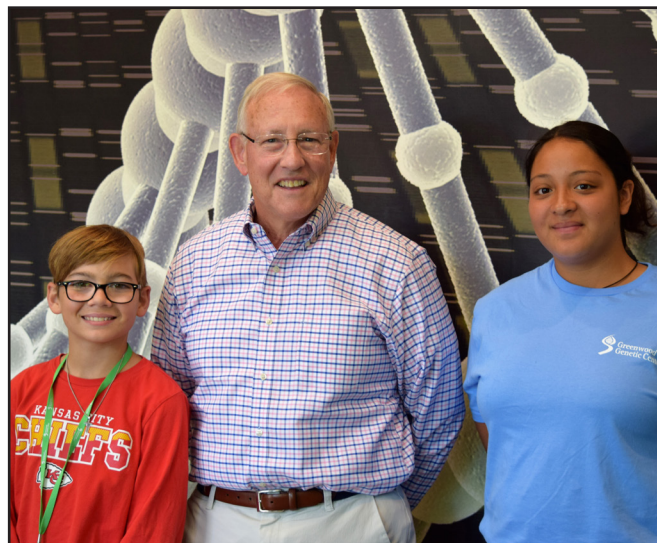
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Aaron was diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease at age 11. In less than 24 hours, our world was turned completely upside down.

It all happened so fast, we didn't really have time to process what was going on at the time, but now we have the worst behind us. And now, thanks to the dedication of GGC's researchers, we have a clear diagnosis - which means everything!

Brandy Ritz

Mom to Aaron whose genetic kidney disease was caused by a new genetic variant first described by GGC's research team.



Education

“

I'm honored for these students to be given a scholarship in my name because I am very strongly supportive of genetic education for high school and college students. I want to support the ability for all students to be able to explore their interests and pursue their passions.

It's rewarding to see all of these excited faces of students as they learn about genetics.

Curtis Rogers, MD

who was honored upon his retirement from GGC with a scholarship in his name for students to attend GGC's summer camp

Cameron Turnnidge and Dana Baca Espinal

Students at Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries who received the Rogers scholarship to attend GGC's 2023 Junior Genetic Scholars summer camp.

OUR MISSION

The Greenwood Genetic Center is a nonprofit institute organized to provide clinical genetic services, diagnostic laboratory testing, educational programs and resources, and research in the field of medical genetics.

Why do you Give?

You may give because the Greenwood Genetic Center has directly impacted you or someone you love, or because you want to support an organization that is committed to compassionate care, or maybe you're really excited about the science...

Whatever your reason for giving, we thank you!

"To a mother, there is no greater gift and no greater blessing, than to feel you have been able to be your child's voice in this world, especially when they don't have a voice. This is what the Greenwood Genetic Center does each and every day for families, just like mine. They give us a voice. That is why I am so honored to serve on the GGC Foundation Board, where I can help support the GGC's work of giving voices to the voiceless!"

Helen Campbell

GGC Foundation Trustee and mom to three, including McCall who was diagnosed by GGC with Smith Magenis syndrome.



"The Greenwood Genetic Center provides life-changing diagnostic testing for families to determine the appropriate treatment for their children. The collaborative approach by researchers, clinicians, and physicians provides answers and hope. For the past five decades, GGC has worked tirelessly to ensure that genetic testing and treatment are accessible and available. I am honored to be part of this life-transformative work."

Megha Lal

GGC Foundation Trustee and an inaugural member of the Mendel Society

"I have been blessed to be a part of a team here at GGC who believes that our 'compassion inspires progress.' I have given 26 years of service to GGC and am also an employee donor to the GGC Foundation. I am pleased to support the Center's mission and vision through both my work and my financial support. Just as the smallest changes in our DNA can make such a difference in our well being, our monetary gift, be it great or small, can make a significant impact on those we serve."

Lynda Holloway

Research technologist at GGC and member of the Giving Greater Care Circle of employee donors.



Events allow us to connect on a personal level with many of our supporters and donors and also to share our work with new friends. During the past fiscal year, Race the Helix - Greenwood celebrated 12 years and Race the Helix-Upstate marked year nine. A new event, 'Sip and See,' was added to grow new relationships, and we celebrated volunteers and donors with a wine and cheese reception.

GGC Foundation Events

Race the Helix has evolved into a 5K event that spans the country with sponsors from the local Greenwood and Greenville communities as well as national sponsors from SC to California! Race the Helix - Greenwood and Race the Helix - Upstate jointly raised \$74,200 for the GGC Cares Fund to ensure that cost is never a barrier to quality genetic services.



Sip and See is a series of events to bring new friends to the Greenwood Genetic Center campus to meet and mingle with GGC faculty and experience a tour of the Center's state-of-the-art facilities, including the genetic testing lab and Gene Machine mobile science lab. Participants also learn how GGC supports patients by meeting a GGC family. If you'd like to be included in our next Sip and See event, please contact the GGC Foundation at (864) 388-1801.

Wine and Cheese, please!

This spring, GGC Foundation trustee, Tara Smith, opened her home to GGC board members and Double Helix Society donors for a wine and cheese reception. Guests enjoyed a lovely evening learning about GGC's current activities and future plans. They were also treated to a presentation from Josh Albon and his mother, Susan, about their family's GGC experience.



Thank you to our Generous Donors

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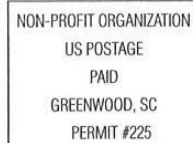
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Supporting the Mission of GGC

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Looking ahead



Care Reimagined In 2024, coinciding with the Center's 50th anniversary, the GGC Foundation will launch Care Reimagined, a campaign to support GGC's Precision Medicine Initiative. This initiative will improve ACCESS to genetic services, enhance the ANALYSIS of genetic data, provide ANSWERS for more families, and employ ACTIONS to treat genetic disorders. Watch for our 2024 campaign launch and details about how you can be involved!

The Mendel Society The GGC Foundation's Mendel Society recognizes those loyal GGC friends who have informed us of their intentions to include GGC in their estate plans. Creating a legacy through a planned gift will support our efforts as well as the health and futures for those we serve. Just as Gregor Mendel left a tremendous scientific legacy as the 'Father of Genetics,' you can also leave a lasting legacy by making GGC the beneficiary of a planned gift. Contact us for more information.

GGC.org/Foundation

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