



The Cancer Foundation
SERVING NORTHEAST GEORGIA



He's a fighter for sure and a hero in my eyes. TCF serves our first pediatric patient.

Early in 2020, Travis and Jenna Diedrich noticed their son was very lethargic and fatigued. He would not eat because he was nauseated and could not hold anything down. He lost ten pounds. He began to run a fever. He had a chronic ear infection and seemed to be sick constantly. He would scream in pain when trying to move around and eventually lost his ability to walk. "In my gut and heart, I knew deep down it was something really bad," Jenna states.

He was perfectly fine one day and then suddenly, he got deathly sick. It took three months and several hospital and doctor visits before anyone knew what was wrong. Finally in June of 2020, their youngest child Travis, Jr. was diagnosed with leukemia. **He was three years old.** Halfway prepared for the news, yet scared the Deidrichs were in shock and disbelief. "In my mind, I had been preparing for the worst" says Jenna. "I went into fight or flight mode." Her first question, "What is the treatment?" Everything from there became a blur. Her emotions were put on hold. Her son was entering the fight of his life she recalls.

Having spent one-third of his life undergoing cancer treatment, in **September of 2022, the doctors declared no evidence of disease found** in Travis.



Travis Deidrich, Jr. with Marietta Fire Department firefighter



FIREFIGHTER FOR A DAY

Joined by his family at Children's Hospital of Georgia at Augusta University, Travis rang the bell.

He was five. When asked if there was a high point or low point to this journey she would like to share, Jenna said, "We had really high highs and really low lows. Hope is what got me through most of it. There came a time when I questioned every little thing. It was really hard to watch and deal with, especially when I was going through cancer treatment myself for melanoma. All I wanted to do was just take it all away from my baby. He's innocent, why him? He didn't and doesn't deserve this. He was so little just learning about life."

Through it all, Jenna states that although he knew it was bad, she was not sure Travis really understood the extent of his illness. He knew he hurt and was very sick. He also knew the medicines and surgery were to help him get better. **"He has been the strongest and bravest little kid. This has helped us control our emotions. He's a fighter for sure and a hero in my eyes."**

The mission of The Cancer Foundation is to help alleviate the financial burden of cancer for eligible patients. Serving 25 counties of northeast Georgia, TCF provides help in the form of financial assistance for housing, utilities, transportation and other critical needs during cancer treatment.

Since 2009, we have provided over **\$3.5** million in financial support to over **4,800** families across northeast Georgia! Our commitment to fiscal transparency earned Candid's Platinum Rating for 2022.

enclosed
**IMPACT
REPORT
2022**

Cheers!

November and December 2022

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Wessley Barrett
Sharon Bell
Diane Bell
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Helen Maxine Bruce
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Ms. Joy Smith, RN
Marlo Wiggans
Jane Williams
Amy Williams
The Service received at
University Cancer & Blood
Center
University Cancer & Blood
Center Staff

Our *Cheers!* program celebrates individuals in a meaningful way.

Whether a survivor tribute gift, anniversary gift, birthday or thank you gift, the honoree of

a *Cheers!* gift

receives a customized notecard from The Cancer Foundation with your special message.

PUSH THROUGH THOSE MOMENTS AND HOLD ON TIGHT FOR THE RIDE, THE STORM WON'T LAST FOREVER.

The family found out about The Cancer Foundation through Athens' Nurse's Clinic where Travis, Sr. receives services for his medical condition. Through this connection, The Cancer Foundation was able to help the Diedrich family pay their electricity, gas, and water bills. **A fuel card was provided so the family could make the 190-mile round trip from their home in Elberton to Children's Hospital of Georgia in Augusta.** The Diedrich family feels relief since becoming involved with the Cancer Foundation. "They have helped us so much that we will forever be grateful and appreciative of them."

"Push through those moments and hold on tight for the ride, the storm won't last forever," says Jenna.

Cheers, Travis!

Now six, Travis enjoys somewhat of a normal life. Although home schooled, he is in kindergarten. He loves chicken, trucks, cars, construction vehicles, and Hot Wheels. His mom states that if he won the lottery, he would likely buy more Hot Wheels. He enjoys playing Roblox, watching Blippi, and visiting Gigi in Florida.

In another life Jenna is pretty sure that Travis would be a firefighter. He likes to help and wants to be a firefighter or ambulance driver. He had a wish granted from the Marietta Fire Department to be a firefighter for the day. He was in the Fourth of July Parade and put out fires. He is an honorary firefighter in Marietta. Jenna states that if Travis were a superhero, his superpower would be to heal.



Travis, Jr. with his family at his Bell Ringing Ceremony



Travis, Jr. with his sister Skyleigh

2022 Impact Report

\$542,996
in assistance provided

2,373 **BILLS PAID**

benefitting **139** **CHILDREN & TEENS**

1,524 **Donations** **708** **FUEL CARDS** **784** **families served**

72 **1,012** **GEORGIANS IMPACTED** **29** **referring facilities**

843 **Donors** **ONE** **pediatric patient**



**ATA
GLANCE**



Banks	19
Barrow	54
Clarke	130
Elbert	52
Franklin	27
Greene	16
Habersham	37
Hart	41
Jackson	47
Jasper	11
Lumpkin	23
Madison	45
Morgan	19
Newton	78
Oconee	12
Oglethorpe	25
Putnam	11
Rabun	5
Stephens	32
Taliaferro	5
Towns	4
Union	5
Walton	56
White	23
Wilkes	7

TOP PATIENT REQUESTS



TRANSPORTATION
\$ 269,546

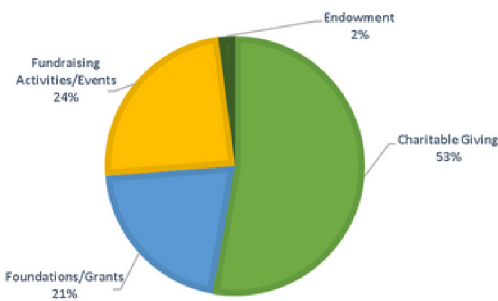


HOUSING
\$ 118,988

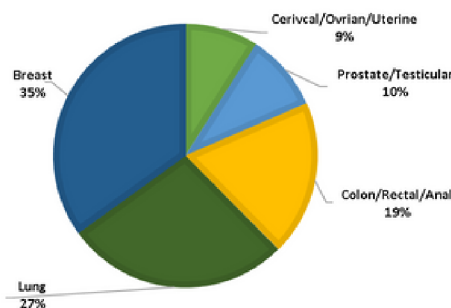


UTILITIES
\$ 103,207

2022 INCOME BY SOURCE



TOP 5 CANCERS SERVED BY TYPE



The Cancer Foundation has never turned away any eligible patient that has requested assistance.



The Cancer Foundation
SERVING NORTHEAST GEORGIA

Patient Pantry provides....

100 bags equivalent to 1,930 Nutritious Meals

Patient Pantry launched in 2022 as an ancillary program to our Financial Assistance Program!

The Cancer Foundation launched our Patient Pantry program in the summer of 2022 as an ancillary program to our signature Financial Assistance Program to help offset rising grocery cost for families. By the end of the year, TCF collected and distributed nearly 100 bags. In all, just over 1,930 meals were provide to patients in need of nutritious food.

The Fuller Family was instrumental in making this happen. With the help of her community groups and church, Barbara Fuller helped us feed 31 families.

If you are interested in donating to our Patient Pantry, please contact [Brittany Davidson](#) at 706-353-4354.



Mr. & Mrs. Fuller with Patient Pantry Project Lead, Brittany Davidson



Our Motivation...

In 2009, The Cancer Foundation was established to assist those experiencing financial toxicity due to a cancer diagnosis.

The average income of those we serve is just over **\$19k** per year.

\$42k is the average cost of medical care in the first year of a cancer diagnosis.

13% of cancer patients under 65 spend at least **20%** of their income on out-of-pocket expenses.

Out-of-pocket maximums are almost **2x** more for those with a cancer diagnosis.

71% of cancer patients are more likely to have bills in collections, face tax liens or mortgage foreclosures.

74% of patients skipped or delayed doctor's appointments due to cost.

60% of cancer patients used up most of their savings.

50% of cancer patients report travel expenses hurt their financial situation.

23% of cancer patients declared bankruptcy or lost home to eviction or foreclosure.

38% of cancer patients postpone or do not fill prescriptions.

What is financial toxicity? The term "financial toxicity" is used to describe the harmful personal financial burden faced by patients receiving cancer treatment. It can lead to a greater risk of mortality, impaired quality of life, overall poorer well-being and sub-par quality of care.

GIVING 2022

Contributions between January 1 and December 31, 2022

The Legacy Society

donors with cumulative giving of \$100,000 or more since our founding in 2009.

Athens Area Cancer Auxiliary
Athens Area Community Foundation
Diane and Dan Davis
Georgia Crown Distributing Company
The Luther & Susie Harrison Foundation
It's the Journey, Inc.
Suzanne and Don Leebern
The Jack Tarver Family Foundation
Turner Family Foundation
University Cancer & Blood Center
Jessica Wallace Tolbert & James Wallace
Walton County Health Care Foundation
Marlo and Glen Wiggans,
The Wiggans Family Fund at the
Athens Area Community Foundation

The Distinguished Society

donors who gifted \$5,000 or more annually

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Bank South
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The Chapman Foundation
Guest Family Foundation
Hawthorne Drug Company
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donors who gifted \$10,000 or more annually

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donors who gifted \$2,500 or more annually

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With Gratitude

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TOTAL SUPPORT: \$864,176

If you note an error in this listing or wish to update your recognition preferences, please contact Tina Laseter at tlaseter@cfnega.org.

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Memorials

Our "Remember with Love" program pays tribute to individuals whose families have selected TCF to receive memorial contributions in their loved one's memory. Gifts of this kind are meaningful and extremely important to our organization.

We feel privileged to be able to honor your loved one and their commitment to cancer patients, thanks to donations received in their memory. Contributions carry their legacy forward and help alleviate the financial burden of cancer for eligible patients in our community.

Remember with Love

November and December 2022



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*Sheila
Burdette Winstead*

Thank you to these families for honoring your loved one's memory by recognizing The Cancer Foundation.

Pete Argo
Ronald Lee Bell
Vetra Bishop
Cheryl Brown
Griff Carithers
Dennis Carpenter
R. Frank Champman
Alan Clardy
Cindy Courtney
Gordon Dickerson
Vincent Dooley
George Dougherty
Robert Elder
Diane Floyd
Kathryn "Betty" Garrett
Richard Garrett, Sr.
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Maria Lynas
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Rita Morrone
Susan Moss O'Donnell
Tommie Mullis
Lee Padgett
Kay Parker
Marge Saar
Chuck Scales
Lillian Shook
Frank & Christine Shurling
Sara Sloan
Ward E. Stratton
Joseph Tatkovsky
Jenny Vandenberg
Michael Wall
Tillman Whitehead
Wayne Wilburn



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

2023 Welcomes new Board Members to TCF!

Incoming TCF Board of Directors share why they are willing to commit their time to The Cancer Foundation. These families share their stories to encourage others who may still be struggling and to thank TCF's generous donors for their support!



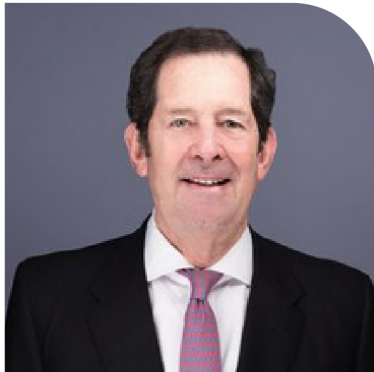
“Being involved and connected in our communities is truly a blessing afforded to me by Jackson EMC. We've supported TCF in many ways and serving on the board is just another way for JEMC to continue to support the great work of this foundation.”

-Jean Mullis
Jackson EMC - Neese District Manager



“I am inspired by The Cancer Foundation because the Foundation is a regional organization focused on meeting needs that produce results that matter to those affected by cancer. I hope to bring my regional experiences to help local patients who need help getting through tough cancer conditions. Health is the first wealth.”

-Annie Hunt Burriss, Ed-D
Consultant at Higher Ed & Economic Development



“I have a deep appreciation of the staff at University Cancer and Blood Center through my experience with the challenge of life with multiple myeloma. Serving on The Cancer Foundation board allows me to honor them and help those face the extreme financial burden of a cancer diagnosis.”

-F. Brooks Arnold
Senior Vice President & Consultant ARH Health Management



“Both of my parents and I have battled cancer. During my visits to the oncologists' office, I have seen that the disease affects people on all aspects of the socioeconomic scale. I have been familiar with The Cancer Foundation since its inception and have appreciated its mission of financially assisting those in need. Volunteering with The Cancer Foundation gives me an avenue to relieve some stress from my fellow patients who are enduring an overwhelming and emotional time.”

-Johnny Frantz, DMD
Retired Owner - Mars Hill Dental

2022 Sponsors



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& BLOOD CENTER

Diane and Dan Davis

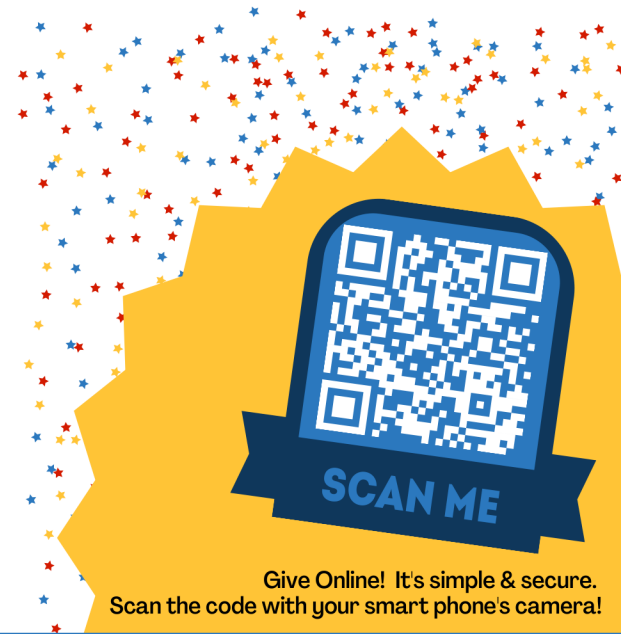


Dr. and Mrs. Glen Wiggins

Hodgson & Hodgson, LLC



Athens BMW - Sarah and Bryan Austin - Chastain & Associates Insurance - Gastroenterology Associates of Athens - Heyward Allen Motor Company - Landmark Properties - Erika and Ricky Lane - Laura and Harris Lowery - Piedmont Athens Regional - St. Mary's Health System



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TCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

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Johnny Frantz

Alex McCumber

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Sarah Austin

Floretta Johnson

Jean Mullis

Lisa Rawls, Treasurer

Steve Everett

Erika Lane

Dr. Cynthia Shepherd

DID YOU KNOW?

The **origin of the word cancer** comes from the Greek physician **Hippocrates** (460-370 BC), who is considered the "Father of Medicine." In his work, Hippocrates used the terms carcinos and carcinoma to describe a variety of tumors. In Greek, **these words refer to crab**. The Roman physician, **Celsus** (25 BC - 50 AD), later translated the Greek term into cancer, the Latin word for crab.

Later, Greek physician **Galen** (130-200 AD), used the word oncos to describe a variety of tumors. In Greek, **oncos means swelling**. Today the crab analogy of Hippocrates and Celsus is still used to describe malignant tumors. Galen's term is now used as a part of the name for cancer specialists – oncologists.



The Cancer Foundation

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www.cancerfoundationofnega.org

Volunteering is good for **YOU** and others

Whether you are looking for purpose or want to be part of something bigger than yourself, volunteering can help you feel connected to others and your community.

The Cancer Foundation is looking for individuals interested in making a difference in the lives of local cancer patients.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at help@cfnega.org or call 706-353-4534 to find out how you can help!

Make a difference is 2023!