



# 2024 Grant Recipients

## Final Report Summaries

## Caring Women Building Community



Greenwood Women Care (GWC) engages community-minded Greenwood women in collective learning, giving, and growing together. We are a strong, vibrant group of women committed to our mission as *Caring Women Building Community*. The overarching goals of Greenwood Women Care are to offer participants the opportunity for personal growth, to develop as engaged members of our community, and to improve the quality of life for everyone in Greenwood County through our grantmaking.

**The Greenwood Women Care tagline serves as an abbreviated reminder of our mission:**

**learn • give • grow**

We welcome, include, and reflect the broad range of Greenwood women from many professional and personal sectors. Our quarterly meetings, socials, and other events are fun and interesting experiences open to all members and any interested women who would like to attend as guests. Our current membership includes more than 160 women, and new members are always welcome! Each member contributes an equal amount annually and has an equal vote in granting decisions. Annual membership contributions are directed to our Granting Fund for awarding grants to nonprofit organizations serving in Greenwood County and to the Greenwood Women Care Endowment. A small percentage is applied to administrative costs. The full membership contribution and all additional contributions to Greenwood Women Care are tax-deductible.

Applications for annual grants to nonprofit organizations serving Greenwood County are accepted from August 1-31, and voting takes place in October. Each year, GWC holds a grant writing workshop, as well as information sessions for local nonprofits. Information on the grant requests is presented to members to help us make informed voting decisions.

**In 7 years of granting, we have awarded 73 grants totaling \$483,799!**

In 2024, collective funds received through annual membership and other designated contributions enabled GWC to disburse a total of \$72,100 in grant funding for 11 nonprofits serving residents of Greenwood County. Each recipient organization was asked to submit a final report describing their use of the funds. The following pages summarize these final reports.

Greenwood Women Care is an initiative of the Greenwood County Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, public foundation. Contributions are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law. To find out more, check our website at <https://www.greenwoodcf.org/greenwood-women-care/> or send an email to [gwc@greenwoodcf.org](mailto:gwc@greenwoodcf.org).

*A Place for Us at Our Farm*

**\$5,300**

# Compassion Fatigue Retreat for Health Professionals

## Equipment, staffing, and supplies



Behavioral/mental health and other health professionals deal with secondary traumas that are a result of helping clients who are trying to manage their own traumas. The overarching goal of the program was to use farm therapies and training in mindfulness techniques as a way to relieve compassion fatigue.

### Use of Greenwood Women Care Funds

The funds from GWC were used for equipment, supplies, publicity (videographer), a meal for participants, stipends for professional trainers, and gift cards for volunteers for a “Compassion Fatigue Retreat” for 16 overworked, overburdened health professionals. The Retreat was held at OUR FARM, a beautiful place to get away. It consisted of four key hands-on modules led by professionals to help provide techniques resulting in improved mind-sets:

**Pro-generative Gardening:** Focus on the basic necessities of nature through nurturing the soil to grow food and observing gardening methods that offered successful harvests, even in harsh conditions. They learned how microbiotic interactions in the soil affect growth, and how healthy soil is the most important predictor of a healthy and plentiful harvest.

**Nature & Creative Arts:** Guided nature walk with express their perceptions of their experiences through art, such as sketches or drawings, writings, or any other expression of choice (some did leaf rubbings).



**Equine Interactions:** Bonding with horses, learning behavioral and communication expressions of horses. Horses, known for their sensitivity, offer a unique

therapeutic experience. They sense a person's emotions through the bonding process.

**Mindfulness Sessions:** Therapeutic techniques to help overcome anxiety, depression, and negative thoughts and actions; e.g., learning how pressure points in the body can improve blood flow, leading to relief from stress, tension, and anxiety.



### Impact of the GWC Grant

Medical volunteers measured each participant's anxiety and stress levels throughout the day. Improvements were seen in blood pressure, heart rate, and reported stress levels. We have received feedback that participants are using some of these techniques personally and professionally. The results in our community include the improved effectiveness of workers, leading to improved outcomes for their clients. With carry over of information into the workplace, possible outcomes may have included growth of work success with clients, growth of work success with colleagues, more employee retention and less absenteeism, enhanced team building skills, emergence of confidence/leadership qualities, and boosted morale.

Without this gift we would not have received the positive results from collected data, and overwhelming comments that let us know that we must continue our quest to touch hearts with outcomes that build up the helpers, that in turn build up those in need.



Alston Wilkes Society

\$5,000

## Reintegration Program for Offenders and Former Offenders

### Staffing and direct client assistance



Nearly 2 out of 3 people released from prison are rearrested within 3 years. Reentry requires more

than release. It requires opportunity, stability, and community. The Alston Wilkes Society supports individuals with criminal justice involvement in making a successful reentry into the community by first stabilizing clients through the provision of basic and emergency needs, ensuring they are in a position to focus on employability and longer-term goals such as securing permanent housing, resolving legal issues, addressing substance use concerns, furthering their education, and accessing treatment for mental and physical health needs.

### Use of Greenwood Women Care Funds

The GWC grant provided funds for staff salaries and direct client assistance. During the grant period, the program provided direct support to 344 individuals who received a combination of intensive case management, basic-needs stabilization, employment support, financial assistance, and life-skills education tailored to their goals.



**Basic Needs Stabilization:** Clients received assistance obtaining vital documents (such as IDs and birth certificates), hygiene and clothing items, emergency shelter, transportation, and referrals to health, substance use, and mental health services.

**Employment Preparation and Placement:** Individuals were assisted with résumé development, job search and job leads, interviewing skills, and workplace readiness. Many also received essential work-related financial support such as uniforms, tools, and boots, removing common barriers to securing employment.

**Housing Support:** Clients facing homelessness or housing instability received financial assistance for emergency shelter, transitional housing, rent, and utilities, helping them progress toward safe and stable living arrangements.

**Skill-Building and Reentry Education:** Through pre-release and community workshops, participants engaged in classes on budgeting, life skills, employment readiness, and anger management, strengthening their long-term self-sufficiency.

Overall, the program provided a total of 1,789 services, reflecting a comprehensive approach that met clients where they were and helped them make measurable progress toward stability, employment, and successful reentry.



### Impact of the GWC Grant

Greenwood Women Care funding significantly enhanced our program’s capacity and impact. Your support ensured that trained staff could conduct outreach, complete needs assessments, and provide steady case management, core services that connect individuals to the help they need.

Equally important, the funding allowed us to provide essential supportive services that remove the practical barriers preventing clients from moving forward. Assistance with fees for birth certificates and photo IDs, transportation to job interviews and to work before the first paycheck arrives, and appropriate clothing, including required work attire, enabled clients to take tangible steps toward stability, employment, and independence. For example, recognizing the interest and skills in construction of one client recently released from prison, AWS staff reached out to several local employers. Within just eight days, he secured a position with a local concrete company. To ensure he could start work immediately, AWS provided him with work shoes and appropriate attire.

Ultimately, Greenwood Women Care’s investment not only expanded access to the program but also empowered clients to make meaningful, sustained progress toward independence and successful reintegration into the community.

*Alzheimer's Association – SC Chapter*

**\$5,300**

## Eduction, Support, and 24/7 Helpline for Caregivers

Staffing, materials/supplies, services, and publicity



The Alz Cares program in Greenwood provides direct services to affected individuals and caregivers in-person and around the clock through a 24/7 helpline and website. Alz Cares also offers free, evidence-based caregiver education programs, support groups, and early-stage social engagement programs in the local community and on-line. Efforts are focused in particular on increasing support for populations disproportionately affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias and/or who lack access to quality health care.



### Use of Greenwood Women Care Funds

The funds from GWC were used for costs of staffing, materials/supplies, services, and publicity for programs and services to support families/individuals navigating the challenges associated with living with or caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. A total of 92 individuals received 96 service contacts in Greenwood County. Thanks to the GWC grant, this was an increase of 31 individuals served over the previous year. This growth reflects the expanded capacity to connect with those who previously lacked access to education, support, and care.

Alzheimer's Association to deepen its presence in underserved communities, build strategic alliances, and deliver critical resources to families facing dementia with compassion and expertise. Greenwood Women Care's partnership has been instrumental in helping families navigate the challenges of Alzheimer's disease with greater confidence and hope. Families in Greenwood County have an increased awareness of the Alzheimer's Association's availability and resources for all stages of the disease. They know they are not alone in their Alzheimer's journey.

Because of the program, more families/individuals navigating the challenges associated with living with or caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia will:

1. Be equipped with knowledge and awareness to make better and more informed decisions regarding Alzheimer's disease and/or related dementia on behalf of their families.
2. Know where and how to access community care and support services.
3. Know how to advocate for themselves and fellow individuals in the community in need of care and support.



- Awareness Presentations – 40 individuals served
- Education Programs – 23 individuals served
- Support Groups – 19 individuals served (monthly)
- Information & Referral – 7 individuals served
- Care Consultations – 2 individuals served
- Online Education Programs – 1 individual served

### Impact of the GWC Grant

Greenwood Women Care's investment significantly strengthened the reach and effectiveness of the Alz Cares initiative in Greenwood County. Your support enabled the



Carolina Health Centers

\$5,000

## Nurse-Family Partnership Program for New Mothers

Training and education program fees, materials/supplies, publicity



The Carolina Health Centers Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence-based home visiting program that serves first-time mothers, starting early in pregnancy and continuing until the child's second birthday. NFP ensures that the expectant mother receives the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy. NFP helps improve pregnancy outcomes by partnering with moms to engage in good preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets and reducing any use of habit-forming substances; improve child health and development by assisting families to provide responsible and competent care; improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by supporting parents to develop a vision for their own future, plan additional pregnancies, continue their education and find employment.



Our goals are to increase program capacity by enrolling more mothers in the program. We want to improve pregnancy outcomes through preventive health practices, improve child health and development, and improve economic self-sufficiency of the family.

### Use of Greenwood Women Care Funds

The funds from GWC were used for training and educational program fees, materials/supplies, services, and publicity for the program.

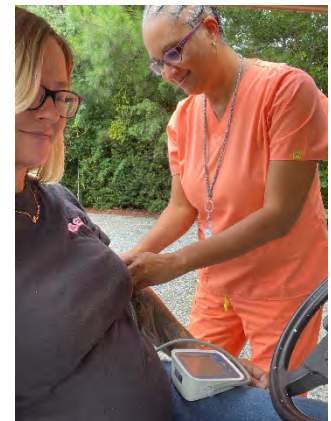


We served a total of 89 families during the reporting period of October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025. We completed a total of 759 visits with families. We provided support through the mother's prenatal period until the child turned 2 years of age. The support included sharing information on breastfeeding, pregnancy

danger signs, preterm labor, fetal movements, normal newborn behavior, toddler topics on safely fostering independence, positive discipline, among many others.

We also provided screenings such as the postpartum depression screen, intimate partner violence screen, child developmental screen, and the parent-child interaction screen.

In addition, we connected families to essential community services including referrals to medical providers, child development specialists, legal services, career development services, educational services, economic services, and much more.



We also participated in goal planning with families by helping them reach their goals. We supported mothers in preparing for labor and delivery. After the baby is born, we discuss developmental milestones and encourage early learning in the home.

### Impact of the GWC Grant

We were able to effectively provide outreach to community businesses and agencies for the purpose of creating referral partnerships and increasing enrollment. We were also able to offer materials to program participants such as developmental activities for parent-child interaction, books for interactive literacy, and essential newborn care items.

We were able to provide additional training for the nurse home visitor staff. The staff participated in training courses like lactation education, How to Read Your Baby, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) training.

The funding helped contribute to the overall effectiveness and success of the NFP program. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to be able to provide this to not only the families we serve, but the staff that are supporting the families through their journey of parenthood.

*Crossroads Women's Center*

**\$5,000**

## Pathways to Prosperity

### Coping with unplanned pregnancy – staff costs and direct assistance



The Pathways to Prosperity program was designed to help individuals facing

unplanned pregnancies overcome educational, career, and social barriers. The project aimed to connect participants to GED and Adult Education pathways, provide BrightCourse parenting and life-skills education, and offer individualized support addressing social determinants of health.



The program served 175 clients this year (130 new, 45 returning) through 1,203 total visits. Services included 108 pregnancy tests, 122 ultrasounds, and 51 prenatal care referrals. Participants engaged in 668 BrightCourse and Earn

While You Learn educational visits and were referred to Adult Education programs in Abbeville and Greenwood. Material support was provided to 42 families, distributing diapers, formula, clothing, and larger items. Additionally, 49 participants were screened for social determinants of health needs, resulting in over 130 referrals to housing, food, benefits, and healthcare resources.

### Use of Greenwood Women Care Funds

GWC funds were used for a part-time coordinator who provided ongoing educational, career, and social determinants of health guidance. In addition, assistance was provided for gas cards, MAT Trans vouchers, books, and school fees.

### Impact of the GWC Grant

One young mother, referred into Adult Education, completed coursework and has now been accepted into nursing school beginning Spring 2026—a milestone marking both individual achievement and the long-term vision of this program. Another participant was supported through the GED process and has since successfully earned her GED and been accepted into

Piedmont Technical College—an important step toward long-term stability and economic mobility.

Another participant shared that BrightCourse modules significantly improved her confidence in preparing for her baby. Families receiving essential supplies expressed relief, noting that items like diapers and car seats reduced financial strain.

Greenwood Women Care (GWC) funding significantly strengthened the program's ability to deliver meaningful, consistent support to families across both counties. The investment ensured continued staffing for the part-time coordinator, whose direct engagement with participants was essential to educational progress, GED completion, college enrollment, and connection to critical social supports. With stable staffing, participants received individualized guidance that helped them navigate Adult Education, nursing program prerequisites, financial aid pathways, and barriers related to transportation, childcare, and basic needs.

GWC funding also created space for wraparound support that strengthened family stability. Participants accessed BrightCourse modules, essential supplies, and SDOH assistance that reduced financial strain and improved readiness for parenting. These supports helped families move toward greater economic security and confidence, while reinforcing the program's goal of nurturing long-term independence and well-being.

Overall, GWC funding provided stability, flexibility, and human capacity needed to deepen the program's reach, meet families where they were, and accelerate progress toward workforce, educational, and family health outcomes.



## Food Bank of Greenwood County

**\$10,000**

# Greenwood Soup Kitchen

## Food, operating expenses, and marketing



Our soup kitchen provides hot, nutritious meals to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, ensuring that no one in our community goes without access to prepared food. The program operates year-round and serves as both a nutritional resource and a place of dignity, connection, and support for those in need.

**Goal—Strengthen Food Supply Stability:** We aim to maintain a consistent inventory of fresh and shelf-stable ingredients to ensure reliable meal service. Over the past year, we have expanded partnerships with local grocers and donors, increased bulk purchasing when prices were favorable, and improved our inventory system. As a result, we have reduced shortages, improved menu variety, and stabilized our weekly meal output.

**Goal—Increase Meal Capacity and Consistency:** By strengthening food supplies and addressing maintenance needs, we have been able to maintain and increase the number of meals served. We currently prepare approximately 30,987 meals annually and continue to meet rising demand without compromising quality or safety.

Together, these improvements move us closer to our overarching organizational goal: ensuring all community members, especially asset-limited, income-constrained, employed (ALICE) households, seniors, and families, have dependable access to nutritious, prepared meals.



### Use of Greenwood Women Care Funds

Funds from GWC were used for food, , operating expenses, and marketing. Over the past year, our soup kitchen served approximately 7,680 individuals, providing a total of 30,987 hot meals to community members experiencing food insecurity. Those served include ALICE households, seniors living on fixed incomes, single parents, individuals experiencing homelessness, and families facing temporary financial hardship. Guests were served in several key ways:

by receiving freshly prepared, nutritious meals; accessing weekly take-home food bags when available; benefiting from a clean, safe, and welcoming dining space; and connecting with volunteers and other community agencies who offer guidance on additional resources that are needed. Our commitment to consistency and dignity ensures every person who walks through our doors receives not only a meal, but meaningful support.



### Impact of the GWC Grant

Funding from Greenwood Women Care significantly strengthened the effectiveness of our soup kitchen by improving both our operational capacity and the overall experience for the individuals we serve. GWC support allowed us to stabilize our food supply at a time when demand was increasing, ensuring we could continue providing consistent, nutritious meals without interruption. We were able to purchase essential ingredients in bulk, maintain a reliable inventory, and offer a greater variety of meals that better meet the dietary needs of our guests.

This program affects the life of individuals. For example, a single mother of two began visiting our soup kitchen after her work hours were cut unexpectedly. She shared that having a reliable place to bring her children for a hot meal allowed her to redirect limited funds toward keeping the lights on and paying for school transportation. Over several weeks, our staff helped connect her to additional community resources, and she later told us that the meals and support gave her "breathing room" during one of the most stressful periods of her life. Today, she continues to stop by occasionally offers her help-saying she wants to give back to the place that helped her stay afloat.



Greater Greenwood United Ministry

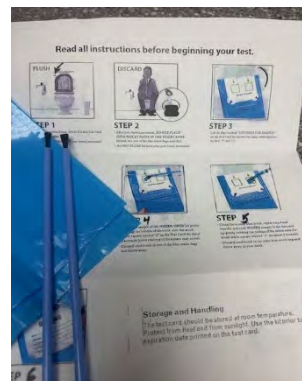
\$8,000

## Larry Tompkins Colorectal Cancer Prevention Program

Staffing, teaching supplies, and test kits



The Colorectal Cancer Prevention Program provides colon cancer screening using the FIT Fecal Occult Blood Test to all Greater Greenwood United Ministry (GGUM) clinic patients aged 45 and older who have not had a colorectal cancer screening done. The health educator is available in the patient lobby to present information on the importance of screening for colorectal cancer and to develop a level of trust with the patients. The



medical provider gives patients the screening test and instructions for use, and patients return for follow-up to discuss the results and the next steps. The test detects colon cancer in its early stages. If the patient has a positive screening, the GGUM Referral Specialist makes an appointment to schedule the patient for a colonoscopy. If the patient has a negative test, it is documented in the patient chart and the GGUM Free Medical Clinic Office Manager will send a reminder to them when it is

time to have the screening repeated the next year.

### Use of Greenwood Women Care Funds

Funds from GWC were used for staffing costs, to purchase the FIT test kits and the tabletop colon model used by medical providers and the health educator to explain the importance of completing a colorectal screening, and for educational materials for patients. Since the inception of program, 45 patients have received the test kit, and 30 patients have completed the FIT test.

### Impact of the GWC Grant

Of the 30 patients who have completed the FIT test, 2 have been referred to have a colonoscopy due to positive FIT results, and 28 patients had negative results. Those with

negative results felt very good that they completed a screening test and it was negative.

The funding provided by Greenwood Women Care has helped us to move our program from a level of trying to capture the patients 45 years and older who qualify for the FIT test, to being able to identify them and ensure that they are told about the importance of completed the test and given encouragement to complete it. The GGUM Free Medical Clinic is passionate about this program because we lost our beloved pharmacist, Larry Tompkins, in January 2025 to colon cancer.



We are very proud that our program was chosen by AmeriCares—a global health and disaster relief organization that helps people and communities around the world access quality health care in times of disaster and every day—to participate in a Quality Improvement Process over the summer.

As we worked through how to ensure that we were not missing patients who needed the FIT test, we learned that once someone has a positive test, it can be hard to get them scheduled for the colonoscopy. The GGUM Internist is trying to work things out to get this done. There are also difficulties in covering the cost of a colonoscopy for patients who have blood in their stool or have a family history of colon cancer. This is not the outcome we thought would come with our program. Regardless of the roadblocks, we will continue to identify our patients 45 years of age and older who need to complete the FIT test.

## Greenwood Cancer Fund

**\$8,000**

# Assistance to Individuals Diagnosed with Cancer

## Prescriptions, medical supplies, and transportation



Greenwood Cancer Fund (GCF) strives to reduce the financial barriers for those who live or work in Greenwood County that have been diagnosed with cancer by providing financial assistance with certain costs associated with their diagnosis. We provide direct financial assistance with prescription medicine, transportation, medical equipment, and medical and nutritional supplies related to their cancer diagnosis. Not every client receives all of these services, but once approved, each client is provided with aid based on individual needs as long as funds are available. Our goal is to improve treatment adherence and overall health outcomes by alleviating the financial strain associated with these costs.

### Use of Greenwood Women Care Funds

Funds from Greenwood Women Care were used for prescription medications, transportation assistance, and nutritional supplements. Since January 1, 2025, we provided transportation assistance for 8 clients, 5 of whom were women diagnosed with gynecological cancers needing treatment not provided at Self Regional. We have provided prescription medicine & nutritional supplement assistance to 43 clients, of whom 14 are new female clients that we were able to add to our roster due to the grant awarded from GWC.

### Impact of the GWC Grant

Because of the grant from GWC:

- **More patients were served.** We were able to assist individuals who otherwise would have been delayed or gone without critical medications due to cost. Additionally, breaking down the financial barrier to critical medications improved adherence to treatment programs and reduced interruptions in care resulting in better health outcomes.
- **Transportation barriers were reduced.** Many patients rely on family and friends for travel to treatment. Providing financial assistance for transportation costs ensured they could consistently attend chemotherapy, radiation, and follow-up appointments.

Overall, the grant from GWC directly enhanced GCF's ability to respond quickly, compassionately, and effectively

to patient needs, ensuring that no patient had to choose between essential treatment and everyday financial needs.



For example, a single mother of 2 was diagnosed with endometrial cancer. She was told that she would need chemotherapy 5 days a week for 5 weeks. With limited financial resources and the rising costs of gas, she did not know how she would afford the gas back and forth to Greenville for 25 treatments. Greenwood Cancer Fund was able to cover her transportation costs for every treatment due to the grant from GWC. She was able to complete all of her scheduled treatments without interruption due to financial strain. In December, she was able to look forward to spending the holidays with her children, something she was not sure she would be able to do in March.

Greenwood Pathway House

\$10,000

## Strong Families Program

### Costs of training and support for families experiencing homelessness



Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), such as abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction, are potentially traumatic events that predict a range of negative outcomes throughout life. A large body of evidence has shown strong links between ACEs and poor physical, behavioral, educational, and employment outcomes; and homelessness among adults. ACEs are intragenerational and build exponentially across families. Typically, the parents of a child who experiences ACEs faced similar abuse or neglect when they were children too. This effectively creates a vicious cycle that can last generations.

The goal of the Strong Families program is to break the intragenerational cycle of ACEs, reduce poor outcomes, and create healthier parent-child relationships for Greenwood County families that are experiencing homelessness. The Strong Families program helps homeless parents address how post trauma impacts their relationships with their children and then builds skills, positive experiences, and support systems that strengthen their family.



**Objective 1:** Provide trauma-informed services that meet the specific needs of homeless parents and provide effective treatments for their ACEs.

**Objective 2:** Provide family training and skills building for parents and children to change unhealthy family norms and begin to build healthy parent-child relationships.

**Objective 3:** Help families build support systems that strengthen their social, educational, and financial security.

**Objective 4:** Create opportunities for benevolent childhood experiences (BCEs) that counteract the negative effects of ACEs while cultivating healthy parent-child relationships.

### Use of Greenwood Women Care Funds

Funds from Greenwood Women Care were used for materials and supplies, operating expenses, and services to clients. We provided trauma-informed services to 292

families with 403 family members in the first year. Of the parents, 144 successfully completed objectives in the first year of the program.

- 40 families with 57 family members completed trauma programs.
- 70 families with 117 family members completed skill building programs.
- 94 families with 165 family members completed support building programs.
- 87 positive activities were conducted for the children.

### Impact of the GWC Grant

GWC grant funding allowed us to launch and operate the Strong Families program at full capacity. The success of the initial year of the program has allowed us to recruit annual sponsors that will sustain the continued success of the program.

Examples of success include one parent who came to Greenwood Pathway House with his son after losing his job and house.

His accomplishments in the program include overcoming marijuana use, completing the Overcoming Trauma course, obtaining employment, and moving into housing. In addition to his own success, his son received assistance from five organizations and enrolled in kindergarten.



Another parent and one of his children came to Greenwood Pathway House after being evicted from their family home. His accomplishments in the program include obtaining employment, reuniting with two of his other children, completing parenting classes, and obtaining housing. In addition to his own success, his children were enrolled in a Good News Club, counseling services, and enrichment activities.

**\$8,000**

*Healthy Learners*

## Access to Health Care for Underserved Children

### Transportation costs, medical and dental fees



Research shows that poor health is linked to poor educational outcomes. Healthy Learners Upstate partnered with 21 schools in Greenwood School Districts #50, #51, and #52 and 26 local health care provider partners to provide low-income children with health care services to remove unaddressed Health Barriers to Learning (HBLs), such as uncorrected vision, untreated dental issues, hearing loss, unaddressed behavioral health issues, and uncontrolled asthma. These are the most common HBLs experienced by low-income children according to The Children's Health Fund.

In order to fulfill its mission and increase opportunities for low-income children with health needs to achieve their full potential in school, Healthy Learners provided Greenwood County's students with access to, and coordination of, the following services: Vision Care; Dental Care; Hearing



Evaluation and Care; Asthma Care; Health Care; Mental/Behavioral Health Care; Coordination of Care; Transportation to Appointments; Payment of Medical Fees; Health Screenings; and Assistance with Medicaid Applications.

### Use of Greenwood Women Care Funds

Funds from Greenwood Women Care were used for staff salaries, medical and dental fees, and transportation costs for health appointments.

Healthy Learners Upstate provided 414 children with 3,836 services. The number of children receiving specific services is as follows:

- Dental: 2,105
- Vision: 704
- Behavioral Issues: 446
- Medications: 427
- Other (includes Well Care): 170
- Hearing: 36
- Asthma: 22
- Medicaid Assistance: 16

### Impact of the GWC Grant

Greenwood Women Care funding had a direct and meaningful impact on our ability to deliver high-quality services to children in Greenwood County. Staffing support for our Student Services Coordinator and assistance with transportation costs strengthened two of the most critical components of our program. These investments allowed us to reach children who otherwise face overwhelming barriers—especially transportation, which affects 97% of the students Healthy Learners Upstate serves.

Of parents whose children were experiencing health issues and received services, 99% reported that the general health of their children improved.

This support also contributed to a year of significant milestones for our program. In February, Healthy Learners Upstate received the South Carolina School Board Association's Champions for Public Education Award, after being nominated by the Greenwood School District 50 Board of Trustees. In November, we were also inducted into "The Greenwood 50," a recognition initiative honoring individuals and organizations whose dedication strengthens District 50.

We are incredibly proud of these achievements, and Greenwood Women Care played a meaningful role in making them possible. Your generosity has helped us expand our reach, deepen our impact, and continue providing essential health services to children who need them most. By eliminating many types of Health Barriers to Learning for these children, Healthy Learners Upstate improved their chances of academic success. Healthy children make better students, and better students create a thriving community.



*Servants for Sight*

**\$2,500**

## Putting Love into Focus: Vision Care for Greenwood's Low-Income Residents

### Medical fees, supplies, transportation costs



Vision health is seldom defined as an "essential service," yet our sight is linked to our quality of life, safety, economic security, and general health and well-being. Eye diseases including diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, and senile cataracts are the most common causes of vision loss.

Servants for Sight connects patients with more advanced eye care needs to highly qualified medical providers who offer free services, including eye surgery. These physicians donate their time and expertise, while Servants for Sight funds the hard costs like lenses, glasses, and surgery fees. With a poverty rate of 18.4% (US Census Bureau, July 2023 estimate) and 13.8% of residents lacking health insurance (Lakelands Counts, 2021), the need for eyecare is critical in Greenwood County. Servants for Sight has successfully connected uninsured, low-income patients with a high-quality, pro bono provider to provide eye surgery to correct common eye diseases that cause blindness.

### Use of Greenwood Women Care Funds

Funds from Greenwood Women Care were used for medical fees and supplies (retinal lasers, retinal injections, surgery and anesthesia, medication, glasses) and transportation costs. Three patients have received surgery. (Their real names are not used here.)



**Sarah** is 75 years old and unable to afford Medicare Part B. So, her hospital visits are covered and some preventative care is covered, but not optometry. She was already struggling and then bi-lateral cataracts caused her life to become a blur, with little color. As the cataracts became

thicker, she lost the sight of her loved ones, her books, and stopped enjoying the little sights and wonders that used to lift her spirits. Servants for Sight began working diligently. It took us almost 8 months, more than 5 appointments, and 2 volunteer doctors, but we were finally able to fix her sight!

**Maria** received bilateral cataract surgery as well. She went from complete blindness to having almost perfect vision over the course of 4 months!

**Lastly, a gentleman with severe diabetic retinopathy** has received 6 treatments. He has retinal detachments in both eyes. He has already received treatment and examinations 6 times in only 3 months. This gentleman is not yet close to regaining his sight, but is working with an ophthalmologist and 2 different specialists, and will eventually be scheduled with an optometrist when his multiple eye diseases are under control. Like many men, he desires to provide for those he loves and feels completely debilitated by his sight. He is around 40 years old and has his whole life ahead of him.



### Impact of the GWC Grant

Simply put, your funding, along with the Greenwood County Community Foundation, are the only reason we were able to come to Greenwood! These patients would still be living (quite literally) in the dark. Our mission at Servants For Sight is to bring HOPE and HEALING... and that is what you have helped us to do. We cannot thank you enough for changing the lives of our patients. You are the "difference makers."