



2023 Impact Report



LUNG CANCER INITIATIVE
A NETWORK OF HOPE AND ACTION

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dear Friends of LCI,

As I reflect on 2023, I can't help but think of what a "rollercoaster" year it has been for us and those in our network. There is so much to be proud of and to celebrate, including our 15th year of our organization as a 501c3 and the 10th year of our gas card program. We annually funded the most lung cancer research in our history and began a research funding partnership with LUNgevity Foundation. It also marked the first year of our three-year strategic plan, with our strategic vision to impact people in communities of most need.

But we faced many challenges as well. We experienced loss throughout the year with the passing of several wonderful advocates in our community. In addition, we received unprecedented requests from lung cancer patients and family members for our access services. While we celebrate the accomplishments of this past year, it's the challenges that are fueling us to continue expanding our impact going into 2024.

Enclosed is a snapshot of our programs and events over the past 12 months. It's because of you that these things were possible.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to our continued partnership with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paige Humble".

Paige Humble
Chief Executive Officer
Lung Cancer Initiative



Above: Evening of Hope Gala; Below Left to Right: Annual Awards & Celebration; Triangle LUNGe Forward; Advocacy Summit

ABOUT US

Our Mission

Our mission is to advance survivorship and provide support to those affected by lung cancer through research, education and access programs.

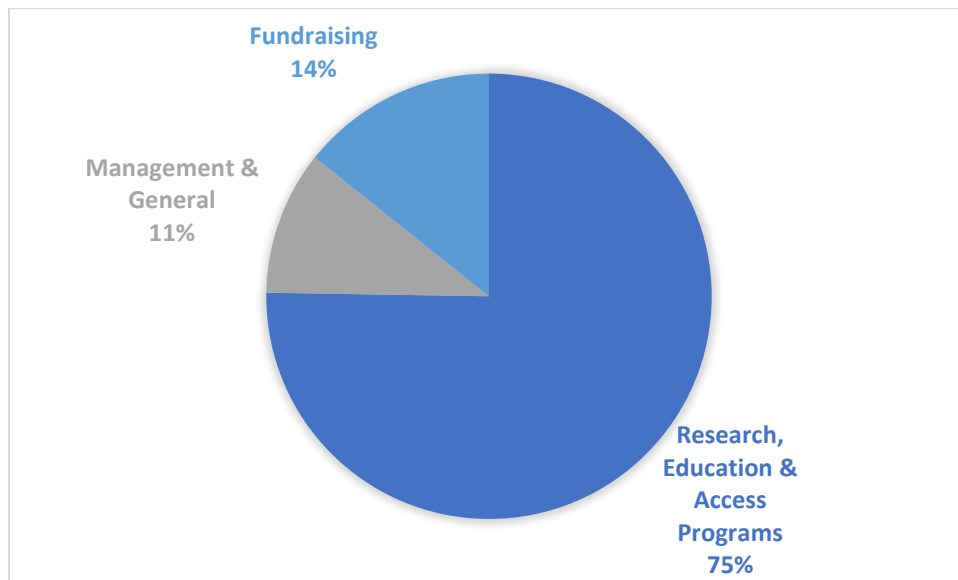
Our Vision

To improve life for everyone affected by lung cancer.

Our Core Values

- Passionate support of survivorship
- Building Community
- Compassion
- Empathy
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Responsible stewardship

Expenses for Fiscal Year 2022*



**2022 Audited Financials Statement of Activities*

View our [audited financials](#) and [990](#) online.

RESEARCH

In 2023, LCI funded \$435,500 in lung cancer research through our one-time Alumni Research Grant, Research Fellowships, Career Development Award, Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Award and our partnership with LUNGevery Foundation. Since 2008, LCI has funded more than \$3 million in lung cancer research with the majority of the funding remaining in North Carolina.

Below are our most recent researchers who were awarded funding.

Research Fellowship Program

The purpose of the Research Fellowship program is to further the development of local lung cancer care and research programs across the state of North Carolina. By funding research activities of fellows, our goal is to help to further their careers and encourage their continued involvement in the field of lung cancer. The \$25,000 grant is for one year.

2023-24 Research Fellows



Maria Mei Xu, MD, PhD, Duke University

Project: "SOX9 promotes a unique immunogenic state in small cell lung cancer (SCLC)" (Mentor: Trudy Oliver, PhD)



Neelima Navuluri, MD, MPH, Duke University

Project: "Veterans Affairs Cancer Decision Aid and Referral (VA-CEDAR) Tool for Equity in Lung Cancer Screening" (Mentor: Scott Shofer, MD)



Jeffrey Jensen, MD, PhD, UNC Chapel Hill

Project: "Genomic deletion of fusion proteins in NUT carcinoma of the lung" (Mentor: Jared Weiss, MD)

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT



Lee Ann Johnson, PhD, RN, 2019 LCI Research Fellow, East Carolina University

"One thing I love about LCI is the dedication to creating lung cancer research specialists by engaging with early career scientists. I also love that the organization awards grants to multiple disciplines. It takes a village with lung cancer," said Lee Ann Johnson, PhD, RN, 2019 Research Fellow from East Carolina University.

Dr. Johnson is currently Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia School of Nursing. Since her Fellows award she has received additional funding, and in 2022 she was selected as one of 50 promising early career scholars for the NIH/NIMHHD's annual flagship Health Disparities Research Institute.

Dr. Johnson's research interests include lung cancer stigma and how comorbidities influence a patient's treatment choices, their ability to survive and their quality of life.



Ryan Taylor Morse, MD, UNC Chapel Hill

Project: "Predictive classifier for intensive treatment of locally advanced non-small cell lung cancer using competing event regression" (Mentor: Ashley Weiner, MD)

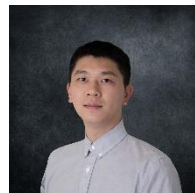


Sarah N. Price, PhD, Wake Forest Baptist

Project: "A Mixed-Method's Analysis Characterizing Sleep Disturbance and Symptom Burden Among Lung Cancer Patients Receiving Immunotherapy" (Mentors: W. Jeffrey Petty, MD; Kathryn E. Weaver, PhD)

Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Award

Through the Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Grant, LCI aims to recognize and provide research funding for innovative lung cancer projects that will improve the lives of those diagnosed with lung cancer in North Carolina. The \$25,000 grant is for one year.



Kerui Wu, PhD, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, was awarded the Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Award for their project titled "Designing Intelligent Nanovesicles for Artificial Antigen Presentation in Lung Cancer Immunotherapy."

Career Development Award

Through the \$150,000, two-year Career Development Grant, LCI supports emerging research leaders who plan to continue their career in the field of lung cancer. The researcher's project must be focused on basic scientific research with the goal of impacting lung cancer care, including lung cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or survivorship.



Justin Milner, PhD, UNC Chapel Hill, was awarded this year's grant for his project titled, "Engineering durable and effective T-cell responses against lung cancer." New patient therapies designed to boost immune responses against tumors ("immunotherapies") have revolutionized cancer treatment. T cells are a critical component of the immune system that can target and destroy cancerous cells. Notably, the tumor killing ability of T cells can be harnessed for use in cancer treatment in the form of

"adoptive cell therapy" (ACT).

ACT is an encouraging immunotherapy approach where T cells are administered to a patient to help fight cancer. While ACT has been especially effective in curing certain types of blood cancers, currently, ACT does not work well for solid malignancies, such as lung cancer. Dr. Milner said:

“In our lab, we have uncovered a new strategy for boosting the strength and durability of the T cell ‘attack’ against solid tumors. We will apply these exciting new discoveries to engineer T cells for improved responses against lung cancer, the most common cancer globally. Completion of this project will yield two important outcomes: 1) provide important insight into therapeutic approaches that will allow us to unleash powerful ACT responses in patients with lung cancer, and 2) will launch my career as a tumor immunologist specializing in strategies for tailoring immunotherapies to treat lung cancer. Immune-based therapies offer hope and promise to cancer patients where traditional treatment approaches (such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or surgery) have failed. Experiments outlined in this LCI Career Development Award proposal hold exciting possibilities for improving the success of immunotherapies that may improve the lives of patients living with lung cancer.”

Scientific Leadership Committee

Neal Ready, MD, Chair
Ed Kim, MD
Jeff Clarke, MD
Paul R. Walker, MD, FACP
Amy Cipau
Kathryn Mileham, MD
Jared Weiss, MD
Chad Pecot, MD
Jeff Petty, MD

External Scientific Review Committee

John Minna, MD
Liling Warren, PhD
Ed Kim, MD
Jeff Yang, MD
Laurie McLouth, PhD

Scientific Review Committee

Christina Bellinger, MD
Jeff Clarke, MD
Neal Ready, MD, Chair
Patti Pozella, DrPH
Liling Warren, PhD
Daniel Haggstrom, MD
Emily Harrison, PhD
Kathryn Mileham, MD
Praveen Namireddy, MD
Shetal Patel, MD
Jeff Petty, MD
Li Yang, Ph.D
Thomas Lycan, DO, MHS
Elissa Doty

FROM OUR RESEARCHERS



Hear from one of LCI’s researchers, [Anna Ivanina Foureau, PhD, Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute](#) as she shares updates from her work at a community presentation during Lung Cancer Awareness Month in 2023.

Congratulations to [LCI Research Fellow Sara Cowles, DO, East Carolina University](#) (at left) who was recognized as one of the North Carolina Oncology Association’s 15 Outstanding Fellows. [Hear Sara discuss her work at the 2023 Annual NCOA Annual Conference.](#)

ACCESS

LCI is dedicated to assisting those affected by lung cancer through our access programs, designed to support patients in accessing appropriate education, screening, biomarker testing, treatment and clinical research.

Access to Care Gas Card Program

The Access to Care Gas Card Program supports patients in accessing appropriate care and treatment, including clinical trials. Patients may receive up to three \$50 gas cards annually. In 2023, LCI provided 518 \$50 gas cards to 470 patients in 78 counties in North Carolina.

“We thank you so very much for your help. The gas card is so appreciated. I was diagnosed with lung cancer in February (2023). I started chemo and radiation May 1. This has been a very stressful time for us. We were going 1 to 2 times a day to the hospital. I have not been able to work due to my inability to do my job in heating and air. Since I have had no income, this has been a burden on us. Any help is a blessing. Your gift came at just the right time.” – Patient, Charlotte NC

REMEMBERING TOMMA HARGRAVES

2023 marked the 10th Anniversary of Lung Cancer Initiative’s (LCI) Gas Card Program. This program was developed through a collaboration between LCI and our dear friend, Tomma, who faced a stage 3B lung cancer diagnosis in 2006. She knew she had a tough road ahead, but she faced it with determination—even after progressing to stage 4 a few years later. In spite of that setback, she was fortunate to be an exceptionally long-term survivor.

Hear Tomma’s story by clicking the image below.



2023 Gas Card Distribution by County



- 1 Alexander
- 2 Washington
- 3 Edgecombe
- 4 Northampton
- 5 Hertford
- 6 Camden
- 7 Currituck
- 8 Chowan
- 9 Perquimans
- 10 Pasquotank

LCI Gas Card Program

■ Counties Reached in 2023

Patient Emergency Fund

To support lung cancer patients who were financially impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, LCI established the [Patient Emergency Fund](#) in 2020 to help lung cancer patients stay healthy and to meet their basic needs. Recognizing the continued financial burden of a cancer diagnosis, LCI has continued the program and in 2023:

- **50 patients each received a \$100 stipend for a total of \$5,000 in funding.**
- **94% of recipients indicated an annual household income of \$49,000 or less.**
- **46% of recipients identified as White and 48% as Black.**

REACH Community Grant Program

The Lung Cancer Initiative's REACH Community Grant Program aims to empower and support community organizations to fill a gap in lung cancer care within their local communities. This program awards funding of up to \$10,000 to support community-based organizations and non-profit institutions in their collaborative efforts to holistically assist the entire lung cancer community, particularly those who are uninsured, underinsured, and most impacted. Formerly the Access Grant program, this program began in 2016 and has collectively awarded **\$181,984 to 16 different community-based organizations** across North Carolina.

In 2023, LCI awarded three \$10,000 grants to the following organizations:

- **Kinston Community Health Center**, Screening Access
- **Cone Health**, Defining the Health Economic and Disparity Impact of a Community-Based Comprehensive Lung Cancer Program through Education, Coordination, Screening, Minimally Invasive Diagnostics and Minimally Invasive Surgery
- **Crystal Coast Cancer Rehabilitation Center**, Lung Cancer Patient Rehabilitation

REACH Community Grant Committee

Kenisha Bethea, MPH

Kimberly Alexander Bratcher, MPH

Jenni Danai, MPH, LCI Staff

Angela Hopper

Jennifer Ersek Smith, MSPH, PhD

Susan Moore, PhD

Aurita Menezes

EDUCATION

LCI is dedicated to furthering education about lung cancer through community and provider education initiatives. Throughout 2023, educational opportunities were designed in partnership with experts and organizations from across the state on topics including lung cancer screening, updates in treatment and advanced care planning.

Community Education

LCI relied on partners across the state to deliver community education to 709 individuals through 19 community education events in communities including Chapel Hill, Wilmington, Charlotte, Greenville and Clayton. Several community education programs were recorded and are available [online](#).



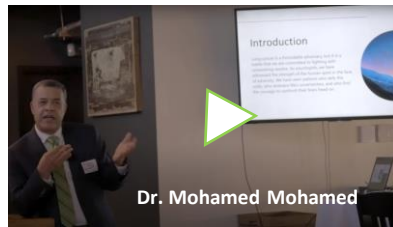
Left to Right: Vicky Fowler, MD, Lung Cancer Screening; UNC Health team, Updates in Lung Cancer & Navigation; Kathryn Mileham, MD, Treatment Updates

Advocacy Summit: “Find Your Voice”



Sixty-six survivors, advocates, caregivers and providers gathered on September 14 and 15 in Greensboro, NC to discuss how to “find your voice” to be a more effective lung cancer advocate. Keynote speaker, Tracey McCain, shared her family’s journey with lung cancer and advocacy and experts from the Triad led sessions on updates in lung cancer treatment, lung cancer screening and cancer survivorship.

Click on the images below to see speaker presentations from this year’s Summit.



Dr. Mohamed Mohamed



Jim Sheegog



Brad Icard, DO
Cone Health

Dr. Bradley Icard



Dr. Stacy Wentworth

Provider Education Summit

In August, 15 providers came together for a virtual summit all about “A Comprehensive Approach to Treating Lung Cancer.” Thought leaders from across North Carolina presented information to community oncologists on topics including lung cancer screening, disparities in lung cancer care, advancements in treatment, surgical treatment of lung cancer and comprehensive biomarker testing. This program is available for viewing [online](#).



Lung Cancer Screening

In November, LCI launched a three-year state-wide screening education project called **Screening Saves** funded by AstraZeneca which includes gathering baseline data from primary care providers and screening navigators, a screening navigator best practices network and development of a screening awareness campaign.



In December, LCI sponsored the annual **North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians Conference** including a keynote presentation about lung cancer screening to more than 700 registered participants by Dr. Bradley Icard, pulmonologist with Cone Health.

LCI is a partner in the **North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control** where Jenni Danai, Chief Mission Delivery Officer, serves as the co-chair of the early detection subcommittee. LCI partnered with ACCCC and ACS in the **Get Screened Coalition Project** that targeted specific geographic areas in western North Carolina for a lung cancer screening awareness campaign.

In addition, LCI is a collaborator on the **Promising Interventions in Lung Cancer** collaboration that includes local health systems, advocacy organizations and industry partners. In December, the group hosted an educational session called **Increasing Lung Cancer Screening in the Carolinas: Bringing Experiences together webinar**.

Provider Education Committee

Jason Akulian, MD, MPH
Jared Weiss, MD
Lynn Bowlby, MD
Hiren Mehta, MD
BJ Peterson, PhD

Louise M. Henderson, PhD
Jimmy Ruiz, MD
Trey Shelton, MD
Aundrea Oliver, MD
Mellisa Wheeler, MHA

SURVIVORSHIP & CAREGIVER SUPPORT



Throughout the year, we remained focused on looking for ways to provide support and networking opportunities for lung cancer survivors. More than 100 survivors engaged with us through a variety of opportunities throughout the year including our weekly luncheons and annual Survivor's Day Celebration in June. In addition, we funded a REACH grant that provided respites for lung cancer survivors and hosted our annual Survivor Wellness Retreat.

Survivors Day Celebration

In June, 40 people including lung cancer survivors and their loved ones gathered at Mez in Durham for the "Groovin' for Hope" Survivors Day Celebration. Heidi Onda from The White Ribbon Project was the guest speaker and shared her story and the impact of advocacy.

Wellness Retreat

Wind River Cancer Wellness Retreats led the sixth annual Lung Cancer Survivor Wellness Retreat funded by LCI in September. Eight lung cancer survivors and an all-survivor led team participated in this virtual event to teach wellness and stress reducing techniques as well as to foster a network among survivors.

Survivors Luncheon Series

This monthly series is an opportunity for survivors to meet and network with other survivors. The group meets the first Wednesdays of every month and includes opportunities to socialize as well as topics of interest to attendees including exercise, nutrition and mindfulness-based stress reduction.

Night of Remembrance

LCI partnered with Transitions Lifecare to offer a Night of Remembrance in June. Twenty-five people gathered for the event and to remember those that we have lost.

Survivor Steering Committee

Tomma Hargraves
Angela Hopper
Ginny Kloepfer
Meredith Lundy

Mike Smith
Mary Frances White



[Hear highlights from this year's wellness retreat from lung cancer survivor and host, Teri Barron \(pictured at left\).](#)

AWARENESS



Through community health fairs and events and partnership with groups like The White Ribbon Project and the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative, LCI seeks to raise awareness of lung cancer throughout the community.

Health Fairs

LCI was pleased to participate in 17 health fairs across North Carolina with partners including Families & Communities Rising, Duke Health, ECU Health, National Night Out and NC Central University.

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

From community and provider education, to supporting Lung Cancer Awareness Month (LCAM) events hosted by partners including UNC Health and Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, to myriad special events including the Jodi 5K Run & Walk, All-In to Fight Cancer Charity Poker Tournament and the Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Fights Cancer event, this year's LCAM was a busy one! Each LCAM, LCI seeks to support partners in their awareness efforts and to provide free awareness and educational resources to lung cancer advocates in our community.

LCAM HIGHLIGHTS

Checkout highlights from throughout November in the below video.



The White Ribbon Project

Each year, LCI advocates across NC team-up with The White Ribbon Project, a national organization that seeks to increase awareness by sharing white ribbons throughout the lung cancer community and beyond to unify the lung cancer community and increase public recognition of the white ribbon as a lung cancer symbol.



Left: Advocate Chad Helton (second from left) and his sons presented ribbons to the local Davie County School Board honoring their grandfather who was a member and who lost his life to lung cancer. Right: Lung cancer survivor Judy Noble partnered with the Kraft Family Center YMCA to lead a white ribbon build of 48 white ribbons.

Lung Cancer Initiative Events & Celebrations

LUNGe Forward Walks & Runs

More than 1,000 supporters stepped out in Charlotte, the Triad, the Triangle and our newest location in Greenville as a part of the LUNGe Forward series and for the Jodi 5K Run & Walk in Durham. Collectively, these events raised more than \$400,000 to further lung cancer research, education and access programs.



Held on Saturday, March 25 at a new venue, Koka Booth Amphitheatre, the **Triangle LUNGe Forward Walk & Celebration** presented by Duke Raleigh Hospital raised more than \$114,000 and had 460 participants.

Co-presented by Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute and Charlotte Radiology, the **Charlotte LUNGe Forward 5K Run, Walk & Celebration** at McAlpine Creek Park included a timed 5K run, survivorship celebration and activities for the whole family. More than 410 registered participants raised \$93,336 through the event.



On October 7, 325 participants stepped out and raised more than \$85,500 at the **Triad LUNGe Forward 5K Run, Walk & Celebration** co-presented by Parks Chevrolet and Parks Buick GMC Kernersville. Held at Country Park, this year's event included music, food, a celebration rally and activities for the whole family.

Held over Halloween weekend at Boyd Lee Park on October 28, the inaugural **Greenville LUNGe Forward 5K Run, Walk & Celebration** presented by the John R. and Yantus S. Jenkins Trust had nearly 70 participants and raised more than \$34,000.



The **Jodi 5K Run and Walk at Forest Hills Park** presented by Urban Durham Realty united with more than 665 participants and raised more than \$75,500 for lung cancer research and education on November 5. This annual event is held in memory of Jodi Koviach and led by her many friends and family.

Lung Cancer Initiative Golf Classic



It was a gorgeous day to golf for lung cancer research and education on October 24 at MacGregor Downs Country Club. Presented by Stitch Golf, the **Lung Cancer Initiative Golf Classic in memory of Ben Hynson** had 124 registered players and raised more than \$50,000.

Evening of Hope – A Winter Wonderland



Two-hundred seventy people attended the **2023 Evening of Hope Gala** presented by AstraZeneca at North Ridge Country Club on November 4 and raised \$162,000 to benefit LCI. The event included a silent and live auction, live music from the Carolina Moondogs, dinner and dancing. This year's event also remembered Tomma Hargraves and celebrated her impact, and survivor Teri Barron shared highlights from the annual Wellness Retreat.

All-In to Fight Cancer



LCI was honored to be the beneficiaries of the second annual Raleigh **All-In to Fight Cancer Charity Poker Tournament** on November 16 at the Ritz Raleigh along with another amazing non-profit supporting mothers with cancer, the Helene Foundation. It was an incredibly hopeful and fun celebration, and we met so many wonderful advocates who are passionate about making a difference for those impacted by cancer.



Survivors at this year's Evening of Hope.

COLLABORATIONS

LCI works closely with partners through collaboration and participation in community associations including:



LungCAN (Lung Cancer Action Network)
NC Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination & Control
Health Research Alliance
National Lung Cancer Roundtable
NC Center for Nonprofits
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce

GIVING HOPE SOCIETY



The Giving Hope Society recognizes the generosity and impact of individuals and families who are sustaining donors to LCI. Society members contribute a minimum of \$1,000 annually in unrestricted cash gifts to the organization.

Donations can be in memory or in honor of a loved one, made toward a LCI event, or a special gift directed toward the Society. The care and kindness of our Society members fuels critical research, education, awareness and access programs across the state.

All members were honored during a Giving Hope Society reception in September at Biofidelity where Chad Pecot, MD, LCI Alumni Grant recipient shared perspectives on the impact of lung cancer research funding.





2023 GIVING HOPE SOCIETY MEMBERS

Dr. Jason Akulian	Jeff Grote	Karen Paris
Tammy and Darrin Allred	Drs. Douglas Hammer and Susan Moore	Joellen Parks
Glenn and Suzanne Andrews	Tomma and Bob Hargraves	Khaki Parks
Polly Armsby	Kristin and Chris Hayduk	Sissy Parks
Bob and Pat Barker	Gary and Lynne Hicks	Stuart Parks
Don and Carla Berryann	Cathy Hogan	Tracy Parks
Dr. Jeff Blum	Beth Holmes	Dr. Chad Pecot
Avery Boone and John Cates	Bo and Heather Hooper	Bill and BJ Peterson
Doug and Hope Brown	Liz Hynson	Frank and Colleen Pirozzi
Jason Carroll	Nick Hynson and Katie Flocco	Gerald Postema
Mary Casey	Dan and Nancy Johns	Nirmaladevi Premakumar
Amy and Dr. Gabriel Cipau	Theresa Kelly	Sanjay Premakumar
Dr. Jeffrey and Shannon Clarke	John and Cece Kennedy	Chris and Susanne Rallis
Jeff and Patricia Cloud	Bill and Ginny Kloepfer	Drs. Neal Ready and Lynn Bowlby
Elizabeth Collins	Paul Lester	Jeffrey and Beth Richek
Jennifer and Steve Colon	Clyde and Meredith Lundy	Scott Riddle
Tim and Katie Conley	Chad Mastry	Bill Roberts
Anthony and Brooke Contini	Nancy McFarlane	Coleman Ross
Tracy Delahunt	Jarin and Brielle McKay	James Saunders
Jennifer Dent	Michael and Jaymie McKay	Graham Self
Matt Hellgeth and Elissa Doty	Dr. Hiren Mehta	Jim and Deborah Sheegog
Beth Dougherty	Aurita Menezes	Susan Smith
John Dyson	Chester "Junie" Michael III	Dr. Kevin and Elizabeth Speight
Tracy Edwards	Dr. Kathryn Mileham	Michael Sulick
Rebecca Ennis	Louise Miller	Jenna Temple
Dr. Jennifer Ersek Smith and Adam Smith	Tom Moser	Gail Templeton
Dr. Romi Farber and Allen Smith	Catreliya Moylan	Bradley and Meredith Tomlin
Paul and Lucy Fedorkowicz	Bernice Newsome	Michael Tulp
Samantha Freiberg	Justin Brian and Angela Nicholson	Dr. Paul and Kathryn Walker
Carol Anne Fry	Katie Nifong	Pam Warren
Matthew Fry	Curt and Judy Noble	Brad and Megan Weddington
Adam and Anderson Garrett	Kevin Nunnery	Dr. Jared Weiss
Drs. Jennifer Garst and Shawn Sendlinger	Dr. Aundrea Oliver and Paul Perkovich	John and Roberta Wilder
Charday Graham	Gwen and Justin Orilio	Michelle Turner

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS GIVING HOPE SOCIETY MEMBERS!

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

LCI Annual Awards Update & Celebration

In March, LCI held our Annual Awards Update and Celebration where we looked back at our accomplishments in 2022 and honored the below award recipients for their commitment to LCI and to the lung cancer community.



Special Recognition - Leadership Award Emily Parks

Emily Parks was recognized for her outstanding leadership and incredible impact as the chair of the Triad LUNGe Forward 5K Run, Walk & Celebration for 13 years. After losing her father to lung cancer, Emily became a passionate advocate seeking to raise awareness and further education about the disease through her work at Lung Cancer Initiative. Emily continues to advance LCI's mission as the Board Secretary on LCI's Board of Directors and as the new chair of LCI's Marketing Committee.



Volunteer of the Year: This award recognizes the impact, dedication and generosity of someone who gives their time freely to support the mission of the Lung Cancer Initiative. Health fair volunteers, community presenters, grassroots event planners, and other volunteers may be nominated.

2022 Winner: Chad Helton

Chad Helton embodies LCI's core values of supporting survivorship and strengthening the build of community. He truly cares for everyone he meets, and his kind and collaborative approach to working with others naturally inspires people to want to support the lung cancer community through events like the UNC Football Awareness event last fall.



Junior Volunteer of the Year: This award recognizes the impact, dedication and generosity of a young adult who gives their time freely to support the mission of the Lung Cancer Initiative. Health fair volunteers, community presenters, grassroots event planners, and other volunteers may be nominated.

2022 Winner: Casey Delahunt

Casey is a compassionate student who keeps her aunt's memory alive through her joyful support towards lung cancer survivors. Casey has supported the Charlotte LUNGe Forward event by helping to lead the Survivor, Friends, & Family Tent in honor of our survivors, in memory of those we have lost to lung cancer and for her aunt, Kelly.

ANNUAL AWARDS UPDATE

Checkout highlights from this year's annual meeting as shared by our friends at All-In to Fight Cancer by clicking the below image.





Survivor of the Year: This award recognizes someone who has been diagnosed with lung cancer and who has used their journey to support others as a source of inspiration and hope.

2022 Winner: Elissa Doty

Elissa Doty has defied many odds to survive advanced lung cancer and has devoted much of her time to supporting lung cancer research and awareness. Last year, she was the top fundraiser for the Triangle LUNGe Forward. Her strong participation and engagement in events like the Gala and Year End campaigns has helped raise significant funding for LCI. Click [here](#) to learn more about how her story inspires and gives hope to individuals to persevere, survive, and even thrive with lung cancer.



Caregiver of the Year: This award is given in recognition of the compassion and devotion of someone who takes care or has taken care of an individual diagnosed with lung cancer.

2022 Winner: Krista Carlson

In June of 2022, Krista Carlson's husband, Adam Carlson, was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer that had spread to his spine. Krista has taken on the roles of a caregiver, nurse, doctor, and assumed roles of their household. Krista has a sincere interest in spreading awareness about lung cancer. Krista's heart and soul have truly become the embodiment of the core values of LCI.



Committee Member of the Year: This award recognizes the time, energy, and support given by a committee member who is exceptionally dedicated to supporting the Lung Cancer Initiative's mission. Volunteers serving on the Evening of Hope Gala committee, Marketing committee, Access Grant committee, or any of the LUNGe Forward 5K committees may be nominated.

2022 Winner: Judy Noble

Judy works a full-time job and leads a busy life, yet she makes time to support LCI and fellow survivors because of her strong determination to make a difference in individuals. Judy joined the Evening of Hope Gala and the Triangle LUNGe Forward planning committees where she has been a mentor and a supporter of many newly diagnosed with lung cancer.



Healthcare Professional of the Year: This award recognizes an oncologist, nurse navigator, or any other healthcare professional that goes above and beyond in an effort to provide supportive and patient centered care to lung cancer survivors. Primary care physicians, oncologists, nurse navigators, clinical social workers, and other healthcare professionals may be nominated.

2022 Winner: Elizabeth Hess

Elizabeth Hess is a nurse navigator at Atrium Health – Levine Cancer Institute in Charlotte and utilizes this role to help support her patients by connecting them to LCI. She continues making an impact in the community through her engagement in the Charlotte LUNGe Forward 5K Run, Walk and Celebration

committee and dedication to her patients.

Other Distinctions

Guidestar 2023 Seal of Transparency

LCI earned a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar, the world’s largest source of nonprofit information. By sharing metrics that highlight progress Lung Cancer Initiative is making toward its mission, the organization is helping donors move beyond simplistic ways of nonprofit evaluation such as overhead ratios.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Amy Cipau, MBA, MA, President & Founder
Advocate**

**Jim Sheegog, Vice President
Rowhill Consulting Group**

**Jennifer Garst, MD, Board Chair
Duke Raleigh Hospital**

**Emily Parks, Secretary
Organize for Success**

**Justin Brian Nicholson, Treasurer
Sterling Capital**

**Jason Akulian, MD
UNC Health**

**Neal Ready, MD
Duke Cancer Institute**

**Liz Hynson
Lung Cancer Advocate**

**Hiren Mehta, MD
UNC Health/UNC Rex**

**Aundrea Oliver, MD
ECU Heart Institute**

**Kathryn Mileham, MD
Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute**

**Chris Rallis
Pappas Capital**

**Michael Sulick
Lung Cancer Advocate**

STAFF

Paige Humble, MBA, Chief Executive Director

**Jenni Danai, MPH, Chief Mission Delivery
Officer**

Sue Daniels, Office Manager

Lynne Hicks, CPA Director of Finance

Sandy Oehler, Senior Director of Special Events

Claire Connely, Events Coordinator

Susan Kjellqvist, Director of Development

Alisha Patel, Community Outreach Manager

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS

