



1SCFG Mobile Unit renamed "Health Hub"

# OPERATIONS REPORT 2022



Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc

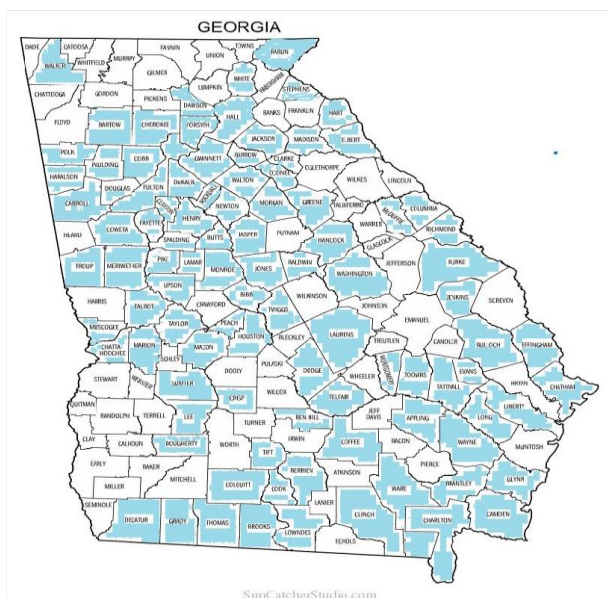
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# OPERATIONS REPORT: SICKLE CELL FOUNDATION OF GA, INC.

## Accomplishments

- Provided direct services to 1,917 individuals in 105 counties across the State of Georgia<sup>1</sup>.

Counties Served, 2022 1



- Care coordination (CHW) - 580
- Federal Program Application Assistance - 389
- Testing - 203
- Trait Parent Counseling - 412

- 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.

<sup>1</sup> Twenty-one (21) individuals served lived outside of Georgia (Alabama, Florida, Illinois, New Mexico, New York)

- Hosted transition focus group of 15 adolescents and facilitated two virtual “fishbowl” discussions on transition.
- Increased revenues by 19%<sup>2</sup>. The annual average increase is 18%, exceeding our strategic goal of 15%.

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

- Sixty-seven percent (66.7%) of revenue expended on programs and services.



## Programs, Services and Events

### Mental Health Services

#### *Mind Matters: Learning to Learn, Learning to Live, and Living to Love!*

Mind Matters is a new initiative that was launched in 2022 providing mental health education on virtual and in-person platforms. The sessions focus on providing participants an opportunity to discuss concerns and to learn approaches to identify emotional responses to

<sup>2</sup> 2022 revenue as of January 15, 2023

situations and build coping strategies. One hundred fifty-eight (158) individuals from 19 counties participated in 25 sessions (232 registered). Twenty (20) sessions were virtual and five were in-person. Two sessions were conducted at Mays High School, one with parents of students and one with students. The interactive sessions were led by double board-certified psychiatrist and a developmental psychologist. Topics included how to manage worry and stress; anxiety; suicide prevention; grief; building blocks for healthy mind and community; and communication strategies between parent and child. The psychiatrist is available for psychiatric assessments and recommendations for primary care provider implementation and monitoring. Ninety percent (90%) of participants reported learning something new; 92% would recommend the series to others; and 94% plan to attend future sessions.

### *Psychotherapy*

Psychotherapy services were provided to individuals receiving care coordination services or participating in the Mind Matters sessions. Seventy-five (75) sessions were conducted with 20 individuals living with sickle cell disease by a licensed professional counselor. The psychotherapist consults with the Mind Matters psychiatrist for individuals in need of psychopharmaceutical interventions.

### Clinical Services: Health Hub, Partnerships, and Laboratory



Upgrades to the mobile unit continued and the unit was dubbed the “Health Hub”. The Health Hub, in combination with partnerships with Federally Qualified Health Centers and

telemedicine, was used to provide hematology care to 226 individuals living with sickle cell disease **who would not otherwise** have access to sickle cell specialty care.

On-site testing was re-established and SCFG continued its partnership with LabCorp, testing 203 individuals in 2022. There was a significant increase in the number of athletes requesting testing for sickle cell trait and/or requesting their newborn screening results. New equipment was purchased to expand and modernize on-site testing and to process specimens collected during Health Hub sickle cell specialty care visits. New protocols are currently under development to ensure sustainability of the laboratory. Specimens are collected to support partner research projects

## Georgia Community Based Organization Network

The CBO (community-based organization) Capacity Building Program was initiated in 2022 to help organizations across the state strengthen and expand their programs and services. The initiative will build a network of organizations serving individuals with sickle cell disease and their families in their communities and strengthen relationships between Georgia organizations. The initiative reflects input from CBOs and a member of the Senate Sickle Cell Anemia Study. The organizations are organizations providing services across the state. The funding and capacity building assistance will promote growth and efficiency to service more individuals with SCD across the state.

<p>Chatham County - Savannah Association of Sickle Cell</p> <p>Fulton County - Sickle Cell Awareness 365</p> <p>Henry County - MTS Sickle Cell Foundation</p> <p>Liberty County - Tapestry Connections</p> <p>Muscogee County - Association of Sickle Cell Lower Chattahoochee</p> <p>Newton County - Lockhart Morgan Foundation for Sickle Cell Anemia</p> <p>Richmond County - Huisman Sickle Cell Foundation of Augusta</p>
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The CBOs currently provide an array of service to individuals living with sickle cell disease that are not otherwise available, and community awareness services. Family services include transportation to medical appointments, snacks for youth during outpatient visits, camp scholarships, academic scholarships, rent and utility assistance, care packages for hospitalized children, family assistance (parking, food, gas), hospital “go bags”, and emotional support. Community awareness events include health fairs, podcasts, distribution of educational materials, and information in print and electronic media.

## Camp New Hope

After substantial research, Camp New Hope was held in person at a new location, Camp Fortson in Hampton, Georgia. Thirty-nine campers, ages 9 to 17, participated in the 2022 session. The 2022 camp session included campers from Savannah, Augusta, Alabama North Carolina, and South Carolina. Fortson 4-H staff facilitated many of the camp activities - rock climbing, zip-lining, canoeing, farm, ecology, herpetology, native food preparation, and campfire activities. Among other activities offered at camp were horseback riding and creative arts. The camp was staffed by 20 volunteer counselors, nine nurses, and six physicians. Counselors traveled from New York and Texas. Medical staff traveled from Savannah, Chicago, Seattle, and Houston. COVID protocols and testing were established to protect campers, volunteers, and staff.



*“... Thank you for having camp. We love you so much and we love what you do for our children.”*

Parent Statement



## Youth Services

Seventeen adolescents (17) participated in focus groups and “fishbowl” discussions to inform planning of future transition education sessions. Fifty (50) youth and their parents participated in the annual Family Game Night. Toys were distributed to children hospitalized during the Christmas season. Toys were donated by church ministries, sororities, social clubs, families, and private individuals.



## Health Fairs, Presentations, and Education

During the second half of 2022, community and government organizations re-established in-person community events. Staff participated in 36 community events and health fairs reaching 2,470 individuals with information on sickle cell disease, and programs and services provided by SCFG. Nine hundred and forty-one (941) individuals received information on sickle cell disease through 11 speaking engagements. Six of the 11 events were virtual. SCFG staff

made four presentations at conferences, workgroup meetings, and podcasts. Sponsoring organizations included the Faith Alive Tabernacle Ministries, Sick Cells Priority Topic Meeting, CDC Sickle Cell Disease Data Collection CBO Workgroup, and SCDA 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

Staff participated in 12 radio and television interviews - two interviews on WABE's "Morning Edition"; two interviews on WCLK, and an interview on Real Estate Forum Radio. Television interviews included, WSB's "People2People"; two interviews with WTVM News (Columbus-Opelika-Auburn); two interviews with CBS46; two interviews with WJBF-TV (Augusta); and one interview with WXIA Channel 11. According to stations' statistics, the viewer and listenership of these stations is between and average of 55,000 and 562,000 daily views and 14.7 million listeners weekly.



### Annual Road Race



After two years, the Annual Sickle Cell Road Race/Walk was held in in-person at East Point City Hall on September 10<sup>th</sup>. This was a new site for the race postponed because of the pandemic. The day was plagued with unrelenting rain. Eight hundred fifty (850) individuals registered and despite the rain, 500 individuals participated. Participants included members of the Board of Directors, partners, and the 2022-2023 SCFG Sickle Cell Champion (formerly called Poster Child).

## Sickle Cell Day Advocacy Day



The 2022 Sickle Cell Day at the Capitol was hosted virtually on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thirty-two (32) registered and 56 attended. Attendees were welcomed by Board of Directors Co-Chair, Dr. Manu Platt followed by a welcome from Executive Director, Tabatha McGee. General Assembly Members, Representative Gloria Frazier, Representative Butch Parrish, and Senator Lester Jackson gave remarks on work done by SCFG. Dr.

Anthony Onyegbula made a presentation on the importance of services available through the Health Hub and Hematology Clinics and Terri Badour, American Red Cross, presented on the SCFG partnership and the importance of giving blood for individuals with SCD.

Accomplishments over a six-month period were shared with attendees and a petition to encourage emergency departments to follow established emergency department protocols was discussed.

## “Gift to You Gala”



SCFG launched its inaugural “A Gift to You” Gala in 2022 and it was a “sold out” event. With over 250 individuals in attendance, the gala introduced the new Executive Director, was dedicated to sickle cell warriors, and thanked the community of warriors, advocates, partners, stakeholders, and supporters.

The Gala was supported by seven generous sponsors with sponsorships ranging from \$500 to \$15,000. Entertainment was provided by ABC’s “The Voice” Finalist, Jershika Maple.



## **Volunteers**

Over the past year, 83 volunteers (48 non camp volunteers) have donated 530 hours to SCFG. Volunteers provided clerical support, camp preparation and check-in, road race preparation and operations, gala preparation, and packaging holiday gifts.

## **New Partnerships: Public/Private Partnerships**

Relationships and partnerships providing financial and/or in-kind sponsorships and contributions continue to be maintained and new relationships established, yielding approximately \$163,013 in cash (\$64,813) and in-kind (98,200) revenue. In 2022, new partnerships were established with:

- General Missionary Baptist Church
- Atrium-Navicent Medical Center, Macon
- National Black Church Initiative
- WCLK-FM
- Healthcare Georgia Foundation

SCFG received \$16,500 as a continuing recipient of the United States Federal Reserve Bank Charity Parity program.

## **SCFG Staff**

Tabatha McGee, Executive Director

Daphany Johnson, Director of Administration

Jeanette Nu'Man, Director of Operations

Jacquelyn George, Director of Advocacy and Newborn Screening

Dexter Chambers, Director of Communications

Bronaugh Bridges, Director of Business Development

Maria White-Tillman, Marketing and Events Coordinator

Amin Aleem, Accountant

Robert Butler, Program Coordinator

Kadeem Harrison, Co-Director of Camp New Hope

Nelson McGee, Outreach Specialist

Mittie Edmonds, Volunteer Coordinator

Sheryl Dean, Executive Assistant

Blaze Eppinger, Intake Specialist/Advocacy

Danina Battle, Community Health Worker

Keecilon Wright, Community Health Worker/Transition Specialist

Kiarra Meadows, Community Health Worker, Macon

Sherline Faustin, Community Health Worker, Augusta

Richard Slade, Community Health Worker, Columbus

Ezekiel Akintayo, Laboratory Technician

Dr. Otis Powell, Medical Director

Dr. Anthony Onyegbula, Hematologist

Harold Dobbs, Outreach Educator/Health Hub Driver

Najeeba Davis, Nurse

Jean Humphrey, Grant Writer

Khadija Graham, Administrative Coordinator

Alexander Little, Administrative Assistant

Linda Hughes, Receptionist

Charlotte Moody, Receptionist

Tonya Byrd, Receptionist

Quaid Aalim, IT Engineer

**January 2022**