



GEORGIANS FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE'S
FIRST ANNUAL

CONSUMER HEALTH IMPACT AWARDS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2015
PARK TAVERN, ATLANTA



GEORGIANS FOR A
HEALTHY FUTURE

THE VOICE FOR GEORGIA HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

PROGRAM

6:30 / *Doors Open*

7:15 / *Dinner*

7:30 / *Welcome*

8:00 / *Tribute to Linda Smith Lowe*

8:15 / *Presentation of Awards*

9:00 / *Closing*

Dear friends,

Thank you for joining us for our first Annual Consumer Health Impact Awards celebration. We set aside this evening to honor and celebrate the work of individuals and organizations who have made a difference in the lives of countless Georgians.

Georgians who would otherwise be uninsured have health coverage because of the creative approach to outreach, education, and enrollment that The Health Initiative has taken. Consumer protections are stronger for Georgians in private insurance thanks to the encyclopedic knowledge of health policy and dedication to advocacy displayed by Jeff Cornett. And Georgia's health system would look very different if not for the relentless and heroic work of Linda Smith Lowe over many years. Tonight we pay special tribute to Linda, whose body of work has made the everyday experiences of vulnerable children and families in our state markedly better and has inspired a younger generation of policy advocates.

We are humbled to honor tonight's awardees, whose amazing work is just the tip of the iceberg in Georgia. The nominations process for these inaugural awards yielded an array of nominations, exposing the Georgians for a Healthy Future review team to innovative and important work going on in various corners of our state, from health care providers to community educators to policy analysts to advocates who stand up for consumers at the Capitol. We are proud to work alongside many of you and look forward to finding ways to collaborate with those of you we don't yet know.

We welcome all of you tonight to learn more about our honorees and about Georgians for a Healthy Future. We hope you leave tonight inspired and energized.



Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Zeldin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cindy Zeldin
Executive Director



2015 CONSUMER HEALTH IMPACT AWARDS

*Linda Smith Lowe Health Advocacy Award
Community Impact Award
Powerhouse Policy Maker Awards*



LINDA SMITH LOWE

Linda Smith Lowe is a public policy advocate specializing in health issues. A former health planner, Linda has worked for over 30 years as the Health Policy Specialist for Georgia Legal Services Program focusing on Medicaid and other health programs and issues for low-income Georgians.

Linda also has extensive experience in legislative advocacy, having played a key role in the passage of important health-related legislation and budget initiatives such as Medicaid eligibility and service expansions, the PeachCare for Kids Program, the “drive-through” childbirth prevention law, managed care consumer protections, and amendments to state welfare reform legislation. She represents nonprofit groups such as Families First and the Ga. Breast Cancer Coalition at the state Capitol.

Because of her expertise, Linda is a frequent speaker on health issues, has served on many state task forces, and is consulted regularly by health officials, journalists and researchers. She belongs to several organizations working for universal health care and serves on the boards of Georgia Women for a Change and Georgia Health News. She was a founding board member of the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute and a founding board member and officer of the HealthCare Georgia Foundation. She also teaches a short course in advocacy at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University for CDC staff. She has received numerous awards in recognition of her advocacy work.



JEFF CORNETT

Linda Smith Lowe Health Advocacy Award

LINDA SMITH LOWE HEALTH ADVOCACY AWARD

The Linda Smith Lowe Health Advocacy Award is given each year to an advocate whose work advances access to quality, affordable health care in Georgia. Nominees can be either professional advocates or volunteer advocates and must place a focus on vulnerable populations in their work and must work to achieve policy change. This award is named in honor of Linda Smith Lowe. Linda has dedicated her career to serving as an advocate on behalf of underserved Georgians who need a voice on health and human services issues.

JEFF CORNETT

Jeff Cornett is the Vice President of Research and Public Policy at Hemophilia of Georgia. With almost 30 years of experience in health management and a proven track record of creating new, innovative programs with sustained success, Jeff leads the agency in achieving its goals in the areas of training, research, and advocacy. Jeff is strongly committed to the bleeding disorder community with a comprehensive knowledge of hemostasis treatment and research and has authored books recognized around the world as the easy-to-read “bibles” of bleeding disorder care.

Even as he serves a specific community, Jeff looks holistically at Georgia’s health care system, working for equitable access to medical care for all, regardless of diagnosis. Throughout his career, Jeff has been an integral part of advancing the shared goals of consumer health advocates across Georgia.



THE HEALTH INITIATIVE

Community Impact Award

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

The Community Impact Award is given each year to an individual or organization who has made an exceptional contribution to the health of their community in the past year. The impact of this contribution can be either at the individual, local, or state level. Nominees must work with individuals or local organizations to drive advancements in the health of the population served. Nominees may be health care providers, enrollment assisters, health educators, or others.

THE HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Health Initiative provides education, advocacy, support and improved access to care to Georgia’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) community. Founded in 1996, The Health Initiative is the largest non-profit organization in the southeast devoted solely to the health and wellness of LGBTQ people. Through diverse programming offerings on an annual basis the Health Initiative has had a true impact on the lives of LGBTQ Georgians. Programs include the Health Fund and related programs which assist over 500 Georgians obtain direct access to health services as well as over 1,000 health services providers throughout the state have completed training on how to deliver LGBTQ culturally competent services. In addition, the Navigator team visited over 32 counties throughout the state, directly assisting over 500 consumers and hosting nearly 200 outreach and education events reaching over 7,500 Georgians.

POWERHOUSE POLICYMAKER AWARDS

The Powerhouse Policymaker Awards are given each year to local or state policymakers in Georgia who have exhibited excellence and courage in championing health issues in the public policy arena. Award recipients will have a particular focus on consumers or vulnerable populations and will have worked to advance our vision of a day in which all Georgians have access to the quality, affordable health care they need to lead healthy lives and contribute to the health of their communities.



REPRESENTATIVE PAT GARDNER

Powerhouse Policymaker Award

Pat Gardner was first elected to the House in a 2001 special election. Representative Gardner is currently serving on the Appropriations Committee, Health Subcommittee of Appropriations, Higher Education, Natural Resources and Transportation Committees. She serves as Co-Chair of the Women's Legislative Caucus and the Vice Chair of the Fulton Delegation of the Georgia General Assembly.

Pat has lived in Morningside for the past 37 years with her husband, Jerry Gardner, and they have two children, Anita and Bradley. Prior to moving to Atlanta Pat taught high school Spanish for eight years in California, Michigan and Virginia. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Pat studied in Spain for a year and lived in India for another year.

Gardner became the Executive Director of the Georgia Psychological Association in 1977 until her recent retirement and has been a tireless advocate for mental health services. As a Certified Association Executive (CAE), she has worked in leadership positions with the Georgia Association of Association Executives and as President of the American Psychological Association's Council of State Executives.

An advocate for universal access to health care initially for children, Pat has initiated efforts to expand the current PeachCare system to make it available to every Georgia family based on their ability to pay and more recently chaired a work group to investigate duplication in the eligibility systems of Medicaid and PeachCare. She chaired a study committee to evaluate how to reinstate the COLA for state retirees and another one to look at how to provide health insurance benefits for small employers. She passed a bill requiring more recycling on Capitol Hill and sponsored Sustainable Businesses Day at the Capitol for the 6th year in a row.

She has received commendations from the Georgia Conservation Voters, the Georgia Network of Mental Health Consumers, the National Mental Health Association of Georgia, the Association on Developmental Disabilities, and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. The Women's Policy Group awarded Pat their legislative award in 2004.



SENATOR CHUCK HUFSTETLER

Powerhouse Policymaker Award

Senator Chuck Hufstetler, a Republican, was elected to the State Senate for Georgia's 52nd District in 2012. Sen. Hufstetler represents Floyd County along with portions of Bartow, Chattooga and Gordon counties. Sen. Hufstetler is the Vice-Chairman of the State and Local Government Committee and a member of the Education and Youth, Health and Human Services and Science and Technology committees.

Sen. Hufstetler was elected to the Floyd County Board of Commissioners in 1998. As Commissioner, Hufstetler led the way to cut taxes six times, trimmed the waste of the government by analyzing every expenditure of each department and eliminated the debt for the first time in modern history of the county. He was re-elected in 2002 and elected as Chairman in 2003 and 2004.

Professionally, Sen. Hufstetler worked fourteen years as a corporate manager for Welch Foods and Earthgrain. In 1994, he returned to Rome to buy a long-time Floyd County establishment, Paul's Oyster Bar in the Coosa area.

In 2006, Sen. Hufstetler pursued a life-long passion by enrolling in Emory School of Medicine to become an anesthetist. After graduating, he began providing anesthesia to patients at Redmond Regional Hospital where he currently still works.

Chuck is a 1974 graduate of East Rome High School. He has a double major in Biology and Psychology from the University of Georgia, a degree from the American Institute of Baking, and a Masters in Medical Science in Anesthesiology from the Emory School of Medicine.

Chuck is married to the former Joan Bojo and together they have three children: Caleb, a MBA student at Berry College and manager of the family restaurant; Schell, a doctoral student at Georgia State University in Developmental Psychology; and, Rebeckah, a student at Rome Middle School. The Hufstetler's are members of Seven Hills Presbyterian Church in Rome.



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health of all Georgians and to expand access to affordable, quality
individuals and communities.



We'd like to congratulate our
partners at The Health Initiative
for receiving the
The Community Impact Award



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*Saluting the work of
Georgians for a Healthy Future
and
tonight's honorees.*



*A vital support system and advocate for Georgia's
free and charitable healthcare providers
serving those who cannot get coverage.*

Thank you GHF
for providing the voice
for Georgia health care
consumers.

HARRY HEIMAN & ABBY FRIEDMAN



Seedco congratulates all of the
Consumer Health Impact Award recipients.

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and grateful to all of our community partners that
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SOME NOTES:

- You can enter a maximum amount you are willing to bid on an item. This is called **proxy bidding**. To place a **max bid** — but let the system bid for you, check the proxy bid check box before placing your bid.
- If you would like to place a bid that is higher than the next valid bid, just make sure the “Use proxy bidding” check box is not checked. Your bid will be placed as the full amount immediately.
- Some items may have a **Buy-It-Now** price. If you want to buy the item immediately at the buy it now price, simply check the “Buy it now” check box and click the Buy It Now button.
- In the case of tie bids, the person who entered the bid first wins.
- If your max bid is equal to the Buy-It-Now price but you place it as a proxy bid, someone else may still win that item by using the Buy-It-Now feature. If you are willing to pay the Buy-It-Now price, you should do so immediately to keep from losing that item.



**GEORGIANS FOR A
HEALTHY FUTURE**

THE VOICE FOR GEORGIA HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

ABOUT GHF

With a mission to build and mobilize a unified voice, vision, and leadership to achieve a healthy future for all Georgians, Georgians for a Healthy Future provides a strong voice for Georgia consumers and communities on the health care issues and decisions that impact their lives. Our vision is of a day in which all Georgians have access to the quality, affordable health care they need to live healthy lives and contribute to the health of their communities. Since our founding in 2008, Georgians for a Healthy Future has provided substantive health policy information to community leaders and advocates throughout the state, conducted seminars to equip consumers with the tools to become strong advocates, successfully injected the consumer perspective into dozens of health care stories in the media, and engaged with policymakers to spark policy change for a healthier Georgia.

STAFF

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ANNA CULLEN *Communications Coordinator*

WHITNEY GRIGGS *Consumer Education Specialist*

PRANAYA RANA *Navigator*

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