

FY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

GROWING TOWARD A BETTER GEORGIA



GEORGIA APPLESEED™
Center for Law & Justice

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

The Georgia Appleseed community has an unmatched passion for building a Georgia where all children can craft their own destinies, free of obstacles created by poverty, bias, discrimination, and racism. Over the last year, we leveraged that passion with record-breaking pro bono support and successful fundraising to grow Georgia Appleseed's impact, staff, and revenue. Our larger team, expanded programming, and new partnerships helped us reach more children and families than ever before. And our advocacy efforts saw similar success and growth.

In the pages that follow, we describe some of the legislative and policy advocacy efforts that safeguard children from the school-to-prison pipeline and create new protections from dangerous housing conditions. We share the story of a child in foster care benefitting from our School Justice Initiative (formerly called Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline) and why they need our support. You will learn about our Housing Justice work that helped more than 3,000 families avoid eviction in Clayton County through our partnership with local courts, schools, government, and non-profits. We tell you about our testimony before the US Senate on the impact of dangerous housing conditions on thousands of Georgians. And much more.

These efforts and those of years past create profound, positive changes for Georgia kids. For example, our School Justice efforts over the last 12 years have spared 377,000 children from unnecessary and damaging school suspensions. These children stayed in class and avoided the cycle of harm that so often occurs when children are kicked out of school, including a much greater risk of ending up in juvenile court.

We are growing our School Justice Initiative to directly support even more children, improve training for case managers, and fight for new legal protections for our most vulnerable kids. We are helping schools establish successful mental health programming. And our housing coalitions are organizing the fight against slumlords and bringing families' voices to the legislature and local government.

On behalf of the staff and the hundreds of thousands of children and families we work for, thank you for being part of this remarkable Georgia Appleseed community.

Sincerely,



Tori M. Silas

Tori Silas
Board Chair



R. Michael Waller

R. Michael Waller
Executive Director

1,181 CHILD ADVOCATES
TRAINED ACROSS
GEORGIA

100+ member organizations
across the state in
GEORGIA APPLESEED COALITIONS

4 new publications
to help parents and case managers
advocate for students in schools

3,000+ INDIVIDUALS AND
FAMILIES PROTECTED
FROM EVICTION
through partners' innovative diversion program
designed and supported by Georgia Appleseed

1 U.S. SENATE TESTIMONY
bringing nationwide attention
to Georgia's unhealthy, unsafe housing conditions

377,000 FEWER KIDS
SUSPENDED
from school since our school justice efforts began in 2010

108 CHILDREN IN
FOSTER CARE from **37** COUNTIES
RECEIVED
LEGAL
SUPPORT
AT SCHOOL
TRIBUNALS

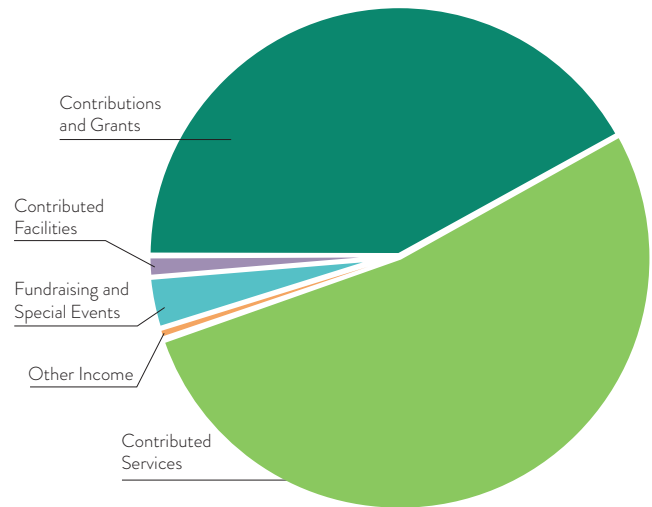
2,138 PRO BONO
HOURS
CONTRIBUTED

FY22 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

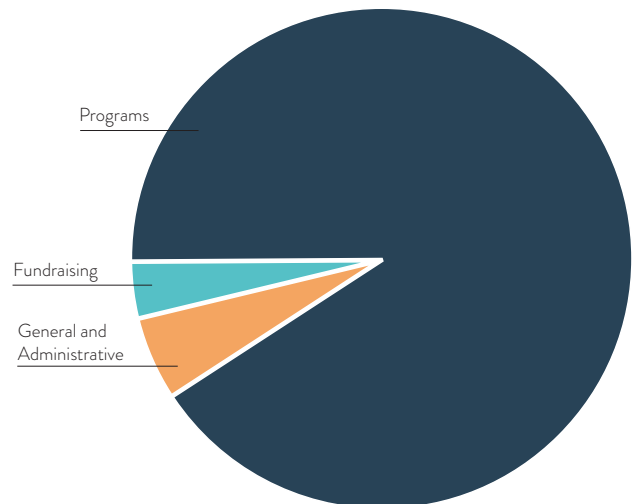
REVENUES & SUPPORT

Contributions and Grants	\$887,778
Contributed Services	\$1,117,146
Contributed Facilities	\$30,220
Fundraising and Special Events	\$77,352
Other Income	\$1,714
Total Revenues & Support	\$2,114,210



EXPENSES

Programs	\$1,931,786
Fundraising	\$76,471
General and Administrative	\$115,718
Total Expenses	\$2,123,975
Total Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(\$9,765)



Notes on Net Assets and Revenue Growth

FY2022 continued Georgia Appleseed’s strong revenue growth over the last three years. This year’s decrease in net assets reflects the growth of our programs and impact, particularly for our School Justice Initiative supported by a substantial multi-year grant awarded in FY2021. Because Georgia Appleseed operates on the accrual basis (common for non-profits) the entirety of the revenue from that multi-year grant was recorded when pledged in FY2021, although program expenses the grant supports are incurred in FY2022 and beyond.

SCHOOL JUSTICE

Our School Justice Initiative – aimed at dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline – blends legal representation, advocate training, and policy advocacy to bring needed supports to help Georgia’s children and schools succeed.

Andre’s story shows how Georgia Appleseed’s approach works. Andre is 11-years-old and a Georgia Appleseed client.

Andre is in foster care, has a common learning disability, and recently enrolled in a new school. Andre also has a history of trauma related to his placement in foster care. When a traumatic trigger led to a school fight shortly after he enrolled, Andre faced a year and a half expulsion from school. Andre’s foster care case manager referred him to Georgia Appleseed. Our lawyers worked with school leaders and his case manager to keep Andre in school with the special education supports that he needs to thrive and to contribute positively to his school community.

Georgia Appleseed’s lawyers are also working with schools like Andre’s to help them reform their school discipline systems to support Andre instead of kicking him out of school. Children like Andre teach us what is and isn’t working for kids in their schools. We use what we learn to advocate at the Department of Education, Division of Children and Family Services, courts, other state agencies, and the legislature for better supports for schools. With the right resources, schools can create and maintain positive learning environments (school climate), provide behavioral health services, and train teachers in effective, evidence-based discipline techniques.

Andre’s case is not unique. Georgia’s schools reported suspending or expelling over 118,000 elementary and secondary students last year, with harsher penalties on average for Black children and children with disabilities, in poverty, or in foster care. These children are more likely to drop out of school and tens of thousands find themselves in juvenile court.

Georgia Appleseed advocates for the academic, discipline, and behavioral supports that help these children succeed and stay out of the juvenile justice system. And our approach works. Reform efforts led by Georgia Appleseed have dramatically reduced expulsions and out-of-school suspensions. That means fewer kids in juvenile court, more kids learning, and a better Georgia for all of us.

HOUSING JUSTICE

Safe and stable housing conditions are the foundation for physical and mental health, healthy child development, economic growth, and community well-being. Children in unstable and dangerous housing struggle to succeed in school and are at increased risk of criminal justice and foster care involvement.

Georgia Appleseed’s Housing Justice Initiative improves living conditions for the tens of thousands of children and their families living in dangerous and unsanitary conditions.

This year, the United States Senate’s Housing, Banking and Urban Affairs committee invited Georgia Appleseed’s Executive Director Michael Waller to testify about the dangers of poor housing conditions. Michael shared with Senators the stories of children in unhealthy housing, and the policy changes needed to protect them. Michael based his testimony on the work of Georgia Appleseed’s Georgia Healthy Housing Coalition (GHC) and its 80-plus member organizations statewide.

Since we launched the GHC in 2018 to bring attention to this housing crisis and advocate for change, dangerous conditions have become an important concern among lawmakers and the media. We succeeded in passing new laws that increase tenants’ rights to healthy housing, including a law that protects tenant whistleblowers from landlord retaliation. As importantly, we are supporting individual families fighting for better conditions. Our Housing Justice Initiative works to make sure that all Georgia’s children have a stable and healthy home.

HOW DO

SCHOOL JUSTICE & HOUSING JUSTICE

WORK TOGETHER?

School-age kids spend most of their time at school or at home. They need both supportive schools and stable, healthy homes to safeguard academic learning, health, and positive social relationships.

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GEORGIA APPLESEED™
Center for Law & Justice

ADVANCING JUSTICE FOR GEORGIA'S CHILDREN

Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice is a nonpartisan non-profit law center that advocates for Georgia's most vulnerable and underrepresented children, keeping them in school with the supports they need, in healthy homes, and out of the justice system.

To find out how you can support our mission, visit GaAppleseed.org.

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