



Leave Your Legacy at



FRANK PORTER GRAHAM  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

“We have a few family members who are autistic, and Uncle Johnny was especially passionate about two young men who are in their late teens now. I am grateful to know that his investment in their honor is being used to further reach more professionals and families in need.”

– John’s niece

## John Rucker’s Legacy

A few years ago, I received a phone call from a curious gentleman who wanted to learn more about the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder at the UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute. John Rucker found our project on the internet and wanted to know who we were, who we helped, and how we got things done. John told me he knew several young people with autism, including a few family members, and he was pleased we were doing the important work of translating science into practice.

When John—Johnny as he was known to his family—passed away, I learned that he had made a legacy gift to the Institute. Although I never met him in person, his thoughtfulness and compassion were evident in our phone conversations. He asked good questions and expected clear answers. John’s motivation was to ensure teachers and family members of people with autism had access to the best resources and tools. He believed we could make this happen.

John’s gift supports two important and otherwise unfunded autism projects. The Autism Focused Intervention Resources and Modules (AFIRM) provide free, online learning for thousands of teachers, parents, and program administrators around the world. The National Clearinghouse on Autism Evidence and Practice works to identify new behavioral and educational interventions that are proven effective for learners with autism. Our Institute continues to make remarkable strides on behalf of people with autism, and we are grateful for John’s investment in our success.

## 1966

More than five decades ago, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute was founded by a small group of scientists with a shared vision—to conduct research that would make a difference in children’s lives, support families, and inform public policy. From the beginning, we were committed to sharing the knowledge we generate with the public and supporting the use of evidence-based practices. Like other top-tier research organizations, our work is published in the most respected journals in our field. What sets us apart is our effort to ensure that parents, teachers, and other professionals who support children and families benefit from our work in a timely manner. The Institute’s commitment to both research and outreach is embodied in our motto: Advancing knowledge to transform children’s lives.

## Today

Our success in securing highly competitive grants and contracts has enabled us to build one of the largest early childhood research institutes in the country, but that funding doesn’t ensure we have the resources necessary to fulfill the promise of translational research. We remain committed to understanding the complex biological, psychological, social, and environmental factors that affect child and adolescent development, and to accelerating the discovery and implementation of programs that strengthen children, families, and communities and combat racism and inequities. Additional resources like those provided through legacy giving can help us promote early adoption of promising strategies and maximize their impact for the children and families most in need.

## Tomorrow

We need to build an enduring financial base that sustains the Institute—protecting us in lean times and propelling innovation when tides are high. Like John Rucker, you can make an impact on future generations of children, families, teachers, and researchers through a legacy gift to the Institute. Legacy gifts come in many shapes and sizes—but they are all transformational. If you believe in the quality of our work, the urgency of our work, and the impact of our work, invest in the future of the Institute. Your legacy gift is a demonstration of your commitment to helping children and families thrive. It shows that you understand the complex issues facing young children today and you want to partner with us for a better tomorrow.

# Contact Us

We are ready to help you make a legacy gift that best fits your financial needs and has the greatest impact at FPG.

For more information, please contact:




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