



**The Road to A Healthier Georgia**

 ***Pivoting and Adapting During a Pandemic to Advance Our Mission***

 ***By: GHFA Board President Patrick “PJ” Lynn, MD, FAAFP***

On behalf of the Georgia Healthy Family Alliance (GHFA) Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present the following report of the Alliance’s 2020 activities. This unprecedented year has allowed us to provide more care to our fellow Georgians than ever- and to be recognized nationally.

I must first thank the GHFA Board of Trustees for their service over the past year as we faced so much uncertainty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic yet continued to move forward toward fulfillment of our mission to enhance the well-being of Georgians through educational and outreach programs.

**Improving the Health of Georgians**



**Immediate Needs Grants**

The COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges to the healthcare community and the patients they serve in Georgia. In response, the Alliance launched the ***Immediate Needs Grants*** program in March to help address some of the unique challenges Georgia’s communities faced due to the Coronavirus outbreak. With the knowledge that family physicians are on the front lines of public health issues affecting our communities, these grants were designed to provide up to $1,000 to support critical health needs for our most fragile citizens and patients. We have awarded $36,000 to projects including prescription assistance for homebound senior citizens, lunch delivery for vulnerable children who no longer had access to school meals, PPE for charitable care clinics, childcare services for first responders and sanitizer distribution for Atlanta’s large homeless community.

In late May, we received word from the AAFP Foundation that our Immediate Needs Grant Program was selected as the AAFP Foundation Outstanding Program of the Year! We are humbled to be recognized for our collective effort to help our patients and communities maintain health and hope during these uncertain times.

**Immediate Needs Grants and their GAFP Sponsors (as of Oct. 1st):**

Dr. Susan Land, Thomson, ***Lunch Delivery for Food Insecure Children and Seniors***

Dr. Brandi Warren, Thomasville***,* *Prescription Assistance/ Diabetic Supplies for Seniors***

Dr. Cedrice Davis, Marietta, ***Food and Prescription Assistance for Patients in Need***

Dr. Monica Newton, Gainesville, ***Diaper and Food Drive For Disabled Children***

Dr. Sean Lynch, Augusta, ***Food, Transportation and Prescription Assistance for Patients***

Dr. Navdeep Mangat, Atl, ***Sanitizer distribution and COVID-19 Testing For the Homeless***

Dr. Leonard Reeves, Rome, ***Liquid Nutrition Delivered to Homebound Cancer Patients***

Dr. Isabel Lowell, Decatur, ***Prescription Assistance for At Risk LGBTQ Youth***

Dr. Raymond Bedgood**,** Dalton, ***Prescription Assistance For Low Income Patients***

Dr. Daniel Grizzle, Athens, ***PPE Mask Production to Protect Patients and Staff***

Dr. David Westfall, Gainesville, ***Prescription Assistance For Low Income Patients***

Dr. Daniel Gordon, Colbert, ***Prescription Refills and Delivery for Chronically Ill Patients***

Dr. Leslie David, Gainesville, ***Foodbank Distribution to Needy Families in Five Counties***

Dr. Ken Howard, Calhoun, ***Food and Assistance for Homeless High School Students***

Dr. Stalina Gowdie, Athens, ***Baby Care, Prescription Assistance & Food For Patients***

Dr. Howard McMahan, Ocilla, ***Supplies & Support for First Responders in Rural Ga***

Dr. David Davis, Athens, ***Food and Prescription Assistance for Unemployed Residents***

Dr. Harry McDonald, Toccoa, ***Food for Homeless Families and Senior Citizens in North Ga.***

Dr. Laura West, Tallulah Falls, ***Prescriptions for Patients Battling Drugs and Alcohol***

Dr. Justin Rushing, Rome, ***Medications/Supplies for Insulin Dependent Diabetics & PPE***

Dr. Mitch Cook, Athens, ***Grocery Gift Cards & Housing Assistance for Patients in Need***

Dr. Jody Bahnmiller, Gainesville, ***Assist Rape Response Clients With Diapers, Food & Rent***

Dr. Angeline Ti, Atlanta, ***Provide Blood Pressure Cuffs to Quarantined Pregnant Patients***

Dr. Andrea Videlefsky, Marietta, ***Caring for Adults With Disabilities Via Telemedicine***

Dr. Pedro Ramirez, Lawrenceville, ***Identifying and Triaging High Risk COVID-19 Patients***

Dr. Beverly Townsend, Columbus, ***Provide Food and Transportation to HIV Patients***

Dr. Suzanne Lester, Athens, ***Food Assistance For Homeless Families and Senior Citizens***

Dr. Allison Turk, Dahlonega, ***Prescription Assistance and Food Delivery for Patients in Need***

Dr. Charles White, Cleveland, PPE, ***Prescriptions and Diabetic Supplies for Patients in Need***

Dr. Anthony Nazione, Rome, Food, ***Housing and Transportation for Cancer Patients***

Dr. Alida Gertz, Decatur, ***COVID-19 Education, PPE and Hygiene Kits for the Homeless***

Dr. Brian DeLoach, Statesboro, ***Prescription Assistance and Diabetic Supplies for Patients***

Dr. Caroline Bekele, Atlanta, ***Assistance For Families Facing COVID-19 Income Loss***

Dr. Robert Pyle, Rome, ***PPE For YMCA Staff Providing Childcare for First Responders***

Grace Saxon, Atlanta, ***Student Run Women’s Health Services for Underserved Women***

Dr. Beulette Hooks, Columbus, ***Food Assistance For Veterans in Need Due to COVID-19***

Dr. Grace Baughn Kohler, Lawrenceville, ***Thermometers For Telemedicine Patients***

Immediate Needs Grant applications are still available on our website at [www.georgiahealthyfamilyalliance.org](http://www.georgiahealthyfamilyalliance.org). Please reach out to Kara Sinkule at ksinkule@gafp.org or by calling (404) 321-7445 for more information.

**The 2020 Community Health Grant Awards**

In January 2020, the Georgia Healthy Family Alliance (GHFA) began its ninth year of the Community Health Grant Awards Program. Since its inception, the Community Health Grant Program has awarded nearly $400,000 in support of 80 GAFP member sponsored healthcare projects throughout Georgia. With the help of a matching gift from Jackson Healthcare, GHFA once again doubled the number of community health grants awarded in 2020. Traditional Community Health Grants awarded in 2020 included:

**Grace Gate Clinic Flu Prevention For Habersham ,**Donald Fordham, MD $5,000

**Emory University Eagle Food Co-Op Project,** Ava Voss, Student $5,000

**Wellstar KennestoneFM Clinic Let’s Get Moving Project,** Rebecca Kim, MD$5000

**Al-Farooq Clinic Electronic Health Record Project** Omar Hayek, Student $5000

**Physicians Clinic Chronic Disease Management Program** Martha Crenshaw, MD $5,000

**Mercer School of MedicineStudent Run Clinic** Nicole Mette, Student $5,000

**Clarkston Health Center, Breast Health Initiative** Patrice Shongo, MD $5,000

**Rome Free Clinic Telemedicine- Rural Communities** Leonard Reeves, MD$5,000

**DEO Clinic Telemedicine and Coaching Calls to overcome COVID Concerns While Monitoring Chronic Health Conditions**  Raymond Bedgood, MD$5,000

**Adult Disability Get Fit&Be Healthy Project** Andrea Videlefsky, MD $5,000

 **Warrior Centric Health Foundation & Veteran Medical Neighborhood Joining Forces to Mitigate Impact of Social Determinants of Health**  Loretta Hicks, MD $5,000

**Mercy Health “Flu Prevention & Treatment Project** Mitch Cook, MD $5,000

**Philadelphia College of Medicine-GA “ Drive Through Flu Clinic** Andrew Morrissey, Student $5,000

Current GAFP members including medical students, residents and active/ life members are eligible to sponsor applications for the next cycle grant funding with a deadline of February 1, 2021. First cycle grant awards will be announced in March 2021. Application information will be available online at [www.georgiahealthyfamilyalliance.org](http://www.georgiahealthyfamilyalliance.org) in October.



**Tar Wars Kicks off 2020-21 School Year Virtually**

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, Tar Wars was off to another record-breaking start to the year. Our part-time Tar Wars Coordinator, Deanna Kauten, RN, had already traveled to Athens, Henry, Dawson and Gwinnett counties to present Tar Wars to elementary and middle school youth before schools closed in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Medical students and residents at Augusta University presented the program to schools in their community and presentations were also held throughout Northeast Georgia. However, in mid-March across the board school closures resulted in the cancellation of dozens of previously scheduled Tar Wars classroom presentations.

In an effort to continue our progress spreading the Tar Wars tobacco and vape free message and to recruit additional presenters for the upcoming school year, Tar Wars staff conducted Tar Wars webinar trainings for school nurses and other interested parties online over the summer. The presentation detailed how vaping has been shown to increase the risk of serious complications with COVID-19 and how the Tar Wars program can be tailored for specific age groups. GHFA staff will continue to conduct webinars for school nurses and other interested parties on a monthly basis until schools reopen. Staff will also conduct online Tar Wars presentations for students wherever possible while schools continue virtual learning.

The Jackson Healthcare matching grant also included production of a powerful new video highlighting the importance of the Tar Wars program are by detailing one Georgia teen's journey to health after suffering a life threatening lung injury caused by vaping. The video is just three minutes long and can be viewed on the GHFA website www.georgiahealthyfamilyalliance.org.

If you are interested in presenting Tar Wars to a local elementary or middle school in your community contact Kara Sinkule at ksinkule@gafp.org for more information or visit www.georgiahealthyfamilyalliance.org.

**Increasing the Financial Wellness of the Alliance**



**GHFA Capital Campaign- Your Giving is Great Medicine**

The Alliance is now in the third year of the *Your Giving is Great Medicine* capital campaign and we are just $33,000 away from crossing the $2 million halfway mark! **We need your help to make it happen. If 200 of our members donate $200 each we can reach that milestone before the end of the year!** **Will you help us get there?**

The Capital Campaign has expanded our focus in specific Tar Wars Strike Force communities to raise $250,000 to implement our Tar Wars program for a minimum of three years in schools (or virtual schools) in an ongoing effort to curb the extraordinary increase in vaping among school aged children.

We launched in Rome and then followed in Gainesville last year and plan to wrap up our fundraising initiative in both of those areas in the coming months. In late September, we launched our Southeast Strike Force which will cover counties from Statesboro to Savannah.

As Alliance President and a resident of Rome, I chair the Rome Strike Force composed of family physicians, nurses, and community leaders. The Rome Strike Force is also being co-chaired by GAFP member, Dr. Leonard Reeves and we have received $100,000 pledges from Floyd Medical Center and the Floyd Medical Center Foundation to support our efforts.

GAFP member and Gainesville resident, Dr. Monica Newton, serves as Chair of the Gainesville Strike Force. Northeast Georgia Health System has signed on as a presenting sponsor with a $50,000 pledge. Dr. Fordham is serving as our Vice Chair of the Northeast Georgia Strike Force.

GHFA Board member and Statesboro resident Dr. Chip Cowart will serve as Chair of the Southeast Georgia Strike Force and Dr. Bonzo Reddick of Savannah will serve as Vice Chair. Southeast Georgia Strike Force members are currently being recruited.

Our goals for 2021 include raising another million dollars for our Capital Campaign. In addition, we expect to award $100,000 in community health grants and complete fundraising for the Gainesville, Rome and Savannah Strike Force initiatives which will allow us to launch Strike Forces in additional communities.

**2020 Capital Campaign Leadership Cabinet Members**

**2020 Chair: Loy “Chip” Cowart, MD Dr. Mike Busman, Americus**

**Dr. Evelyn Lewis & Clark, Newnan**

**Dr. Donald Fordham, Demorest Dr. Patrick “P.J.” Lynn, Rome**

**Dr. Eddie Richardson, Eatonton**

**Dr. Mitzi Rubin, Atlanta**

**Dr. George Shannon, Columbus**

**Dr. Collyn Steele, McDonough**

**Dr. Harry Strothers, Macon**

**Dr. Rick Wherry, Dahlonega**

 **As of October 1, 2020 the *Your Giving is Great Medicine* campaign pledges include:**

**$1,000,000**

**Georgia Academy of Family Physicians**

**$50,000- $100,000**

**Floyd Medical Center**

**Floyd Healthcare Foundation**

**Jackson Healthcare**

**Northeast Georgia Health System**

**$25,000-$49,999**

**Dr. Chip and Elizabeth Cowart**

 **Dr. Patrick “PJ” and Lindsey Lynn**

**$15,000--$24,999**

**Phoebe Physicians Group**

**$10,000-$14,999**

**Dr. John Bucholtz**

**Dr. Mike and Dianne Busman**

**Dr. Samuel “Le” Church**

**Dr. Evelyn Lewis & Clark**

**Dr. Lanny and Mica Copeland**

**Dr. Donald Fordham**

**Fay Fulton**

**Dr. Gene and Ivy Jackson**

**Dr. Susan Margletta & Jack Harmon**

**Dr. Dayle Hawthorne**

**Dr. Thaddeus Lynn**

**Jim and Patti Lyons**

**Dr. Carl and Melanie McCurdy**

**Dr. Howard and Janet McMahan**

**Dr. Rolf Meinhold and Caryn Bains Dr. T.J. Miller**

**Dr. Adrienne Mims**

**Drs. Monica and Wylie Newton Dr. Mitzi and Jeremy Rubin**

**Dr. Eddie Richardson and Dr. Jameelah Gater**

**Dr. Michael and Deborah Satchell**

**Dr. George Shannon**

**Dr. Daniel Singleton**

**Dr. Collyn and Nick Steele**

**Dr. Harry and Karen Strothers**

**Dr. John Vu**

**Dr. David Westfall**

**Dr. Rick and Alice Wherry**

**$5,000-$9,999**

**Dr. Susana A. Alfonso**

**Dr. Karla Booker**

**Dr. Mitch Cook**

**Dr. Elvan Daniels**

**Dr. Daniel Grizzle**

**Dr. Thomas Fausett**

**Dr. Jay and Adelene Goberdhan**

**Dr. Emily J. Herndon**

**Dr. Audrey and William Hodge**

**Dr. Wayne Hoffman and Thomas Torrey**

**Dr. Beulette Hooks**

**Dr. Theresa Jacobs**

**Dr. Kevin and Connie Johnson**

**Dr. Bruce LeClair**

**Dr. Sherma Peter**

**Dr. James and Harriet Ray**

**Dr. Leonard Reeves and Terri Brown**

 **Dr. Priya Shah Dr. Susan Schayes**

**Dr. Jeff and Holly Stone**

**$1000 -$4,999**

**Dr. Rami Arfoosh Dr. Thomas Bevill Dr. J. Larry Boss Dr. Michelle Cooke**

**Dr. David Fieseler**

**Dr. Loretta Hicks**

**Dr. Andre Kallab**

**Dr. Christina Kelly**

**Dr. Ambar Kulshreshtha**

**Dr. Anthony Nazione**

**Dr. Sharon Rabinovitz**

**Dr. Thad and Susan Riley**

**Shawn Smith**

**Dr. Charles Sow**

**Dr. Katherine Taylor**

**Dr. Beverly Townsend**

**Dr. Walter Steven Wilson**

**$500- $999**

**Dr. Rodneysha Brown (Resident)**

**Dr. Kristen Kettelhut (Resident)**

**Dr. Shameka Hunt McElhaney**

**Dr. Juilett Kostanjevec**

**Dr. Frank Lake**

**Dr. Shikha Shah**

**Rome Strike Force Donors**

**Floyd Medical Center**

**Emma Atherton-Staples MD**

**Floyd Healthcare Foundation**

**Kelly Vlass Culbertson MD**

**Patrick J. Lynn MD**

**Kirby Watson Peden MD**

**River City Bank**

**Jennifer Barbieri MD**

**Leonard Reeves MD**

**International Paper**

**Andrew Williams**

**Katherine Taylor MD**

**Gainesville Strike Force Donors**

**Northeast Georgia Medical Center**

**Rami Arfoosh**

**Jody Marie Bahnmiller-Brasil**

**Allen Butts Jr.**

**Carroll Daniel Construction**

**William L Coates Jr.**

**Committee to Elect Butch Miller**

**Committee to Elect Lee Hawkins**

**Leslie A David**

**Fay Fulton**

**Georgia Skin Center**

**Joy Griffin**

**Hasty Pope LLP**

**John L Hemmer Jr.**

**Jon Horn**

**Tate O’Rourke /Jackson EMC**

**Andre Kallab**

**Philip Olsen Kimsey**

**Frank G. Lake III**

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**Starlet Rhodes Jones Fund at the North Georgia Community Foundation**

**James K Syfan III**

**Thomas C. and Alice Ann Mundy Fund**

**Daniel Thompson**

**James A Walters**

**David Noel Westfall**

**Richard Andre Wherry**

**Anslee Wilson**

**Savannah Strike Force Donors**

**Peter Bechtel**

**Scott Bohlke, MD**

**Sreevalli Dega, MD**

**Robert “Butch” Pallay, MD**

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**Loy “Chip” Cowart, MD**

**Ambar Kulshreshtha, MD**

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In closing, let me say how **proud** I am to be a member of the GAFP and President of the Alliance after seeing so many of my colleagues on the front lines of this pandemic going above and beyond to lift others in the face of this crisis through the Immediate Needs Grant program. Our collective efforts helped our patients and communities maintain health and hope during this difficult year. Thank you all again for your ongoing support of the Alliance.