



**Retina Foundation**  
of the Southwest



2018-19  
**IMPACT REPORT**

**10,000** CHILDREN HELPED

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Together, we can make a lifetime of good vision a reality for everyone. Your commitment to our mission to prevent vision loss and restore sight is vital for our research and all that we do at the Retina Foundation of the Southwest. Our significant accomplishments over this past year could not have been achieved without your unwavering support.

Among the many important milestones over this past year was the completion and publication of our first randomized clinical trial using iPad® games for the treatment of amblyopia. We enrolled the first patient with Usher Syndrome Type 2A to be treated with a new form of RNA therapy designed to correct the gene defect, and started a new program to apply deep machine learning approaches for automatic detection of structural defects of the retina. We are also delighted to announce that in the summer of 2018, we were granted patents in the United States, Europe and Japan for a non-invasive two-layer ocular drug delivery device that is being developed at the Retina Foundation as a treatment for all stages of age-related macular degeneration.

The Retina Foundation family grew this past year with many new members of the Retina Foundation Auxiliary and The Phyllis G. and William B. Snyder Legacy Society. Our Auxiliary and Legacy Society members are essential in helping achieve our goal to make a lifetime of good vision a reality for everyone.

Through the generous support of The Rosewood Foundation, we began the Keeping an Eye on Innovation Lecture Series in 2018. This lecture series was created to educate the general public on cutting-edge research from renowned leaders in pediatric eye conditions, inherited eye diseases, and age-related macular degeneration. We hosted four lectures in 2018, and with generous renewed support from The Rosewood Foundation, we have already hosted two lectures in 2019. This means that nearly 500 individuals have attended to learn more about innovative vision research.

On March 1, 2019, we hosted our second Visionary Luncheon with inspiring speaker, Admiral William H. McRaven (Ret.). It was an overwhelming success as evidenced by the standing ovation he received at the conclusion of the event! The unrestricted funds raised from this event enable us to advance our innovative research.

In the years to come, the Retina Foundation will continue identifying vision research priorities and advancing treatments for individuals with age-related macular degeneration, pediatric eye conditions, and inherited eye diseases. We are fortunate to serve more than 2,000 children and adults each year completely free of charge.

Thank you for your generous support over the past year. We hope the 2018-19 Impact Report will help you learn more about the impact you have on each and every one of our patients. As we continue our 38th year, we want you to know how grateful we are that you choose to support our groundbreaking research that saves sight!

With gratitude and appreciation,



Tia S. Tomlin  
Board Chair



Karl G. Csaky, M.D., Ph.D.  
Managing & Medical Director



Tia S. Tomlin  
Board Chair



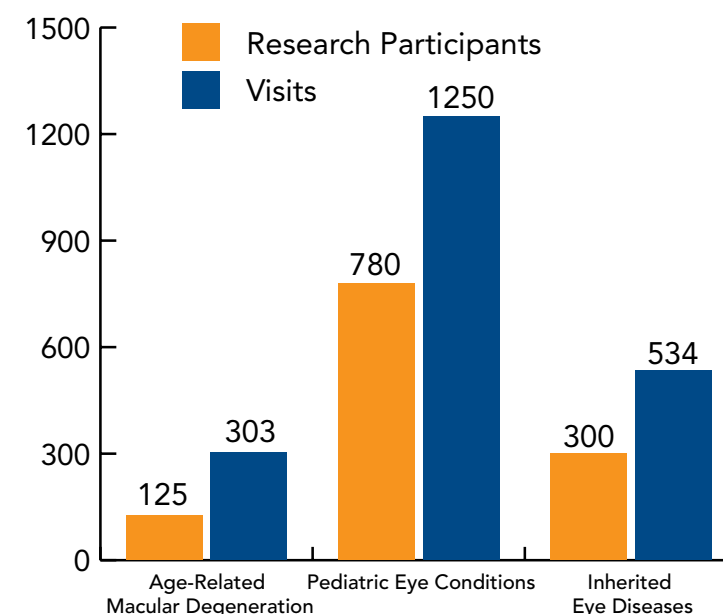
Karl G. Csaky, M.D., Ph.D.  
Managing & Medical Director

# WHO WE SERVE: 2018 DEMOGRAPHICS

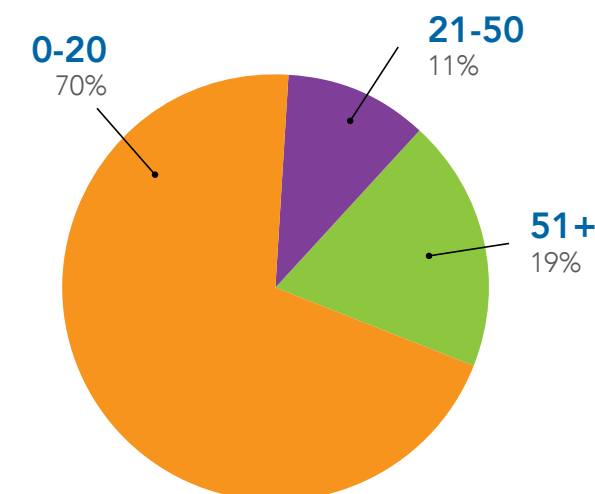
2,087 Total Visits



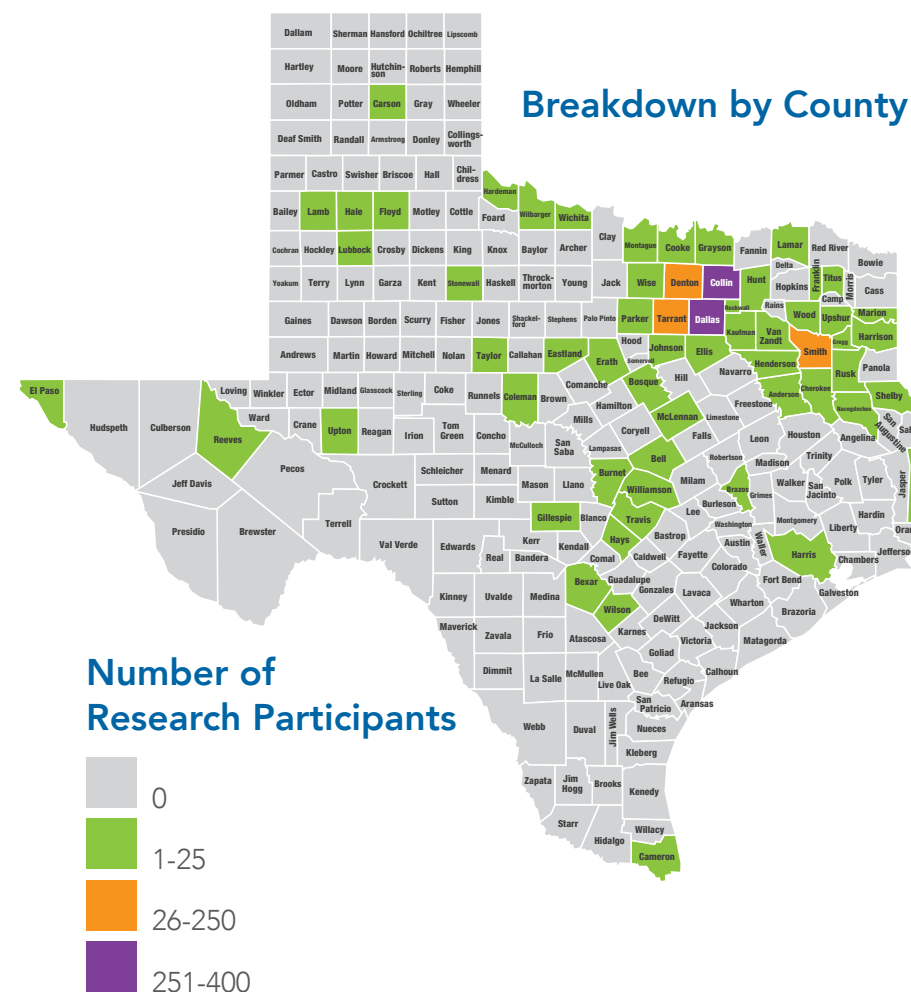
## Breakdown by Core Research Areas



## Breakdown by Age



## Breakdown by County

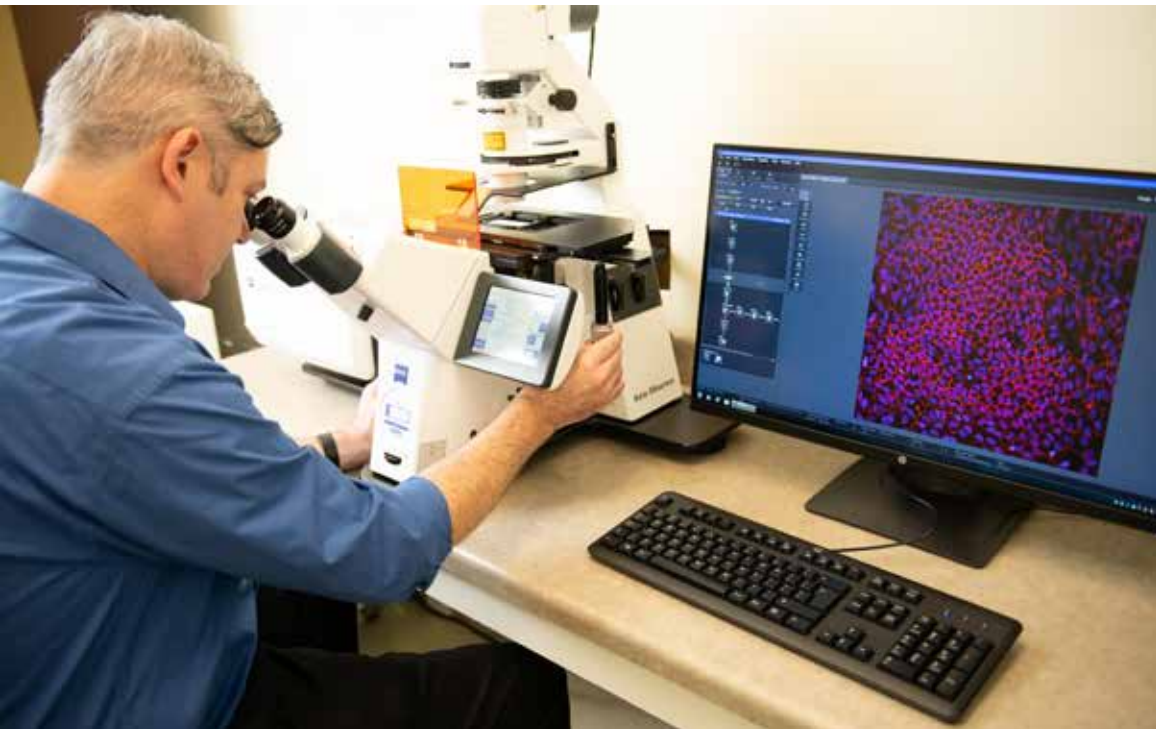


Anderson	2	0.17%	Kaufman	8	0.66%
Bell	1	0.08%	Lamar	1	0.08%
Bexar	2	0.17%	Lamb	1	0.08%
Bosque	2	0.17%	Lubbock	5	0.41%
Brazos	1	0.08%	Marion	1	0.08%
Burnet	1	0.08%	McClennan	4	0.33%
Cameron	1	0.08%	Montague	1	0.08%
Carson	2	0.17%	Nacogdoches	1	0.08%
Chavez	1	0.08%	Newton	1	0.08%
Cherokee	3	0.25%	Parker	1	0.08%
Coleman	2	0.17%	Reeves	1	0.08%
Collin	261	21.66%	Rockwall	21	1.74%
Cook	1	0.08%	Rusk	4	0.33%
Dallas	396	32.86%	Shelby	2	0.17%
Dell	2	0.17%	Smith	32	2.66%
Denton	115	9.54%	Stonewall	1	0.08%
Eastland	2	0.17%	Tarrant	133	11.04%
El Paso	3	0.25%	Taylor	5	0.41%
Ellis	24	1.99%	Titus	2	0.17%
Erath	1	0.08%	Tom Green	1	0.08%
Floyd	1	0.08%	Travis	8	0.66%
Franklin	3	0.25%	Upshur	1	0.08%
Gillespie	1	0.08%	Upton	1	0.08%
Grayson	18	1.49%	Van Zandt	5	0.41%
Gregg	4	0.33%	Wichita	5	0.41%
Hale	1	0.08%	Wilbarger	2	0.17%
Hardeman	1	0.08%	Williamson	3	0.25%
Harris	9	0.75%	Wilson	1	0.08%
Harrison	9	0.75%	Wise	1	0.08%
Hays	1	0.08%	Wood	2	0.17%
Henderson	1	0.08%	Out of Texas	54	4.48%
Hunt	11	0.91%	Unknown	8	0.66%
Johnson	4	0.33%			
Kane	1	0.08%			

**Total Research Participants 1205**



# ACCELERATING RESEARCH FOR **AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION**



Tim Catchpole, Ph.D.,  
Senior Research  
Associate, Molecular  
Ophthalmology  
Laboratory.  
(Sheryl Lanzel,  
Photographer)

At the present time, there is no treatment for individuals with dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

While the exact causes of dry AMD are unknown, the disease is thought to be due to a combination of genetic susceptibility and environmental factors. In other words, a family history of age-related macular degeneration in addition to exposure to normal environmental stressors such as eating too many fatty foods, excessive sunlight exposure, and/or smoking eventually cause the cells in the retina to die.

Dry AMD can progress to a total loss of cells that help us read and drive a car, resulting in legal blindness in a majority of patients.

## **A PROMISING SOLUTION**

Karl G. Csaky, M.D., Ph.D., Managing & Medical Director, joined the Retina Foundation of the Southwest in 2009 to study AMD thanks to a generous \$2.5 million endowment from T. Boone Pickens. Over the past 10 years, Dr. Csaky has assembled a team of world-class researchers.

Last summer, he and his team were granted patents for a sophisticated two-layer ocular implant device capable of slowly releasing drugs into the eye over a period of days, weeks, months, and even years.

Dr. Csaky's lab is now working to identify and modify a drug that can passively enter the eye and treat the degenerative component of the disease, without being stopped by the eye's many natural barriers.

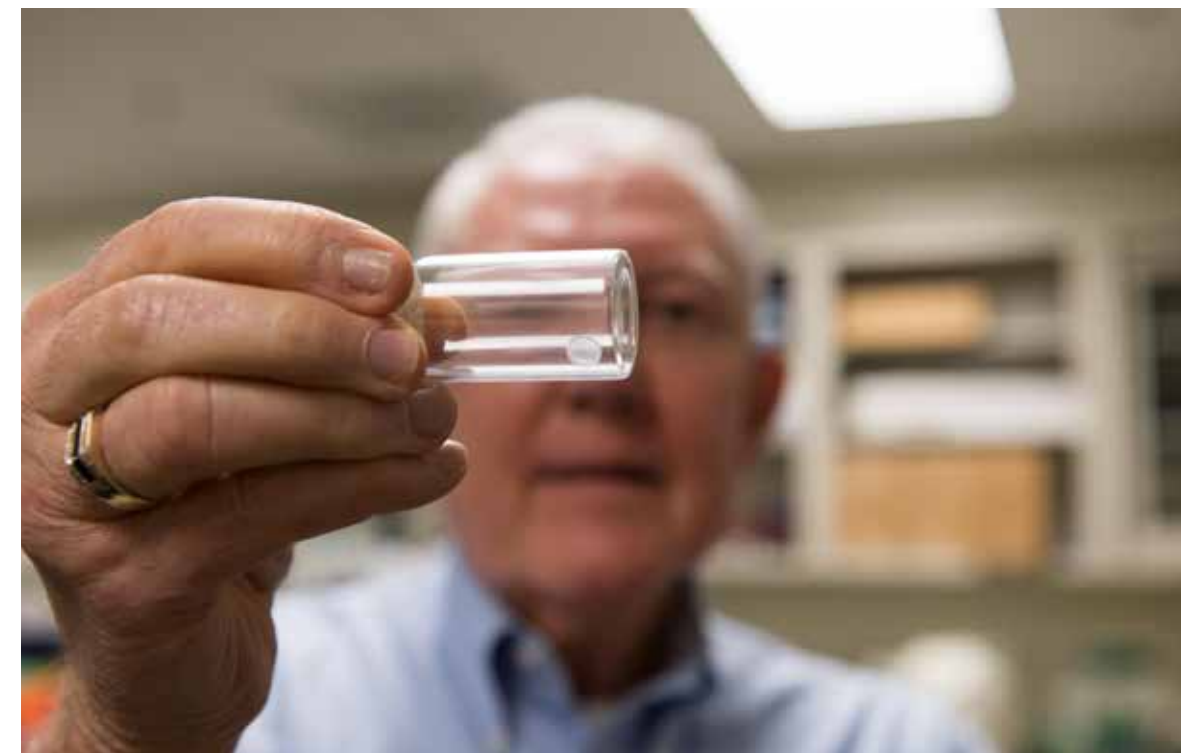
## **LOOKING FORWARD**

Several steps must be completed before this treatment is available to patients in the clinical setting. Currently, Dr. Csaky's team is in the process of identifying and modifying existing drugs so they can optimally work inside the eye. At the same time his team will optimize the implant design to work with the chosen drug. While there are additional steps that will need to be done after that, it is anticipated that once the optimization is complete, an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be submitted and the first human clinical trials will begin.

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

We are seeking individuals 55 and older with or without age-related macular degeneration to participate in several different research studies. All individuals who elect to participate receive a complete AMD exam including non-invasive, state of the art imaging of the eye.

The Retina Foundation of the Southwest is supported by generous contributions from foundations, corporations, and individuals like you. Every donation made to the Retina Foundation helps advance our research and ensure that every patient is seen completely free of charge.



Pictured inside of the clear tube is the two-layer ocular implant that was developed in the Molecular Ophthalmology Laboratory at the Retina Foundation of the Southwest. Three patents were granted for the implant in summer of 2018 in the United States, Europe, and Japan.  
(Sheryl Lanzel, Photographer)



# SAVING SIGHT FOR KIDS WITH **PEDIATRIC EYE CONDITIONS**



Paige is seven-years-old. She picked out her first pair of glasses at the beginning of the school year, so her parents were surprised to receive a letter from her school nurse just 6 months later regarding her vision. The letter stated that Paige had failed her school eye exam - while wearing her new glasses.

Paige's mom took her to see an ophthalmologist who diagnosed Paige with amblyopia, or lazy eye, which is reduced vision in one eye. Lazy eye is common, affecting 1 to 2 children in every classroom.

## **HOPE FOR A BETTER TREATMENT**

Paige's mom had lazy eye when she was a child around Paige's same age. Her mom recalls having to wear an eye patch to school for treatment, which was tough. She was hopeful Paige would have other treatment options. Thankfully, Paige's ophthalmologist knew about the clinical trial for treating lazy eye using iPad® games at the Retina Foundation of the Southwest.

## **PLAYING IPAD® GAMES**

Over a few hours, Reed Jost, a research associate at the Retina Foundation evaluated Paige's vision and determined that she qualified for the iPad® study! He introduced the iPad® game to Paige, provided some simple instructions, and sent Paige and her family on their way.

Paige played specially modified versions of a game called *Dig Rush* for 4 weeks and then another game called *Monster Burner* for 4 weeks, for a total treatment period of 8 weeks.

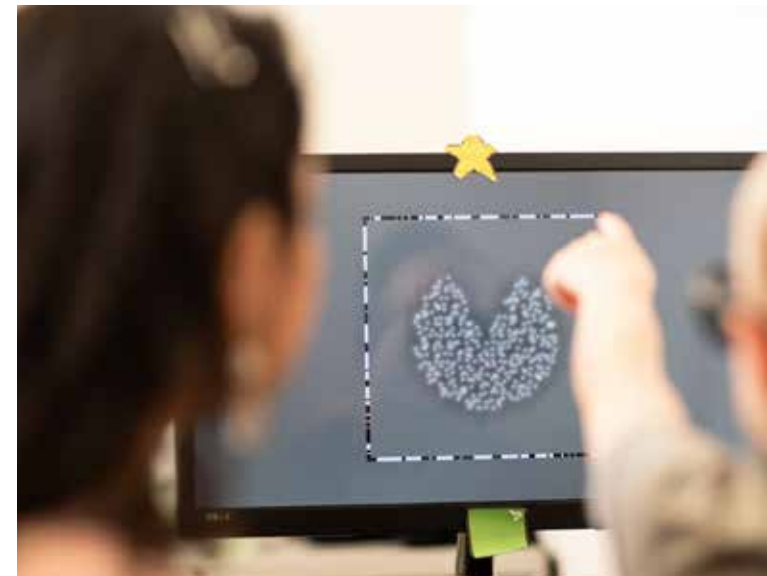
## **SEEING QUICK RESULTS**

Paige's parents were encouraged to hear at the follow up evaluations that Paige's vision had improved with the iPad® game. When Paige first came in to the Retina Foundation, her vision was 20/80. After just 8 weeks, her vision improved to 20/40.

# SINCE 1982...

The research goals of the Crystal Charity Ball Pediatric Vision Lab are earlier and more accurate detection of pediatric eye conditions, development of new and more effective treatments, and better outcomes for a lifetime of healthy vision.

Developing and testing new treatments



Sheryl Lanzel, Photographer

Improving vision screening for preschool kids



Researching how everyday life is impacted



Providing visual assessments for babies and kids with special needs

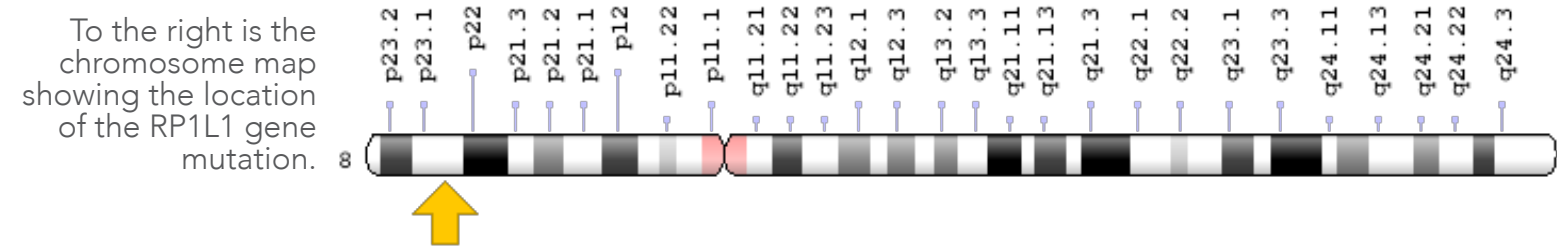




Martha and Jorge have been married for 46 years. Together, they have two children and three grandchildren. After four decades of marriage, Martha was diagnosed with a blinding eye disease, retinitis pigmentosa.

Back home in Dallas, Martha’s retina specialist, Dr. David Callanan, recommended they visit the Retina Foundation of the Southwest.

At the Retina Foundation, Martha’s gene mutation was finally identified - RP1L1. This gene mutation helps to explain her retinitis pigmentosa and vision loss. Her name and information were added to the Southwest Eye Registry, the only database of DNA samples in the southwest, for individuals with inherited eye diseases. When a research study begins for which Martha is eligible, either at the Retina Foundation or elsewhere, she will be contacted and asked to participate.



# LOSING VISION FROM **RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA**

When Martha turned 40, she began to wear reading glasses. Despite having several older family members with vision loss due to unknown causes, Martha never worried about her eyesight because she had no prior issues. It came as a shock when Martha’s eye doctor informed her that her worsening peripheral vision was cause for concern.

Martha was sent to a retina specialist where she was diagnosed with an inherited eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa. She and her husband Jorge, like most people, had never heard of retinitis pigmentosa.

## SEARCHING FOR A CURE

Retinitis pigmentosa blinds approximately 200,000 people in the United States, and impacts thousands more as their loved ones struggle to cope with the impact of this debilitating disease.

Because there is no known cure, Martha and Jorge decided to be proactive and investigate all of the different research centers currently studying retinitis pigmentosa.

Martha and Jorge decided from the start that they would try anything and spend any amount of money to help stop or slow down the rapid progression of Martha’s vision loss.

To potentially treat her retinitis pigmentosa, Martha tried acupuncture in New Jersey and electrotherapy in Germany. Martha and Jorge are anxious for answers, but so far they have not found anything that has yielded lasting results.

## LOSING INDEPENDENCE

Every. Single. Day.

That is how often Martha notices that her vision is getting worse. Her peripheral vision is completely gone, and her eyes hurt when she is in the sun or when indoor lighting is too bright.

Martha stopped driving about a year ago, no longer travels or shops alone, and recently stopped being able to read books and watch television or movies.

“I have become her eyes,” Jorge explains. “Martha does not feel comfortable going out in public as much anymore. Our home is one of the few places she still feels comfortable.”

## STAYING OPTIMISTIC

Jorge asked researchers to, “please go ahead and put Martha at the top of the ‘willing to participate in research’ list. We are willing to try anything that might help her.”

Martha has seven brothers, one sister, and three grandchildren. She hopes that no one else in her family will be diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa.

Martha is very grateful for Kaylie Jones at the Retina Foundation and for genetic testing and counseling. Martha’s sister, who lives in California, will be able to complete her genetic testing remotely.

While Martha and Jorge wait for research to advance, Martha plans to continue doing everything she can that might slow down the progression of her vision loss – taking vitamins, staying active, and maintaining a healthy diet.





Admiral William H. McRaven and Shelly Slater



Admiral William H. McRaven and Lyda Hill



Barbara Hunt Crow, Mary Lee Cox, and Diane Boddy



Amy Lobner, Vanessa Peterson, and Sabrina Miranda

March 1, 2019  
Visionary Luncheon with  
featured speaker Admiral  
William H. McRaven  
  
Lyda Hill  
Honorary Chair  
  
Kristy & Patrick Sands,  
Amy & Paul Wilson  
Luncheon Co-Chairs



Patrick and Kristy Sands, Amy and Paul Wilson

Retina Foundation of  
the Southwest Auxiliary  
Inaugural year with  
75 members  
  
May 16, 2018  
October 18, 2018



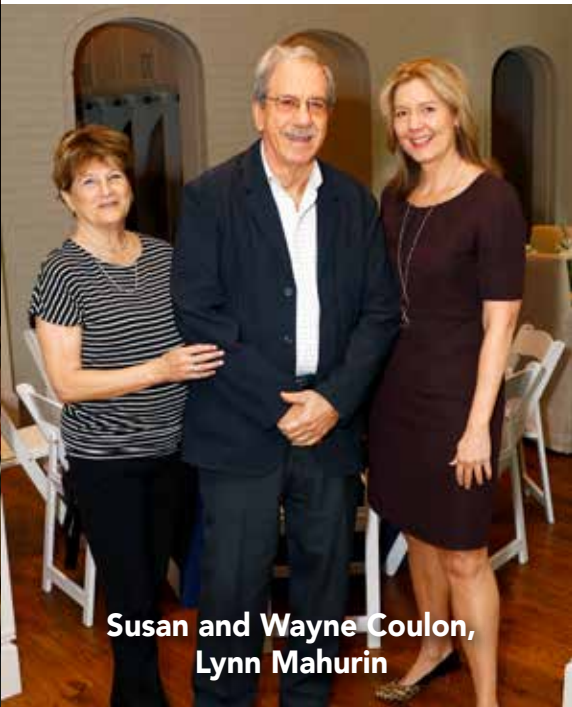
Amy Lobner presenting at the 2019 Spring Auxiliary Meeting



Helen McGraw, Carl and Sally Anderson



Dr. Bobby B. Lyle and Dr. Karl Csaky



Susan and Wayne Coulon,  
Lynn Mahurin



Angela Klein, Jana Kilishek and Rebecca Vaiser





Ray and Susan Wren, Deacon Marek, and Reed Jost

Patrick Sands and Bradley Wolken

Caroline Rose Hunt and Robert Brackbill, Sr.

Dr. Deborah Ferrington

April 23, 2019

Celebrating the completion of our Vision for the Future Capital Campaign

9600 N. Central Expressway  
Suite 200  
Dallas, Texas 75231

Sheryl Lanzel, Photographer



Dr. Tim Catchpole, Carlyne and Stephen Nielson

Keeping An Eye On Innovation Lecture Series

Sponsored by The Rosewood Foundation

February 12, 2018

April 16, 2018

October 9, 2018

December 6, 2018



Jean Buys, Lyda Hill, Dr. Peter Francis, and Drs. Eileen and David Birch



Kathy and Brad Snyder



Clayton Snyder and Dr. David Birch



Dr. Ronald Fellman's lecture



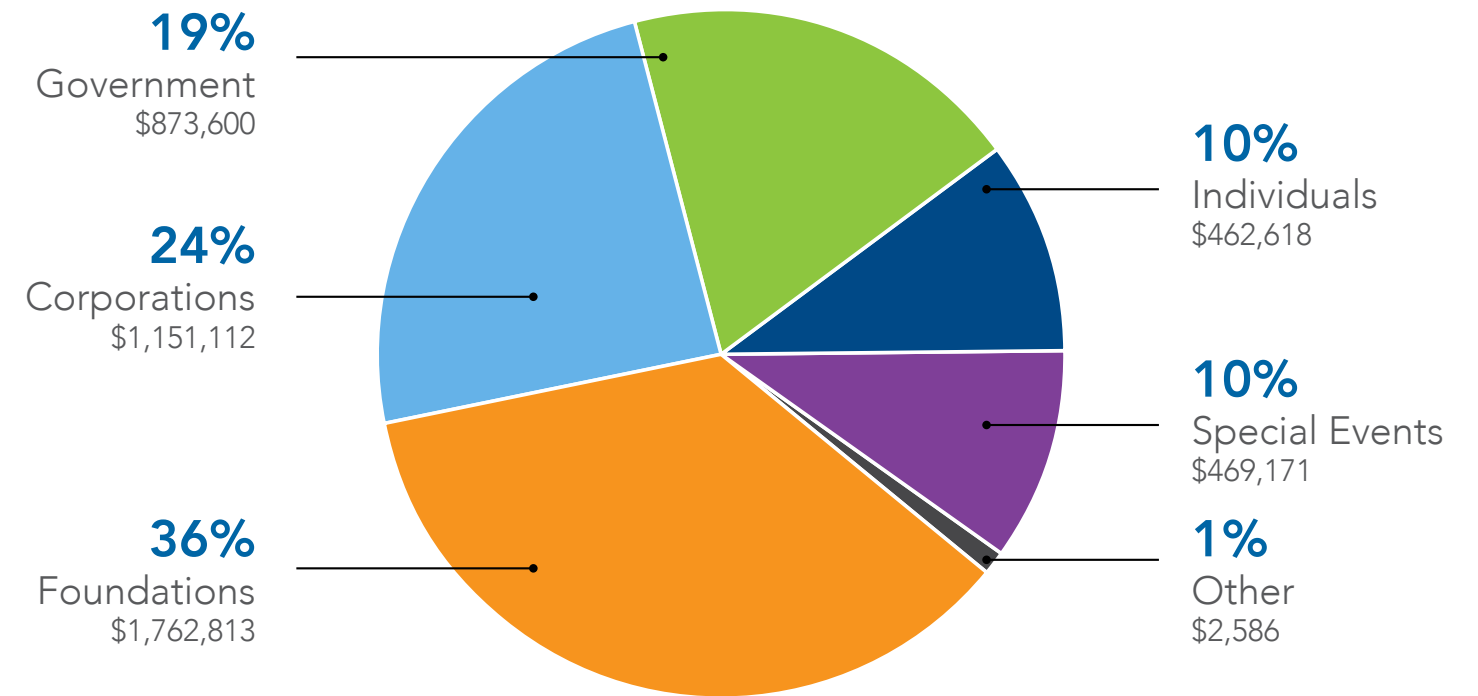
Lecture guests, photo by Sheryl Lanzel, Photographer



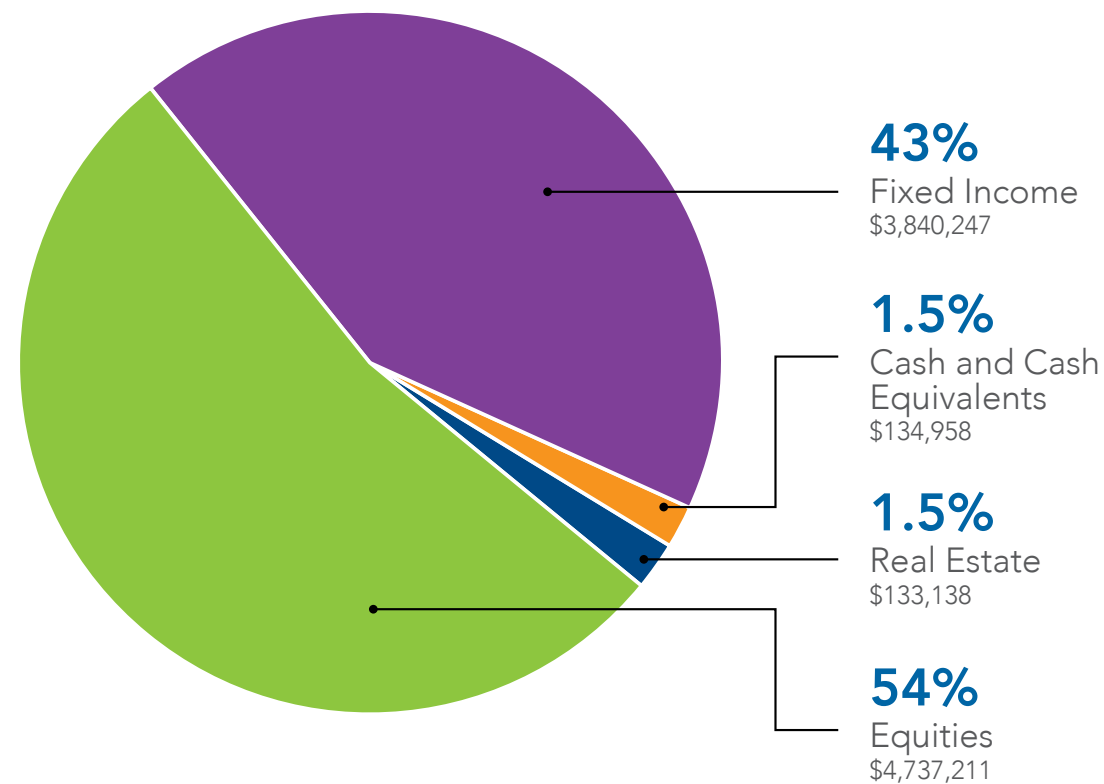
# 2018 FINANCIALS

PATIENTS ARE SEEN **WITHOUT CHARGE**  
THROUGH THE **GENEROSITY** OF  
INDIVIDUALS, FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS,  
AND **PEOPLE LIKE YOU.**  
WE ARE MOST **GRATEFUL** FOR ALL DONATIONS.

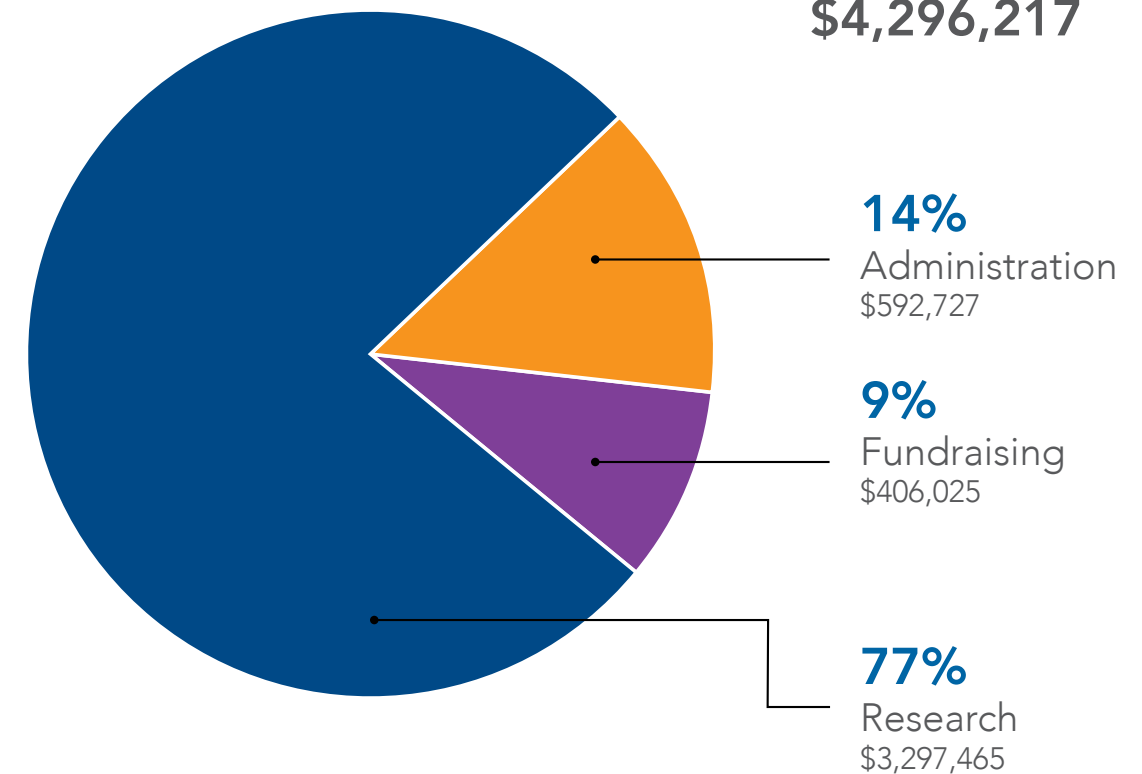
Support and Revenue:  
**\$4,721,900**



Endowment Asset Allocation:  
**\$8,845,554**



Functional Expenses:  
**\$4,296,217**





## A WORLD LEADER IN VISION RESEARCH

Everyone at the Retina Foundation of the Southwest is committed to improving the quality of life for people of all ages.

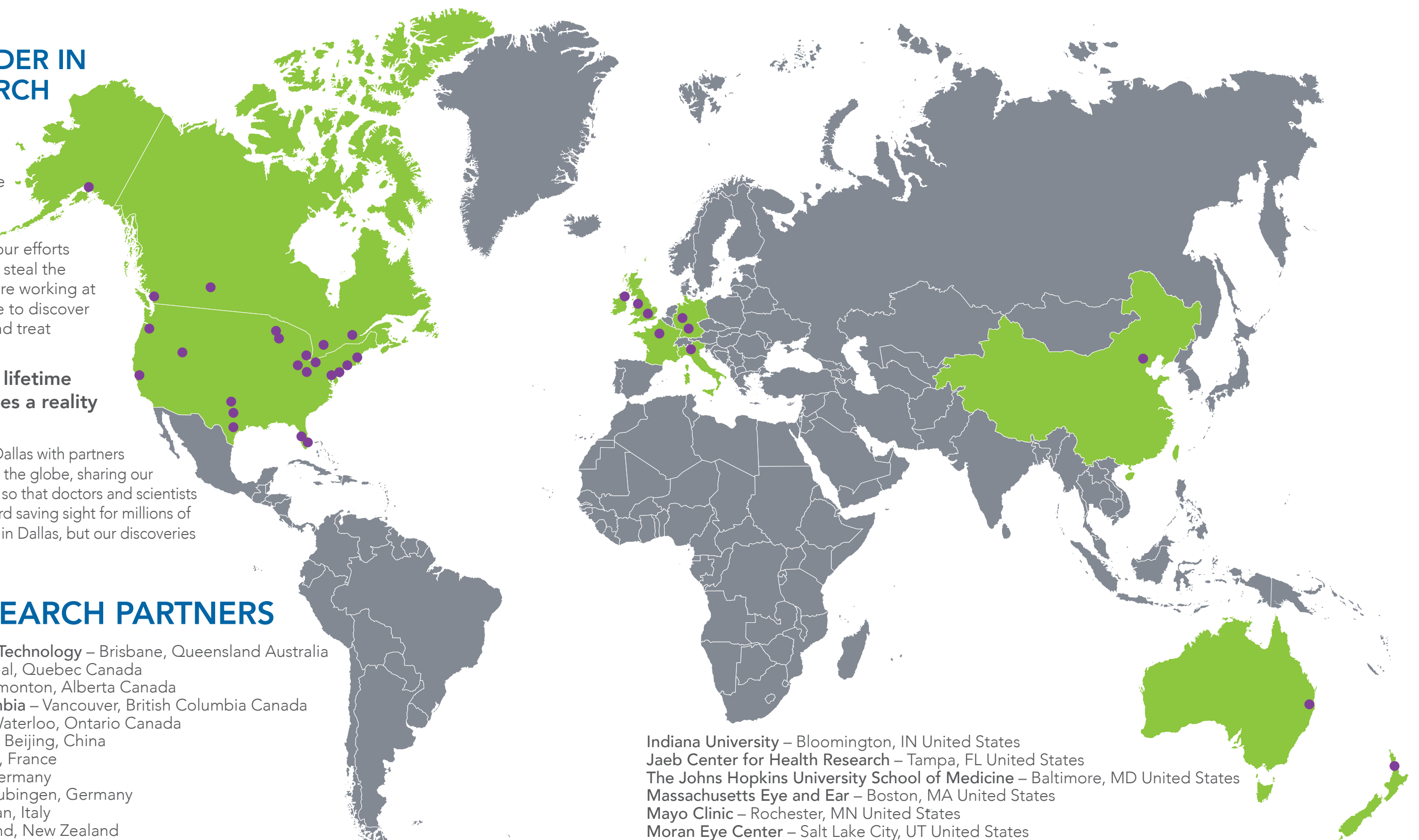
We put every infant, child, and adult at the center of our efforts to fight the conditions that steal the precious gift of sight. We are working at the cutting edge of science to discover better ways to diagnose and treat eye conditions.

**We won't stop until a lifetime of good vision becomes a reality for everyone.**

We will continue working in Dallas with partners across the nation and around the globe, sharing our discoveries as they are made so that doctors and scientists can use this knowledge toward saving sight for millions of people. Our laboratories are in Dallas, but our discoveries advance eye care worldwide.

## GLOBAL RESEARCH PARTNERS

Queensland University of Technology – Brisbane, Queensland Australia  
McGill University – Montreal, Quebec Canada  
University of Alberta – Edmonton, Alberta Canada  
University of British Columbia – Vancouver, British Columbia Canada  
University of Waterloo – Waterloo, Ontario Canada  
Beijing Tongren Hospital – Beijing, China  
The Vision Institute – Paris, France  
Bonn Eye Clinic – Bonn, Germany  
University of Tübingen – Tübingen, Germany  
Luigi Sacco Hospital – Milan, Italy  
Objective Acuity – Auckland, New Zealand  
University of Auckland – Auckland, New Zealand  
Moorfields Eye Hospital – London, United Kingdom  
Queen's University – Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom  
University of Liverpool – Liverpool, United Kingdom  
Alaska Children's Eye & Strabismus – Anchorage, AL United States  
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute – Miami, FL United States  
Baylor College of Medicine – Houston, TX United States  
Cole Eye Institute – Cleveland, OH United States  
Columbia University – New York, NY United States  
Dean McGee Eye Institute – Oklahoma City, OK United States  
Harvard University – Boston, MA United States



Indiana University – Bloomington, IN United States  
Jaeb Center for Health Research – Tampa, FL United States  
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine – Baltimore, MD United States  
Massachusetts Eye and Ear – Boston, MA United States  
Mayo Clinic – Rochester, MN United States  
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# PLAN TO GIVE BACK



## Remembering the lives of Phyllis G. and William B. Snyder

The Retina Foundation lost one of its founders Dr. William B. Snyder, known as Bill to his friends, when he passed away on January 18, 2019.

As a pioneering retina surgeon, Dr. Snyder saw the need for a retina-specific research institution in Dallas. He shepherded the success of the Foundation from the start. He was instrumental in building the small research institution into an internationally-renowned center of visionary innovation. Along with two colleagues, Dr. Snyder worked to recruit two of the best research scientists in the field to establish the Retina Foundation of the Southwest and lead vision research.

His caring nature and exceptional talent guided his support of the Retina Foundation. For years, he remained an engaged leader for the Retina Foundation, attending events and inspiring community support.

Shortly after Dr. Snyder's passing, his wife Phyllis passed away on May 31, 2019.

When Dr. Snyder founded the Retina Foundation, he had no idea that the work would personally impact his family.



Phyllis G. and William B. Snyder, M.D.

Over the years, Phyllis suffered from progressively worsening vision loss as a result of retinitis pigmentosa. Phyllis turned to the researchers at the Retina Foundation for answers, and to be part of the innovative research.

Fortunately, their legacy of dedication for innovative vision research will endure in perpetuity due to their role in helping to found not only the Retina Foundation, but also the Legacy Society at the Retina Foundation of the Southwest.

## Strengthening the future of the Retina Foundation of the Southwest

Together, they created the Phyllis G. and William B. Snyder Legacy Society in 2015 because they wanted to invest in the future of the Foundation to ensure that their legacy of hard work continued. Through their professional and personal lives, they saw the impact of the sight-saving research. They made a lasting commitment to saving sight through their testamentary gift.

Since the Snyders began the Society, it has grown to include 14 members who have each decided to create an enduring legacy through the Retina Foundation.



Contact Jean Buys, Executive Director, to learn more about leaving your own legacy with the Retina Foundation. For questions, please call 214.363.3911, ext. 109 or email [jbuys@retinafoundation.org](mailto:jbuys@retinafoundation.org). If you include the Retina Foundation in your estate plans, please use our legal name and federal tax ID number listed below.

Legal Name: Retina Foundation of the Southwest

Address: 9600 North Central Expressway, Suite 200, Dallas, Texas 75231

Federal Tax ID Number: 51-0151514



# 5 WAYS TO HELP THE RETINA FOUNDATION

## GET INVOLVED... YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

1. Join our newly formed Auxiliary.
2. Attend our events and invite friends.  
September 25, 2019: Halden Conner Lecture  
October 24, 2019: Richard Hertle, M.D. Lecture  
March 4, 2020: Visionary Luncheon
3. Tour our research laboratories.
4. Make a donation today or join the Phyllis G. and William B. Snyder Legacy Society.
5. Sign up for our e-newsletter.



Bill Driscoll, Bridget Russell, Jean Buys, and Therese Rourk

Visit our website or contact us for more information.

[www.retinafoundation.org](http://www.retinafoundation.org)

P: 214.363.3911

E: [development@retinafoundation.org](mailto:development@retinafoundation.org)



Antonio and Tia Tomlin



Dr. Karl Csaky, Jeanne Klein, and Diane Boddy

# ANNUAL GIVING

## INDIVIDUAL & FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Retina Foundation of the Southwest has achieved remarkable success since 1982 because of the tremendous support provided by you, our generous donors. We are pleased to take this opportunity to recognize and thank those who made gifts or provided support of \$250 or more from January 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. Every effort has been made to ensure this list is as accurate as possible, but inevitably some omissions or errors may have occurred. We would appreciate receiving corrections, comments, or questions. Please contact the Retina Foundation of the Southwest at 214.393.3911.

### INNOVATOR

(\$100,000-\$500,000)

Edward C. Fogg III & Lisbeth A. Fogg Charitable Trust  
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The Rosewood Foundation  
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Amegy Bank of Texas  
Kate and William Bedford

\*deceased



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(\$5,000-\$9,999)

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 Myrteel and Tom Ward  
 Debbie and Jeff Wooley

\*deceased

**CONTRIBUTOR**

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