Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc.

2022 Annual Report

Sharing is Caring: Bridging the Divide

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Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc., is a non-profit organization tax exempt under section 501(c)[3] of the Internal Revenue Service code. A member of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.

The Board of Directors

Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc. is governed by an elected Board of Directors that sets strategic direction and upholds fiduciary responsibilities. Board members are encouraged to volunteer and participate at Foundation events.

The Board operates according to established By-Laws. Regular meetings are held quarterly and special called meetings can be scheduled at any time. A quorum is required to take official action. Members are elected to specific terms of service and some have served for over 30 years. 100% of the Board contribute to the organization financially.

Hon. Chuck M. Douglas, Esq.-Chairman
Manu O. Platt, Ph.D.-Vice Chairman
John Robinson, CTP - Treasurer
Parnell Abraham, Ph.D., Secretary
Hon. Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Esq
Hon. Shondeana Crews-Morris, Esq.
Rasean T. Hodge, M.D.
Camille N. Jarman, Esq.
Charles S. Johnson, Esq.
Kent Matlock
Brian D. Poe, Esq.
Bruce O. Feinberg, D.O.
Deidra Marcelle

Emeritus Directors

Henry Aaron
Rudolph E. Jackson

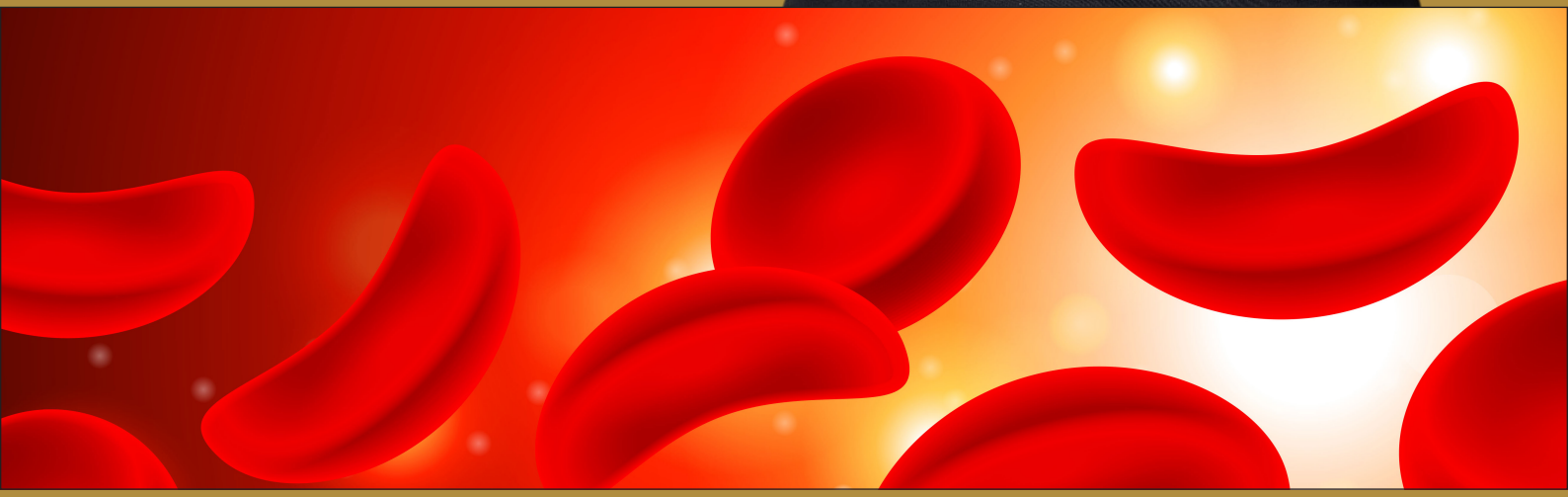
ENGAGE EDUCATE ENERGIZE

Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc. is the only state-wide community organization providing sickle cell education, testing, counseling and transition services.

Our mission is to engage, educate and energize the community to improve the quality of life for people affected by sickle cell disease.

We want everyone to be able to

Live Well with Sickle Cell.



Our Executive Director Tabatha Mcgee

A visionary, servant, leader, and strong in faith are just a few words most often used to describe Tabatha McGee. As the Executive Director of the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, her compassionate mission is to ensure the highest quality of life and hope for sickle cell warriors and other abnormal hemoglobin disorders. With her dynamic team of professionals and volunteers, she tirelessly works to provide living well resources, clinical services, and volunteer support. Tabatha is an innovative and tireless leader with an established track record of success in building a strong, resilient organization focused on social good.

During her tenure, Tabatha has made significant strides towards the success of the organization, including the opening of a new health and wellness center in the first quarter of 2023, expanding their laboratories to provide more extensive testing options for her “Sickle Cell Warriors,” and secured groundbreaking grants from the State of Georgia and the federal government of $2.2 million. Additionally, her accomplishments include a partnership with Grady Hospital, which allows them to identify and work with children diagnosed with sickle cell, a week-long camp sponsoring over 150 kids suffering from the disease, and tirelessly advocating for legislation to advance treatment and support of those suffering. She has grown her staff by 50% over three years, broadening support and care across Georgia. She has also grown the organization’s revenue by 15% over the last three years.

Tabatha is a native of Georgia and began her professional career serving in the US Army. During her service, she built the foundation of leadership. Ultimately, she transitioned into a long career with Xerox, where she expanded her leadership, management, and business development skills. She moved from Xerox into an entrepreneurial role when she founded Complete Vital Solutions, LLC, where she served as a self-employed network engineer.

Tabatha initially started her role with the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia as a volunteer. She then began working as an independent contractor, and transitioned into the part-time administrator role. She was promoted to Director of Administration. On this path, she leveraged her professional experience and lessons learned from her struggles to become a beacon of hope in the organization. The Board of Directors selected Tabatha as the Executive Director on October 1, 2021, with an unsurpassed drive and passion for success.

Tabatha firmly commits to giving back to her community in her free time through charitable work and volunteerism. She is a mother and grandmother dedicated to her family and her “Sickle Cell Warriors.” Tabatha also loves gardening and playing the piano in her free time.

Members of the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc.’s staff during Volunteer Appreciation Day 2022.

What is sickle cell disease?

Red blood cells play an important role in your body. They carry oxygen from the lungs to your organs and move carbon dioxide from your organs back to your lungs. This cycle gives your organs the oxygen they need to function.

People with sickle cell have a change (mutation) in both copies of the Hemoglobin Subunit Beta gene that they inherit from their parents. In people with sickle cell, this mutation affects the beta-globin subunits of the hemoglobin protein. This causes people with sickle cell to produce an abnormal form of hemoglobin called sickle hemoglobin (HbS).

Sickled red blood cells are fragile, rigid, and sticky. It can be difficult for them to move through small blood vessels, resulting in slowed or blocked blood flow through these vessels. This can prevent oxygen from circulating properly throughout the body. Sickled cells are also fragile and can break down prematurely, lasting only 10 to 20 days compared with 90-120 days for healthy red blood cells.

HOW SICKLE CELL AFFECTS YOUR BODY

In people with sickle cell, sickled-shaped red blood cells can block or slow blood flow. This blockage, known as a vaso-occlusion, can prevent organs and tissues from getting the oxygen they need and can cause vaso-occlusive crises (VOCs). VOCs include pain crises, acute chest syndrome, and stroke—these can cause excruciating pain, as well as severe cardiovascular, lung, and infection issues that may require an emergency room visit. Acute pain crises are the most common complication of sickle cell, but all acute complications can have a significant impact on your organs and your overall health.

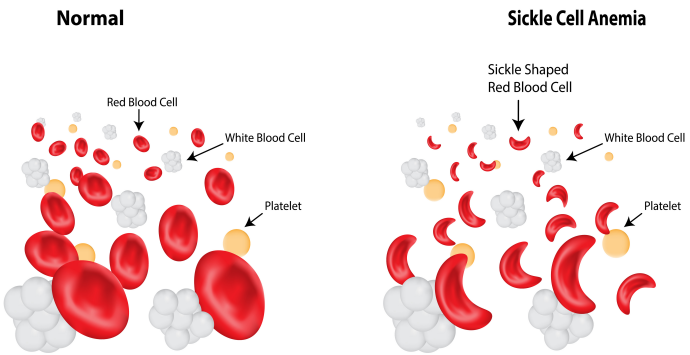
ACUTE COMPLICATIONS

Even when you are not in pain, ongoing vaso-occlusion can lead to chronic complications and can cause organ damage or even organ failure. Chronic complications of sickle cell may include:

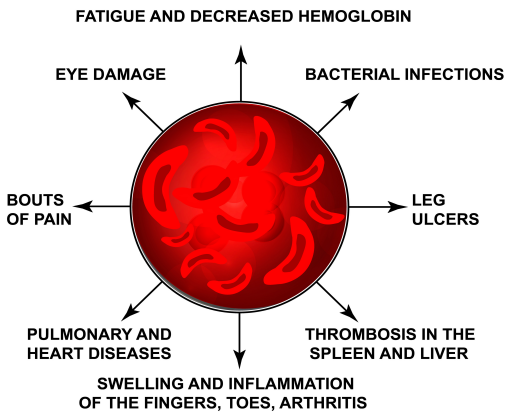
- Anemia (chronic hemolytic anemia)
- Bone complications (avascular aseptic necrosis)
- Chronic pain
- Delayed puberty
- Fatigue
- Gallstones, gallbladder
- Dactylitis, pain crisis in hands and feet
- Jaundice, skin and eyes
- Kidney problems, kidneys
- Leg sores (ulcers), legs
- Organ failure
- Vision problems (retinopathy), eyes

Chronic complications are a significant cause of illness in adults with sickle cell. Because chronic complications may go unnoticed and can cause irreversible organ damage, it is important to routinely talk to your doctor about treatment options and a treatment plan that is right for your sickle cell.

Normal Blood Cell vs Sickle Cell Anemia



Sickle Cell Anemia Symptoms



What is sickle cell trait?

Sickle cell trait (AS) is a hereditary disorder of the red blood cell, meaning it came from mom or dad. Sickle Cell Trait will not change into Sickle Cell Anemia nor will it go away. One parent passed normal hemoglobin "A" and the other passed the gene for hemoglobin "S". The hemoglobin level is normal, and the red cells look normal. No health problems are usually associated with sickle cell trait. Although individuals with sickle cell trait are generally healthy and do not have a disease, there are situations which may cause their red blood cells to sickle. These include mountain climbing, flying in non-pressurized aircraft over altitudes of 8,000 feet where there is less oxygen to breathe, and exercising at high altitudes. Individuals with sickle cell trait should drink plenty of fluids and stay well hydrated, drink lots of water while exercising. Tell your physician if you have experience pain doing these activities. Some individuals with sickle cell trait may experience blood in the urine or eye trauma. If you experience this problem inform your physician about having sickle cell trait. It is possible that other family members may have sickle cell trait or some other type of trait or a disease. It is important for them to be tested.

SUMMARY

- Sickle cell trait does not cause a person to be anemic.
- Not a disease, just a carrier for the sickle gene.
- Blood in urine (tell the physician)
- Getting hit in the eye or eye trauma tell physician
- Planes are safe if they are pressurized (Commercial Jets example: Delta Airline)
- Pain when traveling or exercising at high altitudes, should tell healthcare provider
- Experience pain on the upper left side of your abdomen that does not go away, seek medical attention immediately (splenic infarct)
- Athletes should share with their coaches if they have sickle cell trait due to possible health problems which, are associated with sports and sickle cell trait.
- Stay hydrated (drink plenty of fluids and water during exercising)
- Having sickle cell trait does play a part in future family planning.

PROBABILITY

THE WAY YOUR OFFSPRING WILL BE AFFECTED IS DETERMINED BY THE COMBINATION OF YOUR RESULTS (AS) AND YOUR MATE'S.

"A" = normal hemoglobin

"S" = sickle cell hemoglobin

"C" = C hemoglobin

AS+AA
AA AA
AS AS

If your mate has normal hemoglobin (no trait or sickle cell anemia), **with each pregnancy** there is 2 in 4 (50%) for the child born to have only normal hemoglobin or have sickle cell trait.

AS+AC
AA AS
AC SC

If your mate has hemoglobin C trait, **with each pregnancy** there is a 1 in 4 (25%) chance the child will have either normal hemoglobin, sickle cell trait, hemoglobin C trait, or sickle cell hemoglobin C disease.

AS+AS
AA SS
AS AS

If your mate has sickle cell trait, **with each pregnancy** there is a 1 in 4 (25%) chance the child will have normal hemoglobin, sickle cell anemia and 2 in 4 (50%) chance the child will have sickle cell trait.

AS+AB Thal
AA AB Thal
AS SB Thal

If your mate has beta thalassemia trait, **with each pregnancy** there is a 1 in 4 (25%) chance the chils will have either normal hemoglobin, sickle cell trait, beta thalassemia trait, or sickle beta thalassemia.

AA=NORMAL

AS=SICKLE CELL TRAIT

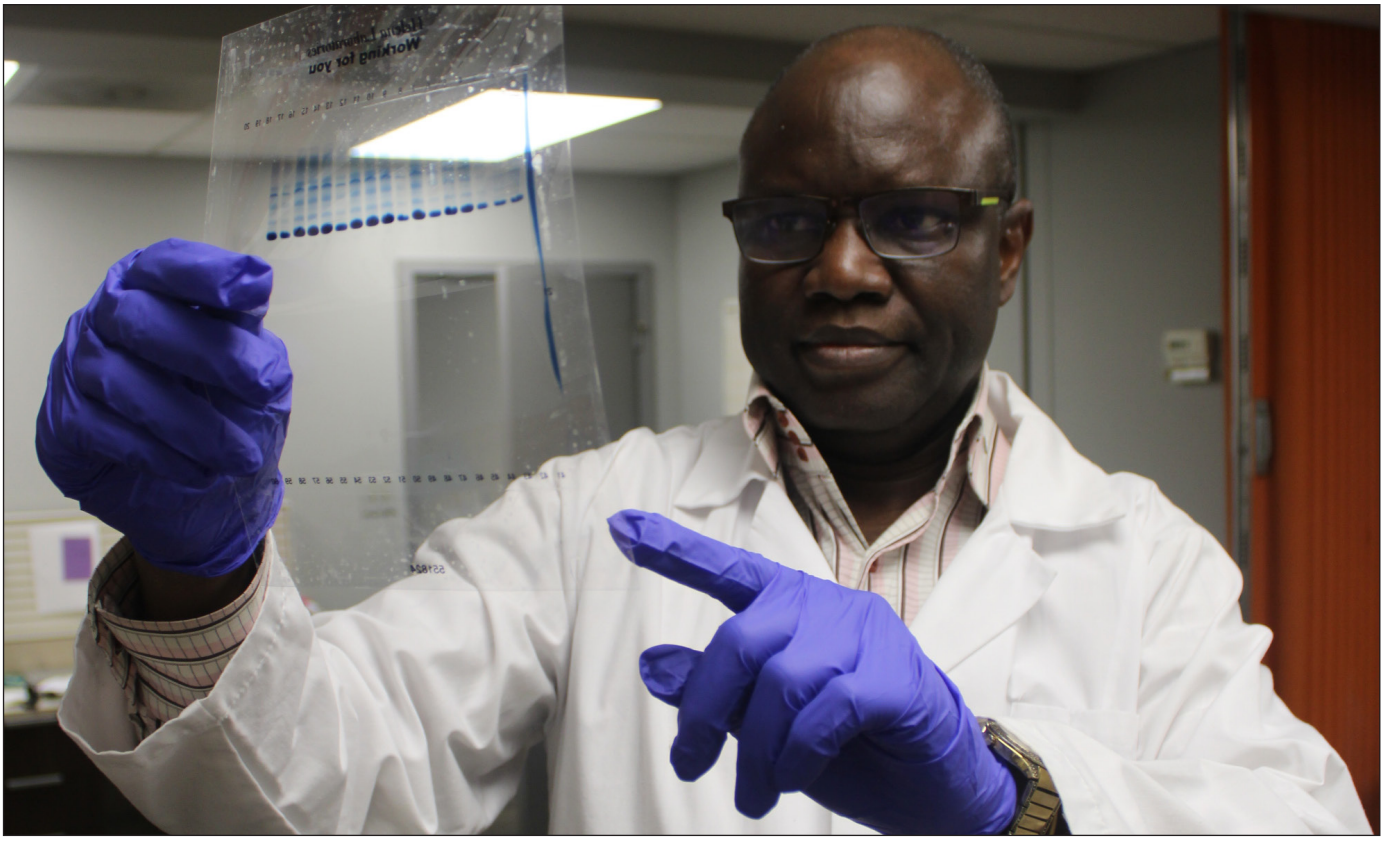
AC= C TRAIT

SC=SICKLE CELL HEMOGLOBIN C DISEASE

SS= SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

BThal= BETA THALASSEMIA

What We do We Do



Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc. (SCFG) is committed to helping the thousands of Georgians who suffer from sickle cell disease (SCD) and to ultimately finding a cure for this painful blood disorder.

Our funding is used for much-needed services such as health screenings for sickle cell.

SCFG is the only community-based organization providing sickle cell education, sickle cell testing, counseling, and transition services throughout the state of Georgia, which has the fourth-largest sickle cell patient population in the nation. SCD affects approximately 100,000 mostly African-Americans. It occurs among one of every 365 Black or African-American births. About one in 13 Black or African-American babies are born with the sickle cell trait (SCT). Today, more than 14,000 individuals suffer from sickle cell in Georgia alone.

SCFG works daily with the state of Georgia, medical facilities, sickle cell support groups, physicians, nurses, clinics, social workers, volunteers and others to deliver client services such as housing, food assistance, medications, medical supplies and more.

Our assets include a mobile unit, a licensed clinical laboratory with statewide reach and a sterling reputation.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Community Healthcare Workers are ensuring that underserved communities have access to quality healthcare services including consultations with specialists through the use of telemedicine.

We ask you to help us in continuing our mission to engage, educate, and energize the community to improve the quality of life for people affected by sickle cell disease.

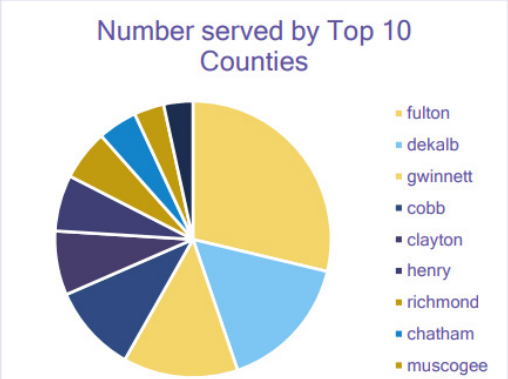
Operations Report

Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc. is sustained by the generosity of donors, supporters, and dedicated volunteers. Our sponsors allow us the opportunity to further educate, bring awareness and provide services to our sickle cell clients and community.

Accomplishments

- Provided direct services to 1,917 individuals in 105 counties across the State of Georgia.
- Provided services in 66% of Georgia counties, including use of mobile unit.
- Increased testing by 94% over previous year.
- Mailed abnormal hemoglobin notifications to 6,014 parents.
- Provided trait education to 75 health care providers by phone and emailed information.
- Trained 103 health care providers on evidence-based treatment and management of sickle cell disease in six virtual two-hour sessions and one four-hour in-person session with CME credits available.
- Trained 75 school social workers and 50 school nurses on supporting the needs of students with sickle cell disease.
- Provided Specialty Care to 226 patients utilizing the mobile unit in partnership with local organizations and shared clinical space in Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- Hosted transition focus group of 15 adolescents and facilitated two virtual “fishbowl” discussions on transition.
- Increased revenues by 19%.
  -The annual average increase is 18%, exceeding our strategic goal of 15%. Sixty-seven percent (66.7%) of revenue expended on programs and services.

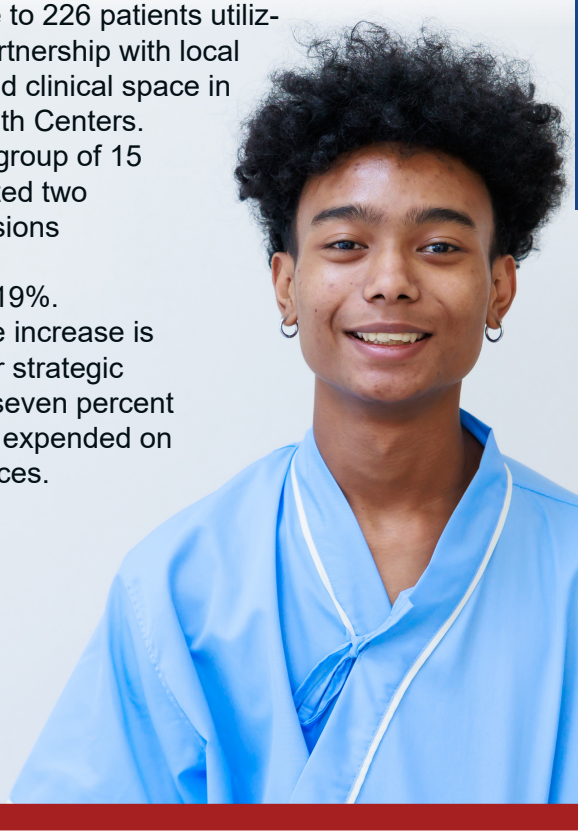
Georgia Counties Served



*Twenty-one (21) individuals served lived outside of Georgia
(Alabama, Florida, Illinois, New Mexico, New York)

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

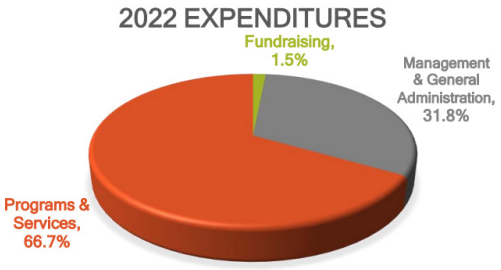
Care coordination (CHW) – 580
Federal program application assistance – 389
Testing – 203
Trait parent counseling – 412



Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc.
Profit & Loss

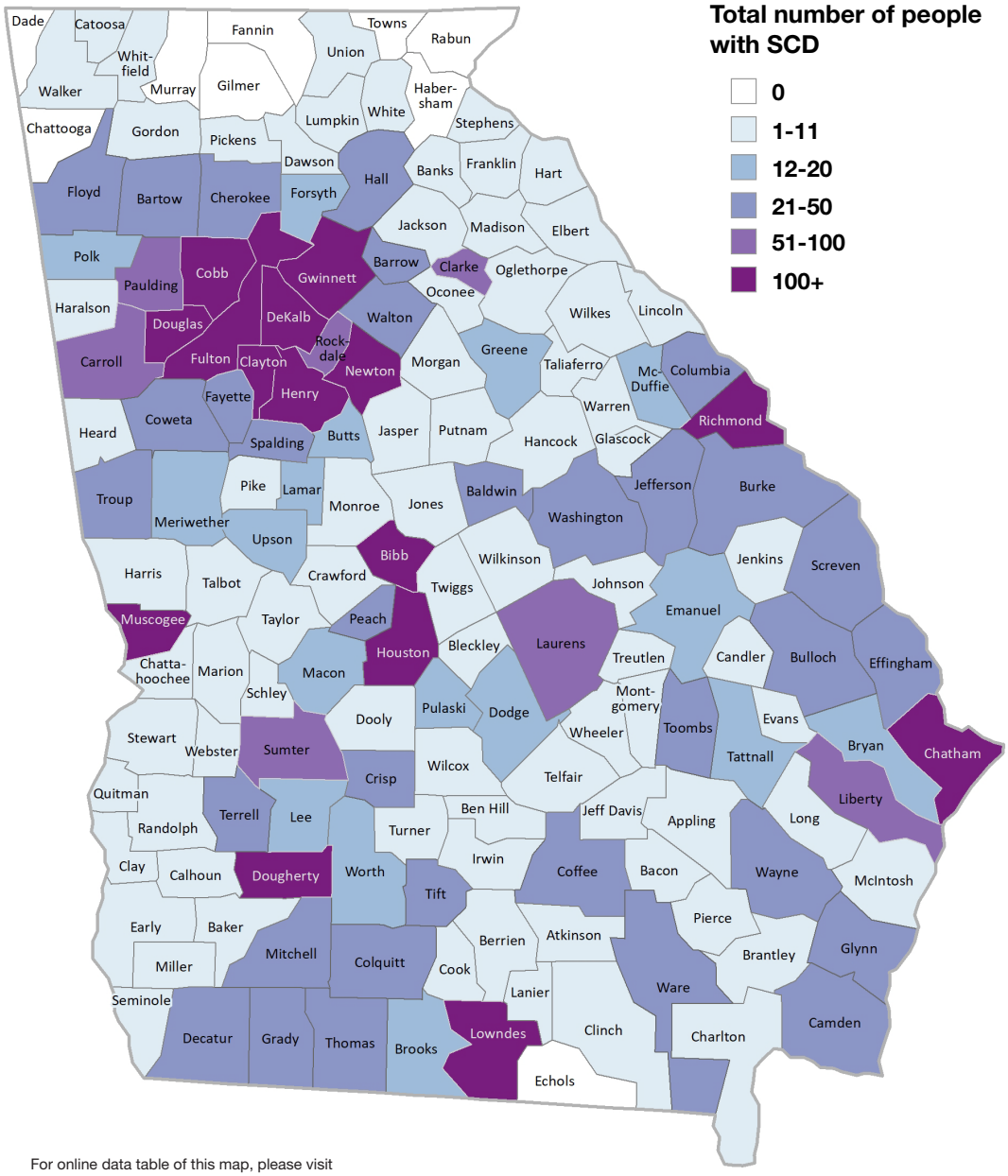
Accrual Basis — **January through December 2022**

2022 Revenue Sources
Forma Therapeutics
Fulton County
Georgia Department of Public Health
Georgia Department of Human Services
Global Blood Therapeutics
Healthcare Georgia Foundation
Health First
Health Resources and Services Administration
Patient Centered Outcomes Research
United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta
Fundraising and Donations



	Jan - Dec 22
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Donations	191,856.19
Grants	2,079,588.24
Other Income	3,019.15
Sponsorships	99,258.50
Total Income	2,373,722.08
Gross Profit	2,373,722.08
Expense	
6000 · Personnel Expenses	1,261,305.07
6090 · Contract Services	410,436.13
6110 · Supplies	133,163.13
6140 · Telephone	50,003.77
6150 · Postage and Delivery	13,578.78
6160 · Occupancy Expense	80,520.51
6193 · Business Reg Fees	3,165.00
6196 · Bank Charge Expense	119,457.86
6210 · Printing	14,806.30
6220 · Travel Expense	35,602.74
6232 · Space Rental	68,974.86
6240 · Staff Dev. & Training	16,003.77
6247 · Publicity/Promotions	31,005.41
6265 · Donations/Awards	17,340.96
6270 · Dues & Subscriptions	32,296.73
6280 · Insurance	3,334.00
6283 · Equipment	9,025.17
6315 · Vehicle Maintenance	30,420.22
Total Expense	2,330,440.41
Net Ordinary Income	43,281.67
Net Income	**43,281.67**

More than 14,000 people are living with sickle cell disease in Georgia, making our state the fourth-highest count in the nation.



For online data table of this map, please visit
https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hemoglobinopathies/scdc-state-data/georgia-2015.html#demographics

44%

Younger than 20 years

46%

20–49 years

10%

50 years and older

4 in 10 people with SCD lived in just five metro Atlanta counties (Fulton, Gwinnett, DeKalb, Clayton, and Cobb).

CS 310397-D 1/16/2020

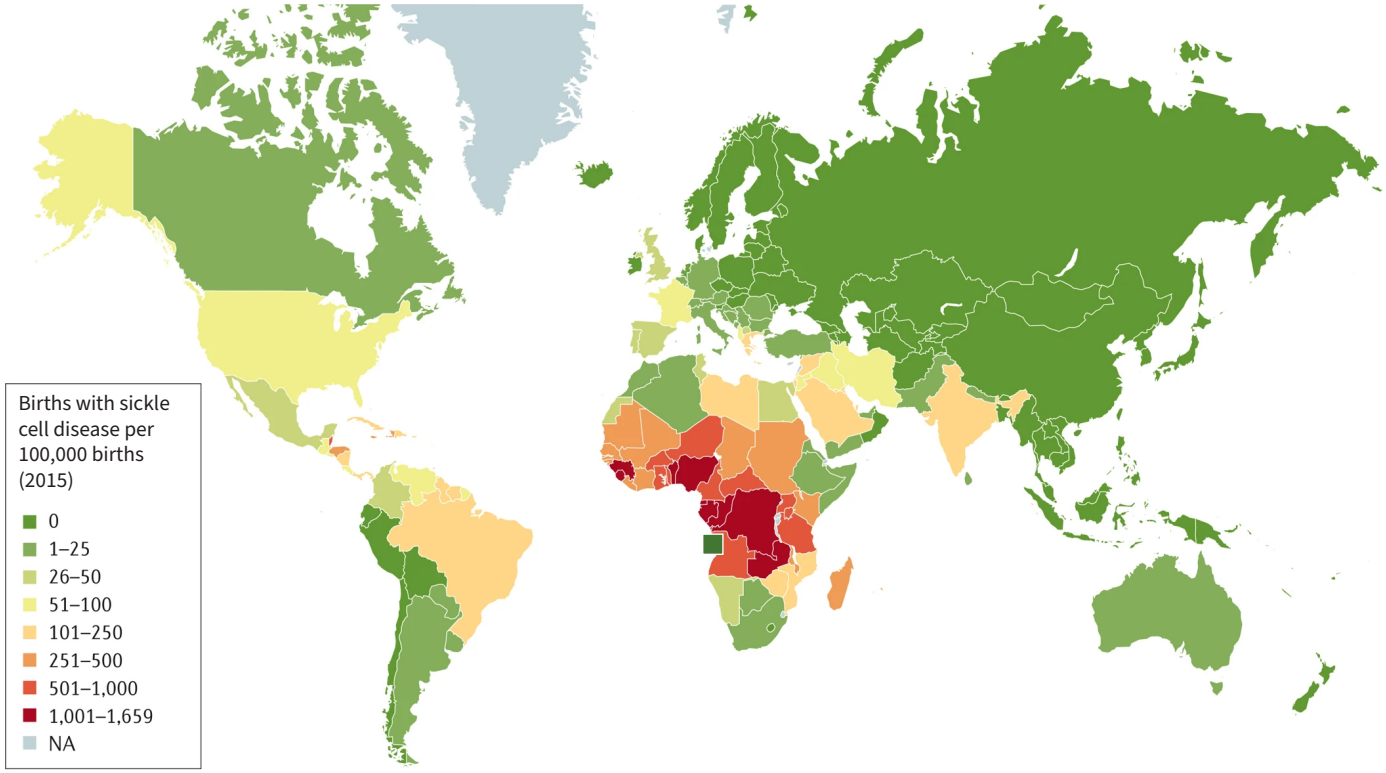
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

SCDC
Sickle Cell Data Collection

Worldwide Fight

Sickle cell disease (SCD) affects millions of people throughout the world and is particularly common among those whose ancestors came from Sub-Saharan Africa; Spanish-speaking regions in the Western Hemisphere (South America, the Caribbean, and Central America); Saudi Arabia; India; and Mediterranean countries such as Turkey, Greece, and Italy.

Sickle Cell Births Internationally



Nature Reviews | Disease Primers

Sickle Cell in the U.S.

SCD affects approximately 100,000 Americans.

SCD occurs among one of every 365 Black or African-American births and among one of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births.

About one in 13 Black or African-American babies is born with sickle cell trait (SCT).

Content source: National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - December 2020

Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc. met with church leaders and Ted Love (center), former President and CEO Global Blood Therapeutics at Atlanta's historic Friendship Baptist Church in June 2022 for the launch of the National Black Church Initiative which has incorporated sickle cell disease and education into its national platform.

2022 marked the return of the annual Sickle Cell Road Race/ Walk in beautiful downtown East Point after a brief hiatus due to COVID protocals. The ever popular Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia-sponsored race benefits Camp New Hope, a summer camp for kids and teens living with Sickle Cell Disease.

More than 200 people attended the sold-out Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia's inagural Gala: "A Gift to You" at the Renaissance Atlanta Airport Gateway Hotel in December of 2022. The guest Master of Ceremony was WSB Television Reporter Tom Jones, pictured with Tabatha McGee, Executive Director of SCFG.

Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia's Director of Business Development Bronaugh Bridges presented an award of appreciation to the Gala's top sponsor, Vertex Phnarmaceuticals. Representing Vertex was Avery Martin, Regional Director, State Advocacy.

Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia's Chairman of the Board Chuck Douglas spoke to the crowd of attendees at Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia's inagural Gala: "A Gift to You". Douglas shared his personal stories of living with sickle cell disease as a child.

The celebrity guest entertainer for Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia's Gala: "A Gift to You" was none other than Jershika Maple who wowed the crowed. Maple has placed fifth on NBC's The Voice and was a protege to music icon John Legend.

Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc.

2023 Priorities

- **Expansion of Community Health Worker Program**
  - **Hiring an additional six CHW's for each of the rural cities served (Albany, Augusta, Columbus, Hinesville, Macon and Savannah).**

6

- **Expansion of Transition Program**
  - **Lowering the age of young adults taught about transition. From age 16+ now targeting age 10 years old. We will target 100 sickle cell children.**

100

- **The Opening of Sickle Cell Wellness Center**
  - **The new wellness center will offer infusion/hydration, exercise & nutrition counseling, wound care, acupuncture, sickle cell testing, mental health counseling and medication. (Serving 300 Sickle Cell Patients Annually). The center will focus on preventative care, to help alleviate the pain crisis and the duration of the crisis.**

300

- **Expansion of Camp New Hope**
  - **Providing 300 campers with a seven days/six nights overnight, medically supervised camp. Expanding from 150 campers.**

300

- **Expansion of Certified CLIA Labatory**
  - **Providing additional testing in our lab. Testing for cancer, liver issues, cholesterol, hemoglobinopathy, heart attacks and strokes.**

500

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