



Retina Foundation
of the Southwest

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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of Innovation for
AMD

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Story



Retina Foundation
of the Southwest
Leading Research ... Saving Sight

The mission of the Retina Foundation of the Southwest is to prevent vision loss and restore sight through innovative research and treatment. The Retina Foundation is a leader in research to develop treatment and cures for age-related macular degeneration, pediatric eye disorders, and inherited eye diseases. The Retina Foundation is led by five Scientific Directors.



Karl Csaky, M.D., Ph.D.
Managing & Medical Director
Director, Molecular Ophthalmology
Laboratory



David Birch, Ph.D.
Scientific Director
Director, Rose Silverthorne Retinal
Degenerations Laboratory



Eileen Birch, Ph.D.
Director, Crystal Charity Ball
Pediatric Vision Laboratory



Dennis Hoffman, Ph.D.
Operations Manager
Director, Biochemistry Laboratory



Yi-Zhong Wang, Ph.D.
Director, Macular Function Laboratory

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There are many things that we value in this world. Many of us value our families and our profession. We value our health and our resources to take care of ourselves and one another. Our values have a way of guiding our actions and when our values are firm and strong, it makes it easier to make a decision.


In 2015, our Board and staff completed a strategic plan to reinforce our mission, vision and values. Today, we are deeply focused on preventing vision loss and restoring sight through innovative research and treatment. The values that we find critical are leadership, integrity, compassion, patient education and stewardship. We believe that if we stay true to our values, there is no doubt that we will stand the course of our vision, keeping research at the forefront of our goals by making a difference for all people whose lives are impacted by vision loss.

Our journey began more than 34 years ago, and we have so much to be proud of in 2015. Last year marked the establishment of the Clinical Center of Innovation for Age-Related Macular Degeneration. This collaboration with the Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering at Southern Methodist University would not have been possible without the generous \$2.5 million grant provided by the W. W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation at Communities Foundation of Texas. By empowering this diverse, unique innovation team, this collaboration places Dallas in the epi-center of a completely transformative process in accelerating medical research to save funds and precious time.


In the pages of this report you will learn about our successes in research in age-related macular degeneration, pediatric eye disorders, and inherited eye diseases. We are exploring the benefits that stem cells may have in slowing age-related macular degeneration. We are closer than ever to establishing our binocular treatment approach as superior to patching for treating amblyopia. We are also exploring a gene therapy approach to treating advanced retinitis pigmentosa that involves the first clinical trial of optogenetics.

Without your generous support, none of this would be possible. Together, our impact is significant and we are grateful to you for helping us enter new territory in vision research and leading the way to save sight for generations to come.

Sincerely,

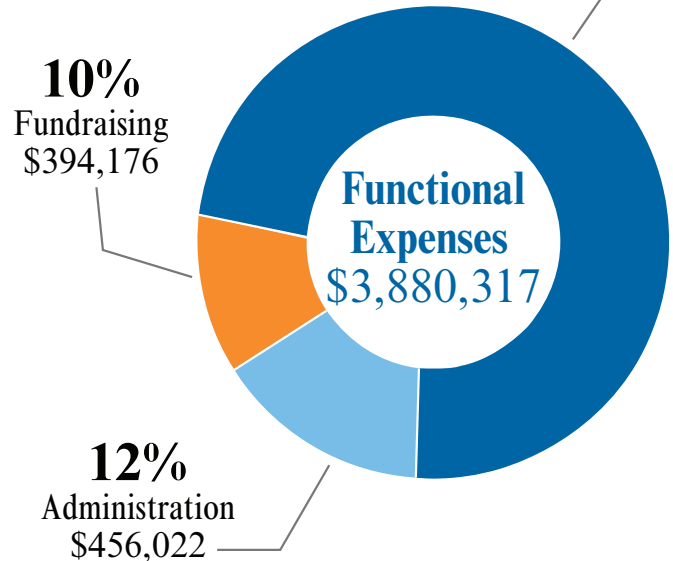
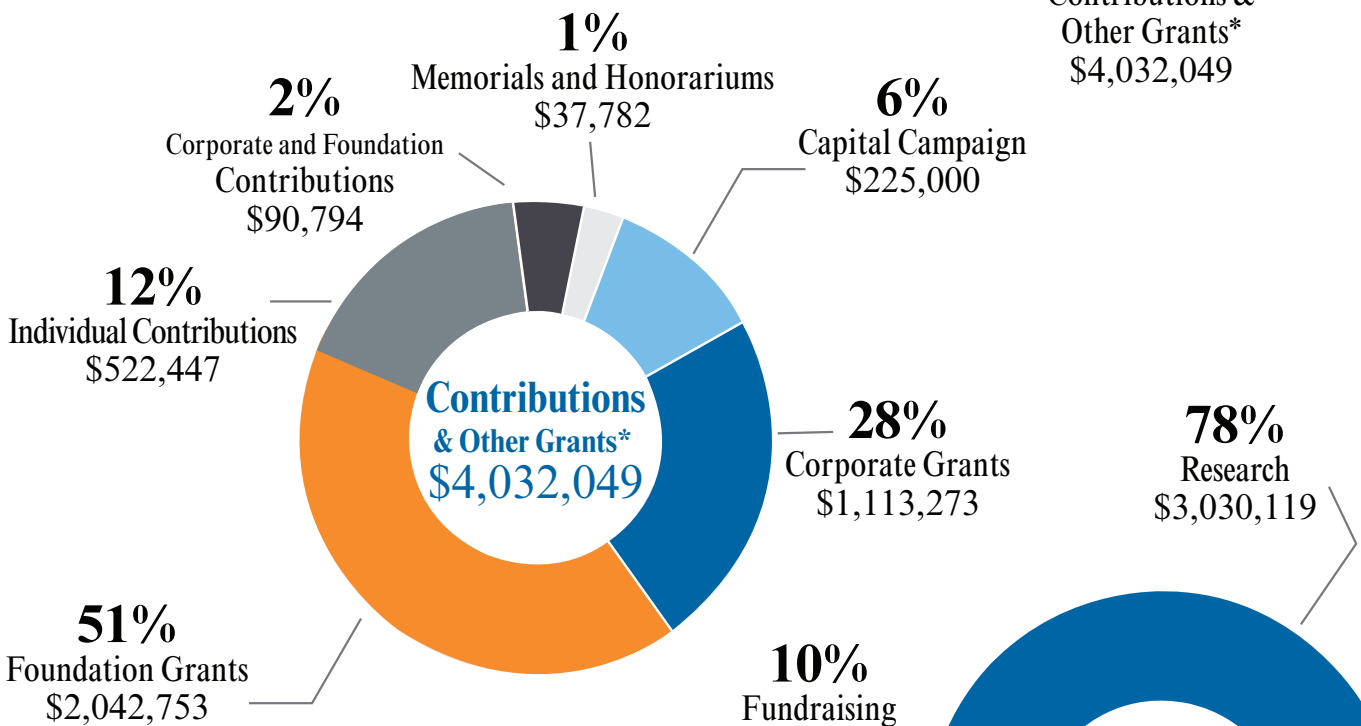
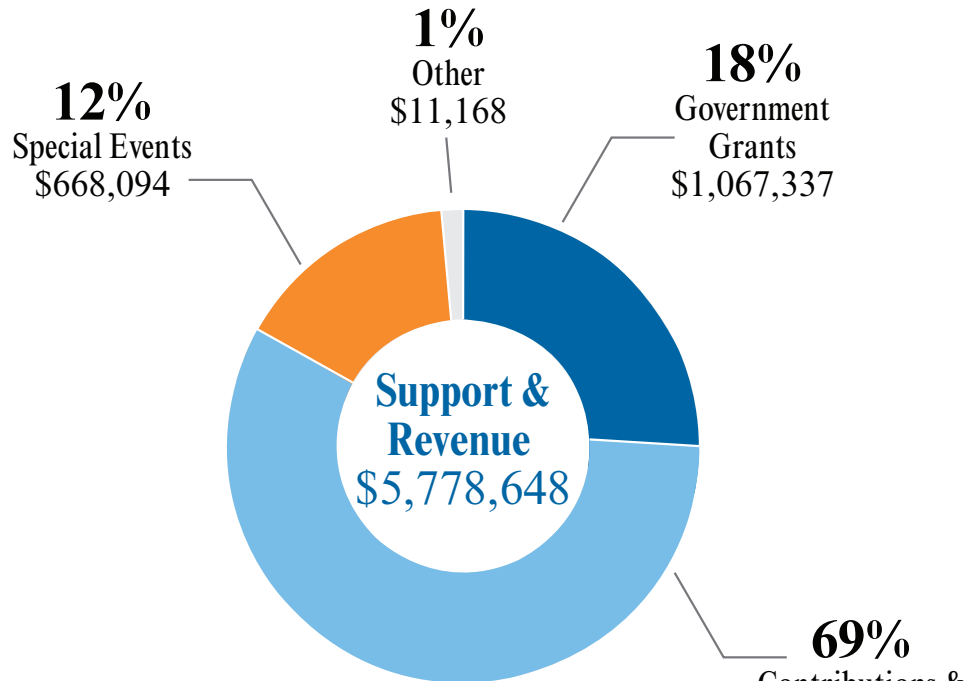

James H. Merritt, M.D.
Chairman, Board of Directors




David G. Birch, Ph.D.
Scientific Director
Director, Rose Silverthorne Retinal
Degenerations Laboratory

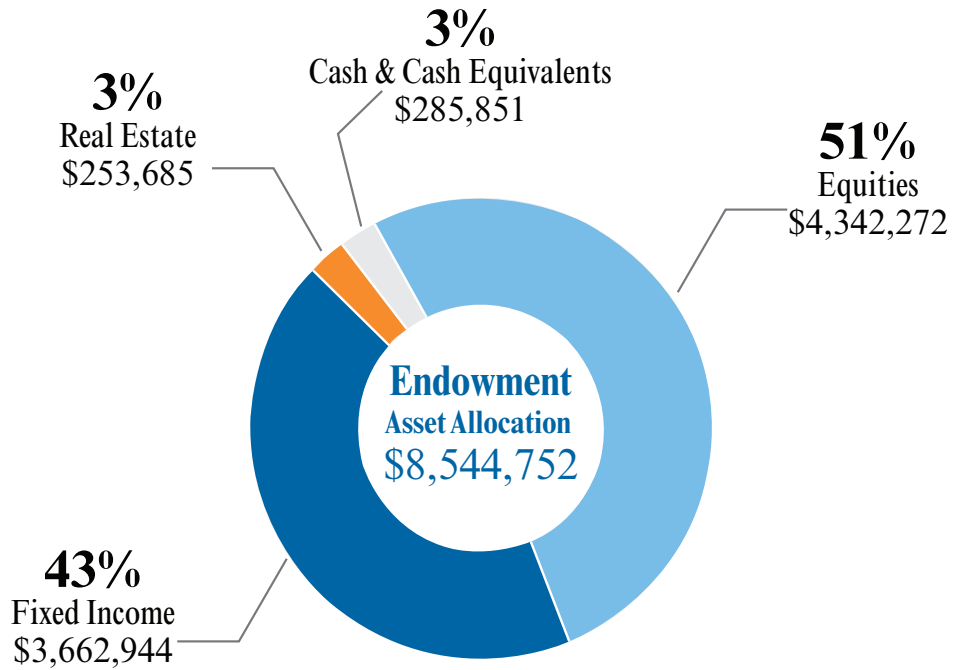


2015 FINANCIALS

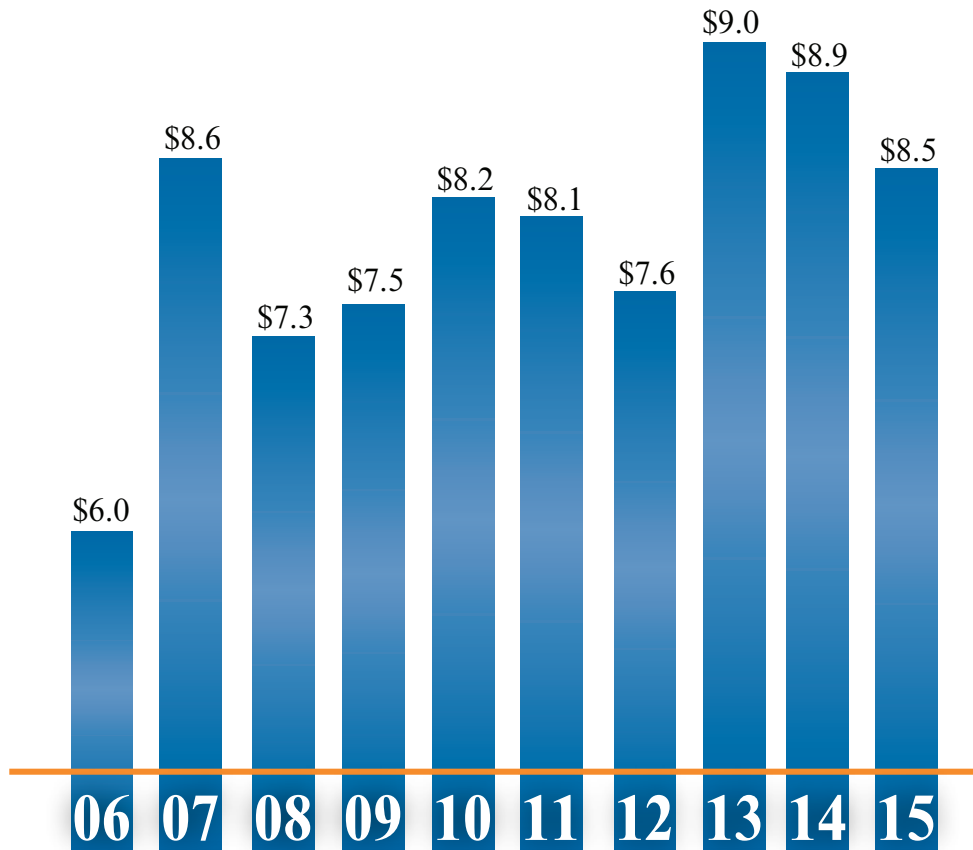


*69% of our Support & Revenue comes from Contributions & Other Grants

2015 FINANCIALS



Endowment Balances
2006-2015





Retina Foundation
of the Southwest
Leading Research ... Saving Sight

2015

YEAR IN REVIEW

549

Donations Made

228

New Donors

2,326

PATIENTS
TESTED

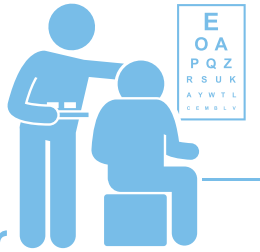
32

RESEARCH STUDIES &
CLINICAL TRIALS

7,985

PATIENTS

Enrolled in our
Southwest Eye Registry



\$4,032,049

Raised

— from —

Individuals & Foundations

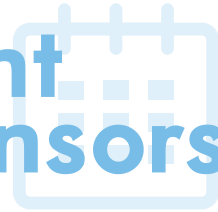


81

Volunteers

71

Event
Sponsors



64

North Texas
Giving Day
Donors



RATING ON
CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Phyllis G. & William B. Snyder Legacy Society

Our Legacy Society is named in honor of Phyllis G. & William B. Snyder who have left a legacy to the Foundation through their dedication, leadership and financial support that dates back more than 30 years.

A legacy gift to the Retina Foundation will help ensure that breakthroughs in the treatment and restoration of vision loss continue beyond one's lifetime. It is a simple way to create a lasting personal legacy that will impact lives for future generations to come.

Making a legacy gift to the Retina Foundation can be as simple as making an amendment to your existing will or trust. You can designate a percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount, specific assets or property for us in establishing your legacy gift. To learn more about the advantages of making a legacy gift to the Retina Foundation please call 214.363.3911.




“I chose, after doing research, to leave a legacy gift to the Retina Foundation of the Southwest. The Foundation, highly rated by Charity Navigator, is a leader in finding a cure for macular degeneration. Both of my parents, in their later years, were afflicted with the "dry" form of this disease. Seeing how difficult it was as they got older to be visually compromised, in their memory I want to help advance research.”

-Karla Cross Arundel, *Raleigh, North Carolina*,
Member of the Phyllis G. and William B. Snyder Legacy Society

Clinical Center of Innovation for Age-Related Macular Degeneration

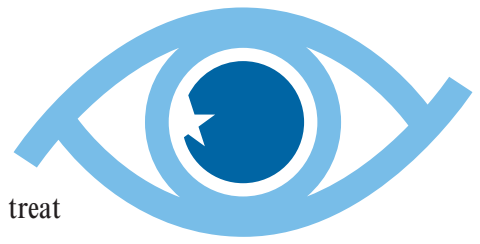
Collaboration • Transformation • Acceleration

A man with short, graying hair and glasses, wearing a white lab coat, is shown in profile from the side, looking through the eyepiece of a microscope. The microscope is white and black, with a circular dial on the side showing numbers 6, 10, 15, and 25. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with various pieces of equipment.

“The hope is that not only will we have an impact on age-related macular degeneration, but that this innovative process might be applied to other diseases for which no cure exists.”

— Dr. Karl Csaky, *Managing & Medical Director*, Retina Foundation of the Southwest

ONE VISION



To pioneer a new method of medical research to find tools to better diagnose and treat AMD, and help patients live more independent, quality-filled lives.



ONE TEAM

The Retina Foundation of the Southwest (RFSW) and the Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering at Southern Methodist University (SMU) have joined forces to create the Clinical Center of Innovation for Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

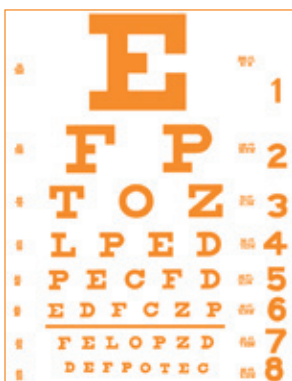
RFSW SCIENTISTS

The Retina Foundation of the Southwest is a world-class leader among its peers in the pursuit of more advanced treatments for AMD with a proud history of groundbreaking discoveries in eye health. Our scientists bring years of clinical experience and medical knowledge to the table.

SMU ENGINEERS

The Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering at SMU is equipped with a faculty and staff dedicated to understanding the science of innovation, fostering it in their students, and using it to impact the community. The university's commitment to applying its resources to solve real world problems and its expertise in the science and art of innovation make the school a natural partner for RFSW.

18,000,000+ AMD PATIENTS




As the most common cause of vision loss for individuals 50 years and older in the United States, age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a progressive disease of the retina. AMD gradually destroys the macula, the center part of the retina, which has the highest amount of cells that function to provide fine vision required for activities such as reading and driving. An estimated

18 million Americans suffer from some form of AMD, and the age 50+ population is projected to double by 2030. The disease is complex and there is no known cure.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Our goal is to create a self-sustainable program to drive innovation in AMD detection and treatment. An initial grant from the innovation-seeking W. W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation at Communities Foundation of Texas provided our seed funding. These funds have allowed us to begin working on several innovations, however, we still need additional support from forward-thinking donors and investors.





Mrs. Israel believes, “there is an impairment about vision that it almost exceeds not being able to walk.” Both her mother and father were diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), so she was always very aware of the possibility that she too would be affected. One day, Mrs. Israel was teaching a class at Baylor University when she realized that the faces of her students weren’t clear. Mrs. Israel recalls, “I couldn’t distinguish if they had brown or blue eyes, and their faces were all a little blurry.”

After being officially diagnosed with dry AMD at age 65, Mrs. Israel told her eye doctor that she wanted a solution. Several years later, her eye doctor heard Dr. Karl Csaky speak at a seminar and believed that his new trial might be the answer for Mrs. Israel. It turned out that she was the perfect candidate for a study for patients with Geographic Atrophy Secondary to Age-Related Macular Degeneration. The purpose of this study is to determine the effectiveness of drug delivery to the eye in slowing or stopping the progression of dry AMD. Mrs. Israel has been treated several times now, and she is hopeful that the drug delivery method works.

Meet Donna Israel

“I think it’s magnificent what you are doing here, and it just has to be done”

–Donna Isreal



Tel Powell was playing pirates with her 2-year-old daughter when she noticed that something seemed off with Amber's vision. She decided to test her daughter's vision in the middle of their game and learned that Amber's vision was perfect in one eye, but she couldn't read any of the letters with her other eye. Amber's ophthalmologist diagnosed her with amblyopia ('lazy eye') and referred her to the Retina Foundation because of our extensive research on amblyopia.

Amber was 3 years old when she arrived for her first vision test. To treat her lazy eye, her parents have been patching Amber's eye extensively and enrolled her in our eye growth and development study. She recently joined our binocular iPad treatment study, and her vision improved by two lines on the chart upon completion of the study.

Meet Amber Powell

“When we first came in she was 20/40 in her lazy eye and now she is 20/25. She can actually get a driver's license now!”

—Tel Powell



Meet Wilson Hunt

“We are forever grateful for the Retina Foundation. Without their care I feel like we would still be spinning our wheels trying to figure out Wilson’s visual issues.”

—Elizabeth & Taylor Hunt

It has been three years since the Retina Foundation diagnosed Wilson Hunt with achromatopsia, a rare inherited eye disease characterized by decreased vision (20/200), extreme light sensitivity and the absence of color vision. Since his initial diagnosis, 5-year-old Wilson has completed weekly visual and mobility therapy and a special education Pre-K class. Three years ago he could not walk up a flight of stairs, slide down a slide or walk from the sidewalk onto the grass due to his eye condition.

Today, Wilson is enjoying playing soccer, swimming in his pool and reading books (with large font). His school has been very helpful in making accommodations such as a slant board to help with Wilson’s writing and an iPad to allow Wilson to view what other kids see on the classroom projector screen. Wilson is set to start Kindergarten next year, and his parents couldn’t be more proud of him.

Recently, Dr. David Birch successfully identified the CNGA3 gene as the source of Wilson’s eye disease. The Hunts are hopeful that their son may one day be part of a gene therapy trial that will help to activate his cones and contribute to meaningful vision improvement. They are very optimistic that “one day he will be able to see some of the beautiful colors in our world.”

Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Achieving Integrity

Success in medicine depends on research. We would not have the modern accommodations that we have for several eye conditions if it weren't for the motivation to learn more, to understand more and to overcome more of the diseases that impinge on our health. In 2015, we delved deeper into drug delivery research for treating age-related macular degeneration. We are currently screening a promising new non-invasive drug delivery device. Integrity is our value, and we are *achieving integrity* through our unwavering commitment to find better ways to treat macular degeneration.

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RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

15

Pediatrics

Leading Research

At the Retina Foundation of the Southwest, we are honored to be in a position to combine our expertise and resources to help children whose sight is impacted at birth and during their school-aged years. Each year, we surpass our prior accomplishments, taking our research to new heights and discovering better treatments to improve vision for children with pediatric eye disorders. In 2015, we continued our work on a binocular iPad game approach for treating amblyopia, "lazy eye." The results of the study signify that the treatment was more effective than patching with two weeks of treatment and there is high compliance, suggesting that it offers an engaging approach for children. Leadership is our value, and we are *leading research* in a way that no other organization can do for children with vision loss.

Inherited Eye Diseases

Demonstrating Compassion

No one is more devoted and focused on researching treatments for inherited eye diseases than we are. At the Retina Foundation, we have a combined total of 8 research studies to prevent vision loss for people with Retinitis Pigmentosa, X-linked Retinoschisis, Choroideremia and Stargardt Disease. In 2015, we were the first site in the nation to conduct a Phase I/II clinical trial to evaluate the efficacy of a new, first-in-class gene therapy application of optogenetics for the treatment of retinitis pigmentosa. We are using gene therapy to insert a light sensitive pigment into retinal ganglion cells. Our goal is to provide low vision to patients who are otherwise blind from retinitis pigmentosa. Compassion is our value, and we are *demonstrating compassion* for those who are losing their vision to rare genetic conditions.

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Capital Campaign

Thanks to you we have raised \$2,762,807 in support of our \$3.6 million building campaign. Our new facility is equipped with seven laboratories and 25 testing rooms, allowing us to see more patients and accelerate our research.

\$500,000+

Crystal Charity Ball 2012
The Silverthorne Family

\$100,000 - \$499,999

The Theodore &
Beulah Beasley Foundation, Inc.
Faye C. Briggs
G.C. Broughton Jr. Foundation
Hillcrest Foundation
Caroline Rose Hunt Family
Dr. & Mrs. W. L. Hutton
Quincy & Estine Lee Charitable
Foundation
Helen K. & Robert G. McGraw
Nancy & Stephen Rogers
Dr. & Mrs. William B. Snyder
Bobbi & Fred White

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Ruth Collins Altshuler
Kate & Bill Bedford
Dorothy & Cyril Birch
The George & Fay Young
Foundation
Hoblitzelle Foundation
Karen & Donald A. Key

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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Deborah & John T. Evans
Penni & Michael D. Hansen
Kathryn & Don Houseman
Bobbi & Richard Massman
Andy McCarthy & Samara Kline
Susanna & James Merritt
Sherry & Rand Spencer
Liana & Jeff Yarckin

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Dr. & Mrs. David Callanan
Linda & Scott Davis
Angela & Marc Klein
Bobby B. Lyle
Michele & Mickey Munir
Robert Wang, MD

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Linda L. Burk, MD
Gurvetch Foundation
Lynne & Deacon Marek

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Lori Coors, MD
Mary Lee Cox
Marea & Marlan Downey
John A. Hammack
Sally & Robert Hastings
Caroline & Bunker Hunt
Margaret & Douglas H. Hunt
Therese & Chris Rourk
Dr. & Mrs. David R. Stager, Sr.
Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Whitman

\$500 - \$999

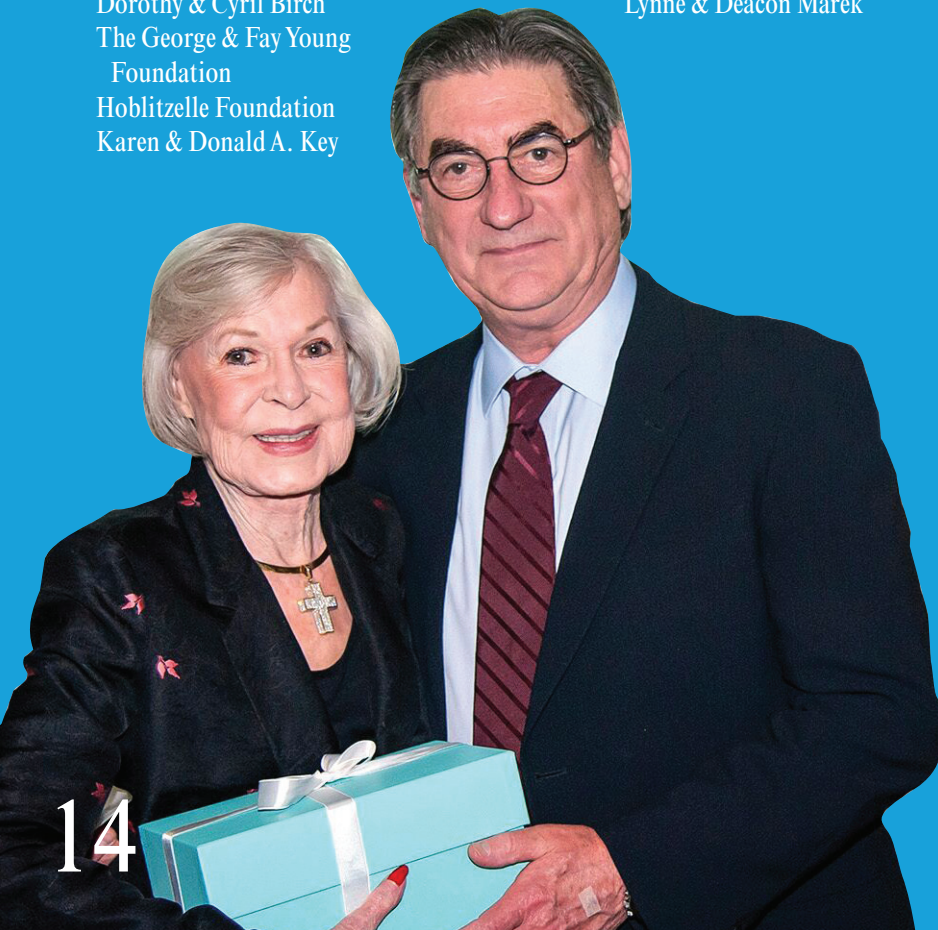
Anonymous

\$250 - \$499

Anonymous
Valerie & Michael Bakes
Judy Murrah
Sarah & Harold Peek
Jane & Jon Scherper
Tia & Antonio Tomlin

Below \$250

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Patricia Wyler
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LEAVE A *Legacy Gift*

.....with a.....


LASTING IMPACT FOR **FUTURE GENERATIONS**

A Legacy Gift to the Retina Foundation of the Southwest ensures that our sight saving research continues. A properly structured Legacy Gift may make it possible for you to achieve one or more of the following benefits:

- Reduced current and future taxes
- Conservation of assets for heirs
- Additional current and future income
- A lasting statement of your personal values
- The ability to retain control of your assets during your lifetime

Gifts to Retina Foundation of the Southwest from your estate are exempt from federal estate taxes. For help with specific language for your estate planning, needs please call 214.363.3911. We can assist you in determining what type of Legacy Gift will best fit your individual and family objectives.

Please let us know if you have already included the Retina Foundation in your will or trust. We would like to thank you for your generosity and recognize you as a member of the Phyllis G. and William B. Snyder Legacy Society. Please call us at 214.363.3911.



2015 Annual Giving

We thank our loyal donors for providing the consistent philanthropic support necessary for the Retina Foundation to continue sight saving research.

Luminary \$100,000+

Applied Genetics Technologies Corporation
Columbia University
Foundation Fighting Blindness
Jeanne & Mickey Klein
Helen K. & Robert G. McGraw
Mayo Clinic
National Institutes of Health/National Eye Institute
Stemcells Inc.
W. W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation at the Communities Foundation of Texas

Visionary \$50,000 - \$99,999

Joseph Novas, Jr. Charitable Remainder Trust
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Vital Art & Science, Inc.

President's Circle \$10,000 - \$24,999

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The Marilyn & Sonny Oates Foundation
The Rosewood Foundation
The Vision for Tomorrow Foundation
Robert Wang, MD

Director's Circle \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Texas Neurology, P.A.

W.P. & Bulah Luse Foundation
Fred White, Jr.

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Kim & David Callanan
Darel Crump
The Dallas Foundation
Arnold Davidson
Phyllis & Ken Davis
The Decherd Foundation

Deepa & Isfi Deendar
 Delta Gamma Foundation of Dallas
 The Don & Sybil Harrington
 Foundation
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2015 Annual Dinner



Lisa & Steve Block
Cindy & Kevin Borg
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Sabrina Brantley
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Elisabeth Brockie, MD
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Rob Brown
Ambreen & Zulfiqar Budhwani
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Velma Butler
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Scott Cook
Harriet & Ralph Cousins
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Michele Cox
Madeleine Crouch
Norma & Ernest Demetrian
Connie DeWitte
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John Eisenlohr
Mabel Eng
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Anna & Robert Everlanka
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Carolyn & Albert Godwin
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Judy Murrah
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Shirley Nelson
Shirley & Robert Norcross
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Pamela & Rick Pearce
Donna & Gerald Pechtel
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Susan Reilly
Carol Reinert
Linda & Robert Riek
Grace Riker
Josephine & Gary Rinkerman
Elizabeth & Tommy Robbins
Catherine & Jeff Rodewald
Patricia & Roy Safran
Marilyn & Dean Schmaltz
Eugene Schmidt
Jane Schwendinger
Carol & Matty Searcy
Cathie & Mike Seibold
Joann Seuser
Judy Shelton
Michael Shilling
Dmitriy Shnayder
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Christina Siepiela
Evelyn & Bradley Simmons
Debbie Singleton
Rhonda Snyder
Carolyn Stana
Joan & Carl Stapp
Jennifer Stayton
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Tina & Paul Stewart
Nelson Stoppiello
Michelle & Ben Stool
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Swager
Till & Mac Tatum
Janice & Bill Taylor
Lenore Thomas
Stephanie & Steve Titcomb
Tia & Antonio Tomlin
Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program/
Safeway
George Towns
Ingrid & Mike Trevino
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Linda & Bennie Williams
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Douglas Winters
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June Yarussi
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2015 Publications

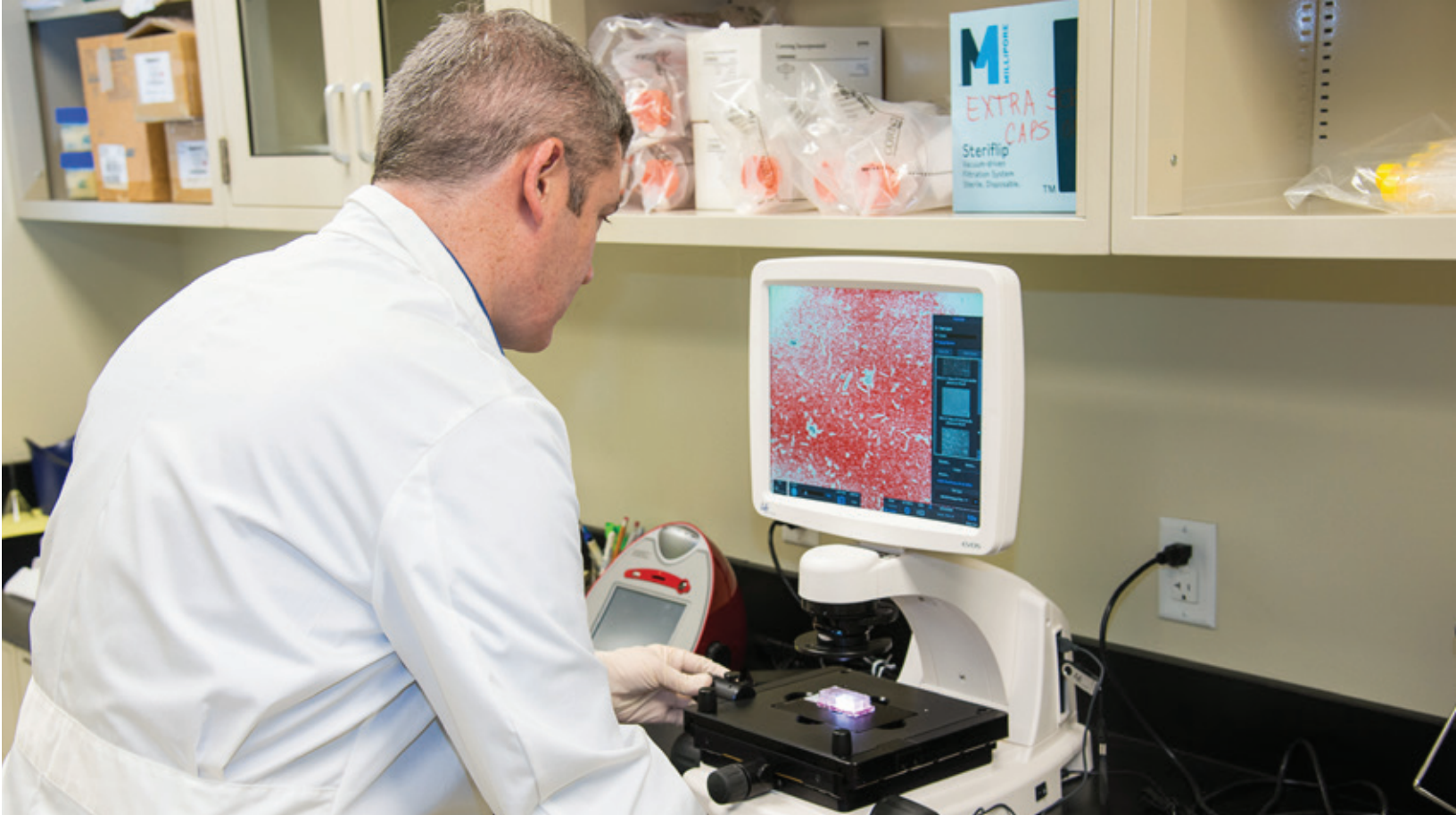
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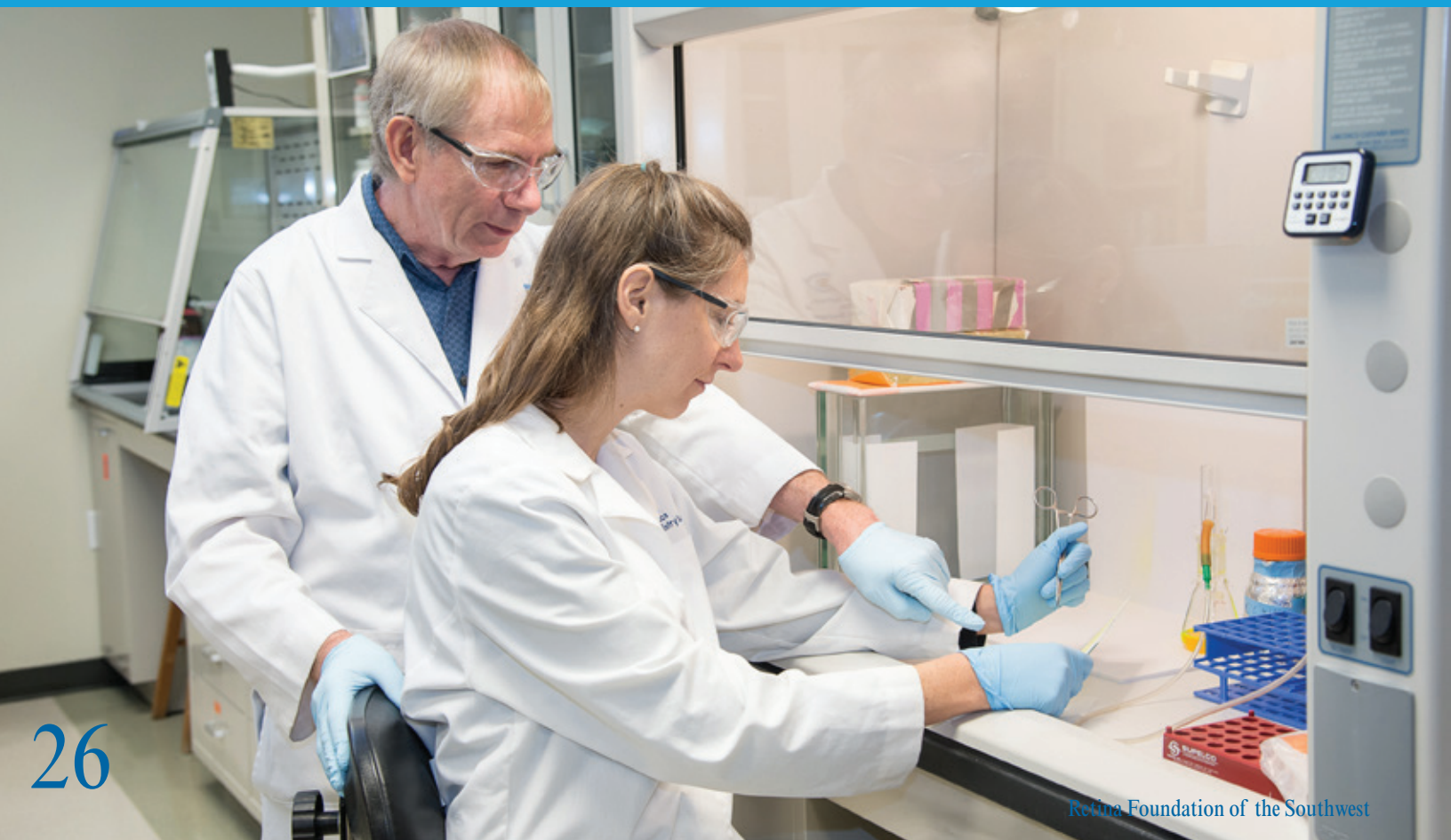
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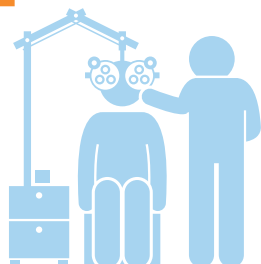


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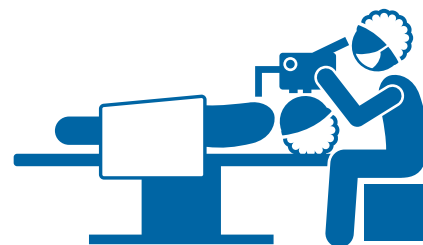
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