

# Connections 2012

*Because Results Matter*

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## 2012 Joseph D. Greene Community Service Award Program



Healthcare Georgia Foundation  
grantmaking for health



# 2012 Joseph D. Greene Community Service Award

*"In a nation of our caliber, no one should be denied access to healthcare. If we're not sensitive to these problems, then no one will address them."*

- Joseph D. Greene

Medication  
Service



## Purpose

Throughout Georgia, all communities have extraordinary individuals and organizations that are committed to improving the quality of health and healthcare of those they serve.

The hard work and dedication of these heroes makes a difference in the lives of all Georgians.

Healthcare Georgia Foundation's **Joseph D. Greene Community Service Award** honors extraordinary individuals and nonprofit organizations that are committed to improving the health and healthcare of those they serve. By recognizing those that inspire and lift others up, we hope that Mr. Greene's legacy of community service will continue through the work of others.

## About Joseph D. Greene

In his 2005 memoir, *From Cotton Fields to Board Rooms*, Joseph D. Greene recounted leaving his home in rural Georgia in 1959 with his high school diploma and just \$35 he had earned from picking cotton. The years that followed him were decorated with success and achievements as he elevated himself to become a revered public leader.

Mr. Greene's remarkable triumph over poverty and adversity made him a personal hero and mentor to many. He "walked the talk" by continuously lifting others up around him and dedicating himself to helping them improve the quality of their lives. As a founding Healthcare Georgia Foundation board member, Mr. Greene helped steward the organization from its inception in 1999 through his retirement from the Board of Directors in 2006.

## 2012 Award Recipients

Healthcare Georgia Foundation is pleased to present the **Joseph D. Greene Community Service Award** to five individuals and one collaborative in recognition of their dedication and commitment to improving health and health care across Georgia.

# Inspiration

# 2012 Joseph D. Greene Community Service Award

## Paul Buczynsky, MD

*Volunteer Organization:  
Mercy Health Center  
Athens*

*Nominated by: Kristi Gilleland,  
Mercy Health Center*



Before co-founding Mercy Health Center more than ten years ago, Dr. Paul Buczynsky saw the need for access to primary healthcare for the uninsured first-hand. After his residency training, he had the unique opportunity to work in a church-based clinic in the eastern Ukraine. The experience opened his eyes to the enormous need that existed for medical care. "It was a blessing because it really makes you appreciate how fortunate we are as individuals, and as a country." His time at this clinic helped him see how a lot can be done with a little, a tenet at Mercy Health Center.

Mercy Health Center was founded for the specific mission of "providing quality healthcare in a Christ-centered environment, to our uninsured neighbors." As the Center's Medical Director, Dr. Buczynsky volunteers at least ten hours per week providing leadership for the organization, consulting the medical needs of patients, seeing patients during scheduled evening clinics, and coordinating the schedules of volunteer medical providers. The Center's large volunteer workforce is the lifeblood of the organization, and Dr. Buczynsky spends a great deal of his time recruiting and inspiring more than 500 medical, dental, and pharmaceutical providers that serve the Center.

Through Dr. Buczynsky's vision and service, Mercy Health Center conducted more than 9,000 patient visits in 2011 (completely free of charge), to patients in Athens and the surrounding communities.

## Karen Carter, MD, MEd

*Volunteer Organization:  
Special Olympics Georgia  
Atlanta*

*Nominated by: Jennifer Daniell,  
Special Olympics Georgia*



Dr. Karen Carter has spent the past 12 years volunteering her time helping to make sure the athletes at Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) are fit to compete. That however, is just the beginning. A passionate supporter of the disabled community, Dr. Karen (as she likes to be called) has served as the medical director for the State Indoor Winter Games. She also volunteers as one of the medical personnel at the State Summer Games, and is available on-call 24/7 to handle injuries and incidents that may arise during the Games.

In addition to her volunteer work with SOGA, Dr. Karen supports programs where she lives in Augusta, including the surrounding 12 counties. She serves as the Medical Director at Camp Inspire, a weeklong overnight camp for athletes with disabilities put on by Special Olympics at Camp Twin Lakes.

Out of more than 22,000 SOGA volunteers, Dr. Karen's service stands out. Not only does she help more than 5,600 athletes compete in the Games, she inspires them to improve their physical fitness, participate in social activities, and gain the confidence they need to shine.

"Encouraging others to volunteers for SOGA is interesting. I find that if you put the opportunity out there, people will want to do it," says Dr. Karen. "The athletes inspire the volunteers. I don't have to do that, the athletes to that."

## Charles G. Johnson, MD

*Volunteer Organization:  
Good Shepherd Clinic  
Morrow*

*Nominated by: Lisa Page, Good  
Shepherd Clinic*



During the early years of Dr. Johnson's private practice, volunteerism was defined as good neighbors taking care of one another. As one of only two doctors in Clayton County, much of Dr. Johnson's time was spent giving care and sharing his expertise with others. Whether he was responding to a sick baby or a great grandmother with a failing heart who lived in a remote part of the county, Dr. Johnson treated them all the same, and without regard to their insurance status.

After 47 years in private practice, he retired in 2004. A year later, L.C. Thomas, the Chairman of the Board at Good Shepherd Clinic called and asked Dr. Johnson to volunteer at the Clinic. It didn't take much to bring Dr. Johnson out of retirement. He quipped, "I've read all the books I wanted to and watched all the television I've wanted to, and I'm ready to go to work."

Now 87 years young and the Clinic's Medical Director, Dr. Johnson regularly uses his humor along with his caring nature to provide Clayton County's uninsured residents with primary healthcare. He dedicates much of his volunteer time educating and involving his colleagues in serving uninsured patients. He also devotes time to telling the Clinic's story to the community, potential volunteers, and donors. In the years since he joined the Clinic, it has grown from 1,000 to 3,000 patients served annually, all of whom have been touched by his strength, expertise, humor, and passion for helping others.

## Mary Lynch, MD

*Volunteer Organization:  
Georgia Lions Lighthouse  
Foundation, Chamblee*

*Nominated by: Christina  
Lennon, Georgia Lions  
Lighthouse Foundation*



Dr. Mary Lynch is an ophthalmologist who began volunteering at Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation in 2008. Since that time, she has provided more than 400 full eye exams to low-income clients, a critical service which often falls through the cracks. Believing that there should be no barriers to accessible, affordable healthcare, Dr. Lynch exemplifies the Lighthouse's commitment to equal opportunity healthcare by setting patients of all backgrounds at ease with her warm-hearted, yet professional manner.

Dr. Lynch's volunteer work with Lions Lighthouse extends far beyond the vision care she provides for her patients. She was instrumental in the creation of the Lighthouse's first medical committee, which helped navigate the creation of 22 statewide vision clinic sites. As a board member, she helped oversee a \$3 million capital campaign, which resulted in new office facilities and an optical lab that ultimately enabled the Lighthouse to produce glasses at significantly reduced costs.

Dr. Lynch works tirelessly to expand vision services for the uninsured working poor of Georgia and is reluctant to receive recognition for her efforts. "Many of the people who come to see us are working, but they are the working poor," said Dr. Lynch.

Through her work, Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation was able to serve more than 4,000 Georgians in 2011 – helping countless clients perform better at work and feel more optimistic about their futures.

## Janice and Tolbert Morris

*Volunteer Organization:  
Helping Hands Outreach Clinic  
Conyers*

*Nominated by: Doreen Williams,  
Educator, Community Activist,  
Board Member, Directors for  
View Point Health*



Janice and Tolbert Morris founded the Helping Hands Outreach Clinic in 2001, fulfilling a dream to serve the unmet basic healthcare needs of indigent and uninsured residents in Rockdale County. As a former health insurance claims examiner, Janice was personally pained by her primary job task - reducing or denying healthcare benefits. Tolbert's passion for the Clinic came from his experience on the Rockdale County School Board, where he saw how the lack of healthy activities for students resulted in poor academic performance and achievement.

Soaring demand for the Clinic's services has resulted in more than 7,000 patient visits over the past 11 years. The Clinic is able to meet this demand with a robust and well-organized army of healthcare volunteers who are fueled by the contagious passion and commitment the Morris' have for serving the poor. Together with volunteers, minimal staff, partnerships with medical providers, and donations from local businesses, the Clinic provides a wide range of services, including basic healthcare services, preventive and patient education, referrals, health fairs, prescription assistance, and diagnostics. Regular classes are offered by the Clinic, and staff follows up to ensure that patients are staying on track. "We ask our patients to take accountability for their own health needs by enrolling in a health initiative educational program."

The operation of the Clinic often comes at the sacrifice of the Morris' personal time, energy, and money. For Janice and Tolbert, the Clinic is a labor of love. They begin each day with prayer and by serving breakfast to the Clinic's many volunteers who prepare for the arrival of patients - mostly low-income, uninsured, or underinsured residents, and many of whom have recently lost their healthcare due to unemployment. Each patient is treated professionally and respectfully. The Clinic has become a beacon in its community and a model for success for Georgia's free clinics.

## Coordinated Care Collaborative (C3)

Fayetteville

Nominated by: Kimberly Schnoes



The Coordinated Care Collaborative (C3) was established in 2010 to serve the Fayette County population, and is comprised of a lead organization and five partner agencies that provide a wide range of coordinated health and social services:

- Fayette CARE Clinic (Lead Organization)
- Fayette Alliance Coordinating Teamwork, Outreach and Resources (FACTOR)
- Fayette Counseling Center, McIntosh Trail Community Service Board
- Fayette County Health Department
- Promise Place
- The Real Life Center

After years of working together informally, the partner organizations began to discuss formalizing the relationship to better serve shared target populations and streamline health and social services already in place. In March 2010, Fayette CARE Clinic convened the heads of the various agencies and organizations to gauge the feasibility of this arrangement and the benefits of the reduction of duplicative services and shared information and resources.

The collaborative formally came together in March 2010. Its accomplishments and impact are demonstrated as follows:

1. Procedural – creation of a formal referral form and program enabling the consistent and accurate sharing of patient data
2. Organizational – monthly meetings resulting in shared information about agency programs, community awareness, state offered programs, common patient tracking, etc.
3. Patient – comprehensive life coaching, effective teamwork, referrals, and a continuum of care

Taking a holistic approach to healthcare, C3 provides the citizens of Fayette County with access to a network of providers that might otherwise be unavailable to them. This unique network is able to maintain patient confidentiality while providing coordinated care that serves and monitors the needs of the patient. Those treated within the collaborative are able to receive a high level of care that is comparable to those with access to mainstream health and wellness care, which makes C3 an outstanding model for a nonprofit collaborative approach to healthcare delivery.

## Community Service Awards Nomination and Selection Committee

Healthcare Georgia Foundation would like to thank those individuals that gave their time to assist us in the selection of the 2012 Joseph D. Greene Community Service Award recipients.

**Yvette Payton**, Three Rivers Area Health Education Center

**Danté McKay**, JD, MPA, Voices for Georgia's Children

**Rick Ward**, CAE, American Academy of Pediatrics - Georgia Chapter

## About Healthcare Georgia Foundation

Healthcare Georgia Foundation is a statewide, private independent foundation. The Foundation's mission is to *advance the health of all Georgians and to expand access to affordable, quality healthcare for underserved individuals and communities*. Through its strategic grantmaking, Healthcare Georgia Foundation supports organizations that drive positive change, promotes programs that improve health and health care among underserved individuals and communities, and connects people, partners and resources across Georgia. For more information, please visit the Foundation online at: [www.healthcaregeorgia.org](http://www.healthcaregeorgia.org).

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