

Annual Report 2019



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ABOUT THE GEORGIA GERONTOLOGY SOCIETY

– Mission –

The Georgia Gerontology Society (GGS) is a statewide multidisciplinary professional network that educates, serves, and advocates for older adults and their families.

– Vision –

GGS will be the principal network of educators, professionals, and businesses that serve older adults in Georgia.

– About –

Since 1955, GGS has been a tradition for professionals in aging as a membership organization of people with a common interest in the field of aging. GGS is the largest state organization of multidisciplinary professionals in the field of aging.

- Through collaborations, GGS gives voice and guidance to aging issues at the state and national level.
- By providing quality education and training opportunities, GGS enhances professional and personal development.
- GGS supports students pursuing careers in gerontology through networking, mentoring, and scholarships.

– Board of Directors –

The Georgia Gerontology Society has a Board of Directors which directs the business of the organization. The GGS Board of Directors are elected by the membership and comprised of the officers, past president, sections and chapter representatives (if applicable), and members at large.

2019: A YEAR IN REVIEW

MEMBERSHIP

The Georgia Gerontology Society ended 2019 with 200 memberships representing 301 individuals. As part of our strategic planning process, we have tracked several membership objectives. Progress on these objectives is outlined below.

Strategic Plan Objective: Improve retention rate by 10% (3-year goal).

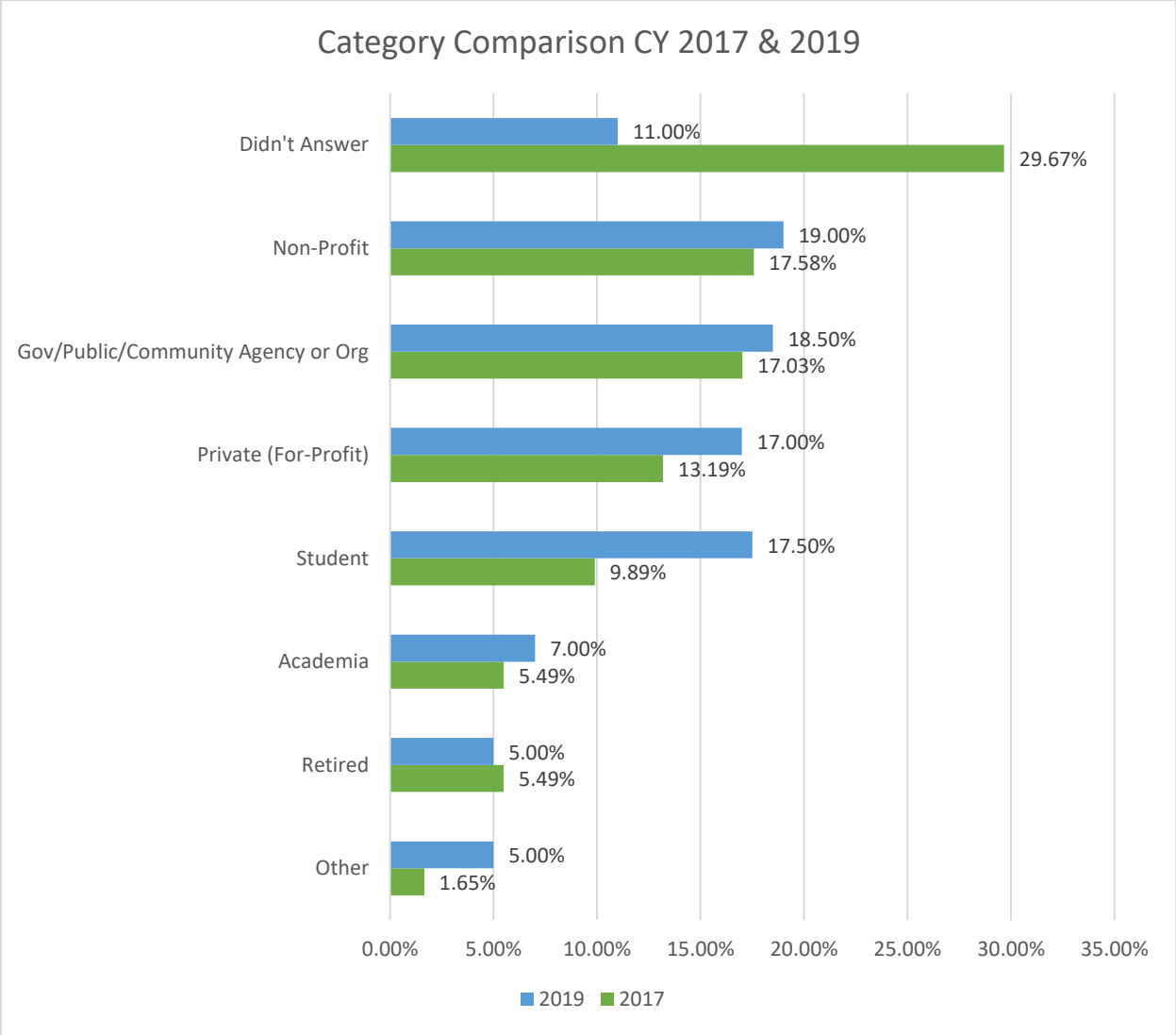
Our baseline of 65% retention was from CY 2016. In CY 2017, 69% of members were retained. In CY 2018, 74% of members were retained. In CY 2019, 70% of members were retained. This includes members that left but came back as well as members who moved from a general membership to under an organizational membership. We did not meet our objective but did increase retention by 5%.

Strategic Plan Objective: Increase membership by 10% (3-year goal).

In CY 2017, we began calculating the number of people served under organizational memberships; therefore, it is more appropriate to use the CY 2017 data as the baseline. In 2017, we had 182 memberships representing 253 individuals. In CY 2018, we had 183 memberships representing 272 individuals which is a 7.5% increase. In CY 2019, we had 200 memberships representing 301 individuals which is a 19% increase over CY 2017. We have met this objective.

Strategic Plan Objective: Increase membership of targeted populations by 10% (3-year goal).

Based on a membership survey conducted in 2017, the GGS Membership Committee chose academic and private sector memberships as targeted areas for growth. CY 2017 was the first year this information was available. Below is a comparison of CY 2017 and CY 2019. Memberships identifying as academia has risen slightly (1.51%). Private (for-profit) rose by 3.81%. We did not meet this objective. Our biggest area of growth has been students at 7.61%.



GGS continued its Mentor Program which began 2018. The GGS Mentor Program pairs a student or professional new to the aging network with a professional who has been in the field of aging for 10 years or more. The mentorship lasts one year and involves one face to face meeting and a minimum of two additional phone contacts a year. The goal of the GGS Mentor Program is to provide new professionals and students in aging a means to get plugged in to the aging network. Mentors serve as a sounding board, a resource, and a friendly face at GGS events. In 2019, four pairings finished their year commitment and four new pairings started.

GGS conducted two networking events. The first was at Somerby at Sandy Springs in May 2019. The second was at Georgia Southern University’s Armstrong campus in September 2019. The

purpose of these events is to provide an opportunity for professionals and students to network with one another and make new connections.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Our 64th Annual Conference was held at the beautiful Ritz-Carlton Reynolds at Lake Oconee. Annual Conference. Our theme for the 64th Annual Conference was *Connect. Explore. Grow.* Over three days of dynamic general sessions, engaging educational workshops, and networking opportunities, GGS provided attendees with the tools to:

- CONNECT with colleagues to develop new collaborations and break down silos,
- EXPLORE innovative and best practices across the aging network, and
- GROW to become better providers, leaders, and advocates for older adults.

A special thank you to our Sponsors:

- Gold Sponsor – AARP Georgia
- Silver Sponsor – Mercer University College of Health Professions
- Silver Sponsor – Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Conference Bag Sponsor – Law Office of Dennise L. Grayson, LLC.
- Keynote Speaker Sponsor – Culture Change Network of Georgia

As part of our strategic plan, we have been tracking several objectives tied to our Annual Conference. These were not collected in 2018 due to our joint conference with the Southern Gerontological Society.

Strategic Plan Objective: Increase the number of professionals attending the annual conference by 10%.

The baseline for this objective was 177 registrants in 2016. In 2017, we had 167 registrants. In 2019, we had 180 registrants. This represents an 8% increase from 2017 and a 2% increase from 2016. Although we did not meet our objective, we did increase attendance.

Strategic Plan Objective: Increase the diversity of professionals presenting at the annual conference.

Presenters Type	2016 %	2017 %	2019 %
Academia	19%	12%	22%
Government/Public/Community Agency or Organization	29%	32%	16%
Non-Profit	29%	17%	22%
Private Business (For-profit)	20%	24%	35%
Retired	0%	10%	4%
Student	3%	5%	2%

Our presenter breakdown has varied each year. In 2019, we saw a decrease in the number of government/public/community agency or organization presenters which has typically been our largest group. We saw an increase in private businesses, and academics. Non-profit presenters increased from 2017 but was lower than 2016. Retired and student presenters remained low. We originally had an objective to increase diversity by 10% but did not identify specific groups to target; therefore, this objective is not really measurable.

Strategic Plan Objective: Increase diversity of attendees.

As with the previous objective, specific categories were not identified to actually measure if a specific type increased. Instead, we present a comparison between 2017 which was the baseline and 2019 for your review. This was not collected in 2018 due to the joint conference with SGS.

Which of these categories do you identify yourself with?

	2017%	2019%
Government/Public/Community Agency or Organization	40%	37%
Non-Profit	33%	25%
Private Business (For-profit)	11%	11%
Student	5%	6%

Academia	5%	7%
Retired	3%	8%
Other	2%	5%

Which of the following best describes the over-arching service area you work in?

	2017%	2019%
Home & Community Based Services	41%	24%
Advocacy/Public Policy	19%	25%
Other	15%	17%
Education/training/workforce development	9%	10%
Health Care Delivery - home or residential setting	5%	7%
Not Applicable (Retired or Not Working)	4%	5%
Health Care Delivery - hospital or office/clinic setting	3%	4%
Housing/Residential Setting	3%	3%
Legal and/or Financial Services	1%	2%
Mental Health	1%	4%

Please tell us what profession you consider yourself?

	2017%	2019%
Health or Human Services Program Manager	19%	11%
Other	18%	29%
Social Worker/LPC/LMFT/Mental Health Counselor	14%	17%
Case Manager/Care Manager	9%	7%
Gerontologist	8%	5%
Marketing/Community Outreach	8%	3%
Public Policy	7%	2%
Patient Advocacy	3%	4%
Wellness/Activity Specialist/Recreation	3%	4%

Caregiver	2%	1%
Nurse (RN, LPN, etc.)	2%	5%
Professor/Educator	2%	4%
Business Owner	1%	2%
OT/PT/Speech Therapist	1%	1%
Rehabilitation Professional	1%	0%
Allied Health Professional	1%	1%
Lawyer/Legal Services	0%	1%
LTC/Residential Services	0%	2%
Physician	0%	1%

Strategic Plan Objective: Create a fun, dynamic and engaging learning environment at the conference.

AND

Strategic Plan Objective: Increase engagement of students, first time attendees, and early career professionals.

The following questions were added to the evaluation to develop a baseline for these two objectives in 2017. Below is a comparison on 2017 to 2019.

2017 Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I made professional connections at the GGS annual meeting that will benefit my work.	64%	33%	3%	0%	0%
The conference sessions were engaging.	65%	29%	6%	0%	0%
The speakers made every effort to engage the audience.	53%	36%	11%	0%	0%

I enjoyed my time at the GGS conference this year.	77%	22%	1%	0%	0%
This conference promoted individual learning in my field of work.	60%	36%	4%	0%	0%
GGS staff and members were welcoming to me during the conference.	81%	19%	0%	0%	0%

2019 Responses	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I made professional connections at the GGS annual meeting that will benefit my work.	71%	28%	1%	0%	0%
The conference sessions were engaging.	75%	22%	3%	0%	0%
The speakers made every effort to engage the audience.	69%	24%	7%	0%	0%
I enjoyed my time at the GGS conference this year.	84%	16%	0%	0%	0%
This conference promoted individual learning in my field of work.	77%	19%	3%	1%	0%
GGS staff and members were welcoming to me during the conference.	76%	24%	0%	0%	0%

We saw an increase in strongly agree across all questions except the last question where we still maintained a 100% strongly agree/agree rate.

Strategic Plan Objective: Provide evidence-based training through webinars marketed to members and potential members.

The following webinars were provided:

Engaging In Conversations About Advanced Care Planning

Adrienne Mims, MD MPH FAAFP, AGSF

VP, Chief Medical Officer, Medicare Quality Improvement

Lois J. Ricci RNC, GNP, Ed.D

Adjunct Professor, Kennesaw State University, Clayton State University

Consultant, Geriatric, Gerontology

National Healthcare Decisions Day exists to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. In celebration of 2019 Healthcare Decision day. Presenters provided information about the “how” and “why” to have these important discussions.

People are comfortable talking about family, work, and social activities. Advance Directives is a topic that that most people do not want to consider. End of life decisions are daunting! Few would say it is not necessary to make decisions and put them in writing, but only a few have discussed the subject with family or friends and prepared their advanced directives. Experts tell us that the best way to begin the end of life discussion is to begin the conversation!

This presentation discussed how reframing the conversation could be the better approach. Adding advanced directives to your Life Plan. How do you want to live until the end? Maybe, then more people will be willing to start the conversation.

Doing research as a practitioner: Getting what you need from the literature

Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan, Georgia State University, Gerontology Institute

As leaders in Gerontology, you are often expected to be up-to-speed on the latest knowledge in the field. Judging whether new ideas are evidence-based or just a fad is difficult in an information rich environment. This webinar reviewed different strategies for accessing research and judging the quality of research to support the critical problem solving of professionals in the field of aging.

Implementation of the Annual Wellness Visit to Improve MIPS Scores

Donna Cohen, Alliant Quality

Over the past three decades, various federal administrations have approached changes in the fee for service episodic health care delivery system. However, there has not been success as measured by persistent changes, lowered cost curve, or relative improvement in life expectancy compared to other developed nations. Tools that promote patient centeredness can result in care that is more appropriate and of higher value. This session explained how the implementation of tools can support efficient care delivery at high value.

Anxiety & Depression – Hiding in Plain Sight

Jocelyn Chen Wise, Fuqua Center for Late-Life Depression

This webinar reviewed the symptoms of anxiety and depression, two of the most common mental health disorders seen among older adults. It also covered the administration and scoring of two evidence-based screening tools, the Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9) and Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale 7 (GAD-7). Suicide among older adults was also discussed as well as steps that can be taken for seeking help and treatment.

Grantwriting for the Aging Network

Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan, Georgia State University, Gerontology Institute

This webinar was co-sponsored by the Southern Gerontological Society and the Georgia Gerontology Society.

This webinar provided an overview of the practical aspects of planning for and writing a grant to support aging services programs or interventions. Dr. Morgan has more than 15 years' experience writing, implementing, and evaluating grant-funded projects aimed at improving training, job quality, and quality of care for older adults across healthcare settings. Dr. Morgan shared practical tips on how to get started and tips for those already in the process of grant writing. This session was based on a session conducted at the 2019 Georgia Gerontology Society Annual Conference.

All GGS Webinars were recorded and available on the password protected GGS Member Page of the GGS website.

GGG also provided sponsorships for Georgia Southern University's Center for Social Gerontology Community Conference and the Culture Change Network of Georgia Summit.

ADVOCACY

GGG continued to support the Georgia Council on Aging and CO-AGE (Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly) with their identified advocacy issues during the 2019 Legislative Session. Thank you to all GGS members that took part in Advocacy Alerts and to all the advocates across the state that worked towards the following successes during the 2019 Session.

Several aging programs got increased funding including:

- HBCS (Home and Community Based Services) increased by \$2,000,000 projected to serve 1053 slots on the waiting list.
- Funding for Home Delivered Meals increased by \$1,406,232.

- The ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Connection) got new funding of \$338,802 to hire 2 staff and create a statewide public facing web site.
- \$157,000 will provide \$7500 for each of the 21 ADRCs for assistive technology to assist older Georgians to live in their homes and communities.
- Funding for 17 new caseworkers with Adult Protective Services (\$1,355,873)
- Funding for 5 new caseworkers with the Public Guardianship Office (\$366,752)
- Personal Needs Allowance increased by \$5 to make the total \$70 per month

Two important items were added to the Amended FY 2019 budget:

- \$350,000 for an Alzheimer's Awareness Campaign on risk factors, warning signs, and importance of early and accurate diagnosis
- \$250,000 for home delivered meals to reduce the waiting list

HR 533, sponsored by Rep John LaHood (R-Valdosta), passed the House 171-2. HR 533 created a House study committee that met in 2019 to develop recommendations for the 2020 legislative session. The goal was to look at financial options, reimbursements and any barriers to having more affordable housing options for seniors. The final report can be found here: http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/CommitteeDocuments/2019/Innovative_Financial_Options_For_Senior_Living/FINAL_Report_Study_Committee_On_Innovative_Financial_Options_for_Senior_Living.pdf

HB 424, sponsored by Rep Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs) passed in the Senate 50-0. This bill added certain sex crimes into the definition of criminal gang activity. It was amended in the Senate Judiciary committee to include HB 247, also sponsored by Silcox. HB 247 was an elder abuse bill resulting from meetings in 2018 between law enforcement and advocates, including GCOA. HB 247 deleted a lower penalty battery provision to allow another provision with higher penalties to be used. Also, it let law enforcement inspect unlicensed personal care homes when the regulators are not present. The third improvement clarified the definition of exploitation to allow the abuse of an incapacitated person as a criminal charge. All three provisions were included in HB 424.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

GGG partnered with the Thanks Mom & Dad Fund, Alzheimer's Association-Georgia Chapter, Atlanta Regional Commission AAA, Georgia Council on Aging, Georgia Health Care Association, Gerontology Institute at Georgia State University, and LeadingAge Georgia to host the 3rd Annual Direct Care Workforce Solutions Forum. The forum was held at the Ritz-Carlton Reynolds, Lake Oconee prior to the GGS Annual Conference.

There is a crisis facing the direct care workforce. These critical jobs are the frontline in caring for older Georgians. As more and more Americans age, the need for qualified caregivers continues to grow. This annual forum brings together funders, legislators, providers, and job trainers for this solutions-oriented forum to position Georgia to become a leader by strengthening the direct care workforce pipeline.

Presenters: State Representative Jesse Petrea; Caylee Noggle, Georgia Student Finance Commission; Catherine Ivey, Georgia Department of Community Health; Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan, Georgia State University-Gerontology Institute; John Helton, Atlanta CareerRise; Pam Clayton, Georgia Health Care Association; Mary Helton, A.G. Rhodes Health & Rehab & Sue Burgess, Atlanta Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY/DEMENTIA FRIENDS

GGG was very involved in the efforts to bring Dementia Friends to Georgia. Dementia Friends is part of a global movement that is changing the way people think, act, and talk about dementia. Anyone can be a Dementia Friend – we all have a part to play in creating Dementia Friendly communities! A Dementia Friend is someone who attends an in-person session, learns about what it's like to live with dementia and then turns that understanding into action. From telling friends about the Dementia Friends program to visiting someone who is living with dementia, every action counts.

In 2019, the Division of Aging Services received a license to introduce this program in Georgia. GGS provided logistical support to the Division of Aging Services with conducting a Dementia

Friends Kick Off in June 2019. At this event, a goal of creating 500 Dementia Friends before the end of 2019 was announced. That goal was surpassed and is increasing every day. In addition to providing support for the Kick Off event, GGS provided technical assistance by providing Champions training. A Champion is a person who has been trained to conduct Dementia Friends Information Sessions. GGS also provided small awards to Champions to assist with the cost of obtaining materials and conducting Information Sessions. Funding for the Kick Off event and for the awards was made possible due to funding from the GA Department of Human Services.

In addition to providing assistance with implementing the Dementia Friends program in Georgia, GGS was also very active in promoting Dementia Friendly efforts in Georgia.

What is Dementia Friendly? Led by the Dementia Friendly America (DFA) initiative, communities across the nation are taking action and becoming Dementia Friendly. A Dementia Friendly community is informed, safe and respectful of individuals with dementia and their families and provides supportive options across the community to foster quality of life. DFA communities are working across sectors (such as with partners in health care, business and banking, legal and financial, faith communities, local government and more) to ensure they are friendly places for people with dementia and their caregivers to live. Every part of the community has a unique role in a Dementia Friendly community. DFA communities are building on a model developed by Minnesota's ACT on Alzheimer's and the Dementia Friendly communities in Minnesota. Dementia Friendly America is made possible by a national collaborative with over 35 national organizations. Dementia Friendly America is administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and was launched at the 2015 White House Conference on Aging. Learn more at <https://www.dfamerica.org/>.

In September 2018, five grants of \$2,000 were awarded to fund five organizations leading the Dementia Friendly effort in their communities:

- Alzheimer's Outreach Center (Albany, GA)
- Orchard Senior Living (Brookhaven, GA)
- DeKalb County Human Services (DeKalb County, GA)
- Hospice of Northeast Georgia Medical Center (Gainesville, GA)

- Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (Rome, GA)

The grant period was from October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019. The GGS Dementia Friendly Community Grants Final Report summarizes their efforts to help their communities become more Dementia Friendly. These grants were made possible through funds provided by the GA Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services.

<https://georgiagerontologysociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/GGS-Dementia-Friendly-Community-Grants-Final-Report-1.pdf>

In November 2019, five additional grants of \$2,000 were awarded to fund five organizations leading the Dementia Friendly effort in their communities. These grants were made possible through funds provided by the GA Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services. The grant period will end on September 30, 2020.

- Caring Together in Hope/Amy's Place (Roswell, GA)
- Cobb Senior Services (Cobb County, GA)
- Legacy Link, Inc. (GA Mountains region)
- Three Rivers Regional Commission AAA (Heard County, GA)
- Valdosta State University/Alzheimer's Daycare Program (Valdosta, GA)

GGS worked with the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging to provide an event which included a Dementia Friends Information Session, information about Dementia Friendly community efforts in Georgia, and a presentation from Robert Bowles, an advocate living with Dementia. The event was held in Vidalia, GA in October of 2019. GGS has also partnered with DeKalb County government to provide Dementia Friends Information Sessions and Dementia Friendly updates to several government employees and community members.

GGS also participated in a strategy group to assist the Division of Aging Services with Dementia Friends and Dementia Friendly planning and had representation on several of the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias (GARD) workgroups.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For Year Ending December 31, 2019

Income

Annual Conference: \$72,555.91

Department of Human Services (DHS) Contract (2018-2019): \$32,000.00

Membership Dues: \$11,587.37

Other Income: \$3,984.91

Total Income: \$120,128.19

Expenses

Annual Conference: \$57,786.34

DHS Contract (2018 – 2019): \$26,887.64

Payroll Expenses: \$18,742.29

Administration: \$7,060.55

DHS Contract (2019-2020): \$6,000.00

Committee Expenses: \$3,714.40

Other Expenses: \$3,559.98

Total Expenses: \$123,751.20

Community Foundation Fund Beginning of 2019*: \$307,163.84

Community Foundation Fund Beginning of 2019: \$351,689.74

Available Assets End of 2019: \$88,752.61**

* The Community Foundation is used exclusively for Student Scholarships.

** Available Assets include our Checking/Savings Account and Money Market Account.

GGG AWARDS

The Georgia Gerontology Society annually acknowledges the outstanding achievements of individuals in the field of Gerontology through the presentations of awards during its annual meeting and conference. The Georgia Gerontology Society established an early tradition of recognizing significant achievement and contributions to the field of aging. Since 1966, the Annual Meeting and Conference has included an Awards Ceremony as a particular highlight. During the first years, awards were given in a variety of categories - Individual, Professional, Distinguished Service, and area of service. With the passage of time, the number and type of awards have become more established. Several awards have been named for individuals who have been significant to the Georgia Gerontology Society and to gerontology in the state of Georgia - John Tyler Mauldin, Elsie Alvis, Louis Newmark, Robert P. Wray, Marietta Suhart, Dan Hickman, David Levine, and most recently, Kay Hind.

The **Elsie Alvis Award** (Formally the Professional Award) is given to the outstanding professional in gerontology with a minimum of 15 years of service. The Award was first given in 1970 as a Professional Award and was named in honor of Elsie Alvis in 1980. This designation honors an early GGS member who received the Individual Award in 1966, the first year Awards were made. She served as the Director of the Governor's Commission on Aging, later the State Commission on Aging, beginning in 1960. She served well past the age of 70 and directed statewide study to develop Georgia's Story of Her Aging, published as the official Georgia report to the 1961 White House Conference on Aging.

2019 Recipient: Elizabeth Jones, Shiloh Comprehensive Community Center

The **John Tyler Mauldin Award** is given to an older individual in Georgia who exemplifies a positive role model of outstanding Achievement in the field of Aging. First given to Dr. Mauldin in 1967 as the First Annual Outstanding Achievement Award, it was named for the first recipient the next year. Dr. Mauldin, a prominent Atlanta surgeon and also an early GGS activist, was appointed in 1959 to Chair the newly established Governor's Commission on Aging, later the State Commission. He directed the planning of Georgia's participation in the 1961 White House

Conference on Aging.

2019 Recipient: Robert Bowles

The **Louis Newmark Award** is presented to an individual providing at least 10 years of service to aging, with particular attention to the Georgia Gerontology Society. The Award was first given in 1982 to Louis Newmark, the Society's first President, in recognition for his nearly three decades of service to gerontology in Georgia and to the Society. Louis Newmark also won several GGS Awards for his social service and service to the Society and was the Society's historian for the first three decades of its existence. He was also a founder of the Georgia Conference on Social Welfare.

2019 Recipient: Gail Thompson

The **Marietta Suhart Award**, established in 1993 shortly after Marietta's death, is given to the individual with demonstrated ability to educate para-professionals, professionals and other persons working with older adults; proven leadership and vision in gerontology by development/expansion of educational programs and services; and recognized ability to touch as well as to teach learners. A long-time GGS Board member, hardworking committee member, and enthusiastic educator who fit the description of the Award established in her name, Marietta Suhart was the Gerontology Specialist with the University of Georgia Continuing Education program.

2019 Recipient: Lois Ricci, CSU, KSU & AARP

The **Dan Hickman Award** is presented to the person who has shown excellence in the profession of Care/Case Management and who exhibits leadership in the profession by providing exceptional direct services, training fellow Care Managers, and/ or advocating for improvements in care management. The Award was established in 1998 and first presented in 1999 in memory of Dan, who was the Community Care Services Program Manager with the Georgia Division of Aging Services. He helped to define case management as a profession in Georgia, and he exhibited great spirit, zest, and integrity in support of the profession.

2019 Recipient: Andrea Buggs, CSRA Regional Commission AAA

The **David L. Levine Legislative Award**, established in 1993 as the Legislative Award, is given to the legislator who has sponsored or co-sponsored legislation that would improve the quality of

life for older adults; has consistently supported aging issues; and has been willing to listen to the concerns of Georgia's elderly. This award has now been named to honor Dr. David L. Levine, who devoted his adult life advocating for those who could not advocate for themselves.

2019 Recipient: Representative Kevin Tanner, District 9

The **Kay Hind Change Agent Award**, established in 2017, is awarded to an individual who is a driving force in creating change that improves the lives of older adults in Georgia. Kay Hind provided 49 years of exemplary service to Georgia's aging population. Her vision, persistence, patience, expertise, advocacy, and collaborations cemented the foundation for change in southwest Georgia and beyond.

2019 Recipient: Pat King, DHS Division of Aging Services

Citations of Merit may also be chosen and presented, by the Awards Committee, to special individuals who deserve recognition because of achievement, service, exemplary living, and/or commitment to aging.

2019 Recipient: Ethel Jenkins

GGG SCHOLARSHIPS

The Georgia Gerontology Society provides scholarship opportunities to outstanding graduate and undergraduate students who are committed to pursuing a career in the field of aging.

Two scholarships are awarded each year. The Robert P. Wray Scholarship of \$2,000 is awarded to one undergraduate student, and the Virginia M. Smyth Scholarship of \$3,000 is awarded to one graduate student to promote students' interest in age-related issues and to promote professional development in gerontology.

The Robert P. Wray Scholarship – Robert P. Wray was an active GGS member, a founder of numerous service programs in Pennsylvania and Georgia, and was the first Director of the University of Georgia Gerontology Center. He was first posthumously honored in 1989 by designation of the Wray Legislative Award. However, Society members quickly realized that this educator's memory would be best honored through naming of the annual gerontology scholarship award.

The Virginia M. Smyth Scholarship – The Virginia Smyth Scholarship is presented annually to offer financial support to persons seeking to advance their careers in aging. The fund, established in 1998, provides scholarships for graduate study in gerontology and promotes leadership development in the field of aging to include a broad knowledge base, strong organizational skills and a vision for the future. The Scholarship was first awarded in 2004 and named for Virginia Smyth, a founding member of GGS and the spirit behind the establishment and endowment of the GGS Scholarship Fund.

Older Adults Scholarships – As a network that educates, serves and advocates for older adults and their families, GGS sponsors an annual gerontology scholarship award program for older adults. This program provides a scholarship opportunity to attend the GGS Annual Conference for older adults in Georgia. By sponsoring this award, we aim to promote continued interest and involvement in aging-related issues across the lifespan.

ROBERT P. WRAY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



Nicole Schindler

College/University: Emory University, Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology

Quote from Scholarship Essay: “The culmination of my research, volunteering, and internship experiences have solidified my desire to join the group of doctors whom I have observed placing an emphasis on scientific knowledge, colleague collaboration, and human connection. It is not the many lives that I will be saving, but the small acts of dignity for individuals that attracts me to the field of geriatrics. The admiration I hold for the geriatricians reminds me what it means to understand, support, and connect with both life and death as a compassionate, professional human. I hope to one day find a more permanent place among the people whose tasks and concerns have come to matter to me profoundly.”

VIRGINIA M. SMYTH SCHOLARSHIP



Kasey Smith

College/University: University of Georgia, Master of Public Health in Gerontology

Quote from Scholarship Essay: “Eliminating food security and social isolation are lofty goals, and I doubt I will accomplish them in my lifetime. Service to a profession is hard work, but just like when I work with my grandfather in his garden or cook with my grandmother, the smiles I see on the faces of older adults in the community keep me dedicated. I am committed and proud to be

part of a community and a professional field that values and shares my aspirations. I move forward in my career with confidence that I will make a difference for older adults across Georgia.”

OLDER ADULT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Anne Foster

Quote from Scholarship Essay: “Now as founder and executive director of Generational Sources of Strength Inc, my focus is to help “Foster Healthy Living for all Generations through educational, informational and recreational initiatives.” The knowledge gained from attending your annual conference would help to fulfill my mission statement. Your conference would help me to learn more about building my non-profit, learn about advocacy in aging and also help as I continue to sponsor quarterly events on “Fostering Healthy Living Forums” in the community on issues involving the aging process. Helping seniors to make lifestyle changes for healthier living. Also educating the communities on various services that are available. I would also be able to network and share and learn from experts at your conference.”



Kenneth Fuller

Quote from Scholarship Essay: “I am constantly in the community when not assisting the needs of my mother working with local neighborhood planning unit. I oversee the lawn maintenance for seniors in the area and am on the executive community as an advisor to the seniors in my community. I have been working for seniors in many capacities as a volunteer for more than 9 years. During that time I have been to China visiting senior facilities to see the difference in how they treat their seniors. I have worked many senior health fairs as well as aging conferences on brain health. I am most interested in being involved in helping the aging population because I have always championed the voiceless. I constantly strive to be that change for social consciousness that I wish to see in mankind. I feel that whatever I can learn from this conference will help me to

help others. 10 years ago I had a stroke. It took me a year to learn to walk and talk again. During that time, I made a conscious decision to make the rest of my time on earth count toward something.”

GGG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board Year is from October 1st to September 30th

Officers Ending 9/30/2019:

- President: Babs Hall, Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Services
- Vice President: Pat Baker, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries
- Secretary: Cheney Magusiak, DHS Division of Aging Services
- Treasurer: Donald Strong, Quality In-Home Care, Inc.
- Immediate Past President: Jennifer Beamer, Atlanta Regional Commission AAA

Board Members Term Ending 9/30/2019:

- Jennifer Beamer, Atlanta Regional Commission AAA
- Dr. Kerstin Gerst Emerson, University of Georgia
- Dr. Kay Graham, Brenau University
- Jami Harper, SOWEGA Council on Aging
- Elizabeth Head, Department of Public Health
- Kim Johnson-Prince, Office of the Georgia State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Dionne Lovett, Coastal Regional Commission AAA
- Dr. Lois Ricci, Educator at Kennesaw State and Clayton State Universities, AARP rep
- Donald Strong, Quality In-Home Care, Inc.

Board Members Term Ending 9/30/2020:

- Jennifer Almond, Legacy Link AAA
- Jennifer Curry, AgeWell Atlanta
- Landa Clay Gamble, Royal Adult Day Services
- Babs Hall, Aspire Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Services
- Benae Hogan, Middle Georgia Regional Commission AAA
- Lisa Howard, Legacy Link AAA

- Doug Lueder, Prosper Home Care
- Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan, Georgia State University
- Jocelyn Wise, Emory University, Fuqua Center for Late-Life Depression

Board Members Term Ending 9/30/2021:

- Pat Baker, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries
- MaryLea Boatwright Quinn, Alzheimer's Association, GA Chapter
- David Coffman, Thanks Mom & Dad Fund
- Victoria Helmly, Georgia State University PhD Student
- Dr. Bonnie Kin, Brenau University
- Cheney Magusiak, DHS Division of Aging Services
- Belinda Meadows, Three Rivers Regional Commission AAA
- Dr. Adreinne Mims, Alliant Quality vacated and replaced by Nikki Dukes, Coastal Regional Commission AAA
- Steven Neff, Georgia Association of Community Care Providers
- Carol Rowe-Jones, Senior Information Network, Inc.

Executive Director:

- Amanda James